

In SPORTS, page 12

**Softball season in full swing**

Cal Poly ranked 6th in Big West Conference

In ARTS &amp; CULTURE, page 7

Quick dining in San Luis Obispo

Today's weather

High: 58°

Low: 41°

Full forecast, page 2

Volume LXVIII, Number 78, 1916-2004

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

# Mustang DAILY

Emily Wong  
Commentary

## Stardom over political issues not 'Justified'

Sex, drugs and alcohol. But what about North Korea, Sen. John Kerry and the Mars rovers?

In any typical classroom, even at Cal Poly, would reveal that the majority of students are unaware of the current death toll in Iraq but could certainly recount the details of the Super Bowl half-time show fiasco.

Geographically, Iraq may be thousands of miles away, but some students didn't even watch the Super Bowl and are still abreast of Janet Jackson's recent exposure.

Others argue that daily war updates and reoccurring bombings make the news seem repetitive and mundane to keep up with. Everyday people are killed in the Middle East, but apparently human life takes a back seat to star power.

"The war has been going on for such a long time," nutrition freshman Jenn Singer said. "No one was expecting (what Janet Jackson did)."

So how many more times will celebrity stunts shock society and engulf us in the controversy or a shameless publicity stunt?

This year alone, the media and audiences have enjoyed Britney Spear's 55-hour-long marriage and Michael Jackson dancing on top of a car after his child molestation arraignment. Now, Janet Jackson's flash of nudity on national television has students on campus, and America in general, talking it up.

"All of my friends have been mentioning it to me," architecture junior Christina Agudelo said. "It's a big deal."

But with a presidential election looming and the initial justification for the war in Iraq crumbling, why is the Federal Communications Commission ruling on Janet Jackson's and Justin Timberlake's actions on the forefront of our minds.

In other news:

- Kerry is rushing to the Democratic nomination with a string of victories and pre-election polls showing him leading in the five remaining primaries or caucuses.

- American-led efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programs may come to fruition as the communist state agreed to resume talks at the end of the month.

- Spirit, part of the \$820 million pair of rovers surveying Mars, is still having computer memory problems.

Just in case you wanted to step outside and smell the real news.

Emily Wong is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer. Contact her at [mustangdaily@calpoly.edu](mailto:mustangdaily@calpoly.edu) or 756-1796.

## Summer quarter drastically reduced

By Emily Wong

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Summer quarter at Cal Poly will be virtually non-existent this year.

College deans are not required to offer any classes, and courses taught with state funds will be limited.

"It will not exist, except for a few classes," vice provost for institutional planning and analysis Linda Dalton said. "Almost nothing will be offered that is supported by the state budget."

The decision to drastically reduce summer school stems from state budget reductions to the California State University system. The CSU was asked to accommodate a \$240 million cut through Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget.

In return, the CSU has allocated an enrollment reduction of 5 percent to all CSU campuses for 2004-05.

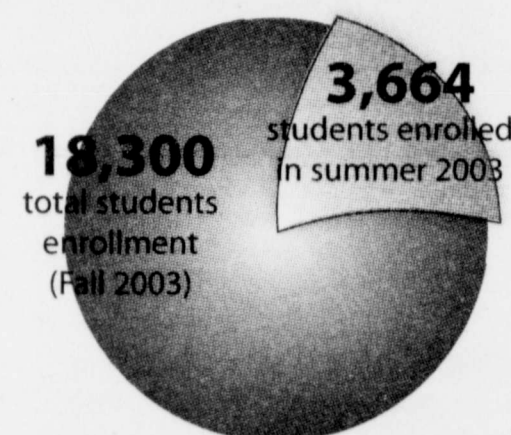
Instead of compromising the entire academic year, Cal Poly officials decided to channel the enrollment reduction through summer quarter.

"This will protect fall, winter and spring, which is when undergraduate students are coming in," Dalton said.

Roughly 20 percent of the student body, or 3,664 students, was enrolled in summer quarter 2003. These numbers have been fairly consistent during the past 10 years, with summer enrollment fluctuating between 3,500 and 4,000 students, according to Cal Poly records.

see SUMMER, page 2

### Summer 2003 enrollment



M.R. BEALS/MUSTANG DAILY



Men-So Forte have performed in barbershop show, for luncheons and anniversaries. They are currently booking reservations for singing valentines.

COURTESY PHOTO

## A VALENTINE GIFT OF SONG

By Nicole Angeloni

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Students searching for a way to express their love can purchase a singing valentine performed by Cal Poly's men's barbershop quartet, Men-So Forte.

The group will perform three love songs and give a flower to the recipient for a flat rate of \$25.

They make house calls in the San Luis Obispo area and will perform in their typical performance attire — Zoot-suit pants, suspenders and white concert shoes. Proceeds will help defray the cost of attendance for a competition they will attend in May.

"The Far Western District of

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America is right around the corner," Men-So Forte bass and city and regional planning junior Paul Tabone said. "If we place high enough there, then we go to Louisville, Ky. in July for the international competition."

The group missed going to the international competition by two places last year.

"Last year we were very young as a group, but this year, we all feel much more confident about our skill level," Men-So Forte tenor and political science junior Matt Gray said. "We were too close last year to

not make it this year."

Men-So Forte has been together for more than one year, and have experience performing in barbershop shows, luncheons, private parties and anniversaries.

"We try to make people have a good time," Gray said. "The great thing about barbershop music is that most of it is about guys and dolls, the classic stuff. It fits perfectly with this season. We always promise a full entertainment experience."

The deadline to book Men-So Forte for your valentine is Feb. 12. To schedule an appointment, contact Paul Tabone at (760) 522-6376, or e-mail him at [ptabone@calpoly.edu](mailto:ptabone@calpoly.edu).

### WEB SITE

## Looking for love in online places — Poly style

Students can log on, post a profile just in time to find a Valentine

By Amy Kocot

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For a number of Cal Poly students, [www.calpoly.com](http://www.calpoly.com) has been a successful key in meeting new people.

The site, which is not affiliated with the university, offers free registration and a new way to meet Cal Poly singles.

At first sight, the Web site looks like a match.com rip-off for the Cal Poly community, but the creators said they put a lot of effort into the project.

CEO Brad Armstrong said the site has been capturing student interest quickly.

"I have 100 sites running right

### On the Net:

Cal Poly singles  
[www.calpoly.com](http://www.calpoly.com)

now from different colleges," Armstrong said. "There have been 20 to 30 profiles added each day, and with the coming months I expect this to grow even more rapidly."

According to the site's mission statement, it is designed to match students, faculty and friends at Cal Poly based on similar interests and preferences, holding no responsibility for inaccurate information that is posted.

If students wish to communicate

## Graduate school uncovered

By Ashlee Bodenhamer

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two political science doctoral candidates will discuss their dissertations and divulge secrets of applying to and surviving graduate school Thursday at 11 a.m., in building 42, room 205.

Students can bring their queries to the speakers and Cal Poly professors at the event. A casual lunch at Veranda Café will follow.

"Graduate school, for many students, is a mystery," assistant political science professor Craig Arceneaux said.

Unlike high school, where counselors and teachers spend more time advising students on college decisions, grad-school hopefuls often must actively seek guidance, he said.

"When I was applying to graduate school, it was like a black hole," Arceneaux said.

For those pondering education beyond a bachelor's degree, the event is a chance to gain information on selecting a school, tracking down financial aid, interacting with faculty and other grad students, how dissertation research works and "basically all the secrets of graduate school," Arceneaux said.

"The Poli Sci club and political science department hope to provide

see GRAD, page 2

with other users, they can pay a fee of \$19.95 for one month or \$44.95 for three months.

"I've been on the site maybe a week," computer science junior Danny Biran said. "It's a good way to meet people, because I don't meet anyone of the opposite sex in my major."

For Cal Poly singles the site offers a direct way to interact with other students who are not in relationships by honing in on exactly what they are looking for.


Registered users can create and post a personal profile that includes physical characteristics and personal


see ONLINE, page 2





## Local Weather


### 5 - Day Forecast

**TODAY**  
high: 58° / low 41° 

**THURSDAY**  
high: 61° / low 39° 

**FRIDAY**  
high: 64° / low 42° 

**SATURDAY**  
high: 60° / low 38° 

**SUNDAY**  
high: 61° / low 36° 

### Sunrise/Sunset

risers: 7 a.m. / sets: 5:34 p.m.

### Tides

high	8:12 a.m.	5.89 feet
	10:21 p.m.	3.79 feet
low	2:04 a.m.	2.67 feet
	3:38 p.m.	-0.71 feet

## SUMMER

continued from page 1

Courses available this summer will be offered through the Continuing Education program, which is self-funded through student fees. Continuing Education is planning on increasing class offerings to help alleviate the cut of state-funded classes.

"Continuing Ed will work with the academic departments to mutually decide the highest priority of classes to offer," vice provost for academic programs David Conn said. "They will look at past offerings in an effort to try to identify courses that are most important to students."

The fee structure for enrollment in Continuing Education courses is yet to be determined. In past years, Continuing Education has operated through a fee-per-unit system.

Continuing Education dean Dennis Parker was unavailable for comment by press time.

"We hope 2004-05 is the bottom (for budget cuts)," Dalton said. "There are indications that the economy is getting better and we're looking at ideas for a new approach to summer in the future."

hope to sponsor local mixers.

Active users of the site can check who else is online by clicking "Who's On" on the content bar and a list of other operating users will appear with their pictures and a short snippet of information.

But as in all online dating services, the only way to prove its effectiveness is to be active in the site, provide accurate information and check the site frequently for responses.

Liberal studies sophomore Myra Gutierrez said the site could work if users do just that.

"It could be effective if you put effort into it, checking it often and sorting through profiles," she said.

The site may not promise marital bliss or even a Friday night date, but for pure entertainment, Cal Poly students can give it a try.

force as a tool in statecraft, and Gussin's examines the effect media images of President Bush and anti-war protesters had on public opinion of Bush. The department contacted the speakers by sending out advertisements to regional graduate programs.

"The event is an attempt to focus on other areas of graduate school in political science, aside from just law school," Clark said.

However, many of the speakers' grad-school wisdom and strategies will apply to a cross-section of students, Arceneaux said.

The event will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. in building 42, room 205.

# CFA endorses Prop. 56

## • Budget Reform Act promises to hold legislators responsible for late budgets

By Hillary Schuler-Jones  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The California Faculty Association, a union of more than 23,000 employees in the California State University system, has added their endorsement to a growing list of organizations supporting Proposition 56 during the March 2 primary election.

The Budget Reform Act promises to hold legislators responsible for late budgets, decrease the potential for gridlock and create a rainy-day fund in surplus years, said Robin Swanson, spokeswoman for the Yes on 56 campaign, during a teleconference Tuesday.

"Everyone is impacted by the late and bad budget," Swanson said. "This would finally give the legislature the tools to govern itself and give legislators the ability to vote their conscience."

Major components of the bill include requiring the legislature to stay in session until the budget is passed and freezing legislators' pay after the June 15 budget deadline, forming an ethics committee to censure partisan threats, creating the rainy-day fund and decreasing the threshold required for passing a budget and tax laws from a two-thirds super majority to 55 percent, according to a CFA news release.

Rhode Island and Arkansas are currently the only states in the nation that have implemented the lower vote requirement.

CFA treasurer Kim Geron, a political science professor at CSU, Hayward, called the current budget process "dysfunctional" during the teleconference and said late budgets burden CSU administrators and students alike with delays in planning for enrollment, fiscal budgets and financial aid.

Opponents of the bill, including the California Taxpayers Association, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and a host of California's small businesses, are concerned with the change in the voting standards, saying it

will make future tax hikes easier to adopt.

Geron challenged the two-thirds majority requirement.

"The two-thirds super majority is really ... undemocratic," he said. "We are the largest state in the country (by population) with the sixth largest economy, and we really are being held hostage by a handful of people. We've flipped what should be a democratic process to an undemocratic process."

CSU, Sacramento student Sean Catanese, an international relations senior, said he will have to stay in school an additional three semesters since the budget setbacks have caused administrators to reduce class offerings.

"It impacts where I can go with the knowledge I have," he said of the delays. "The market kind of moves on without me in it."

The proposition is supported by the League of Women Voters, the California Nurses Association, the California State Firefighters Association and the California State PTA, among others.

## ONLINE

continued from page 1

information.

Non-users agree that the Web site may be useful for those not in relationships. English sophomore Jessica Viramontes is in a relationship, but said she sees how the site could be effective.

"It is a good idea because it limits the range of people to those you have things in common with and people in your area," she said.

According to the Web site, they had users joining constantly in 2003. Plans for 2004 include an enhanced e-mail management system, internal instant messaging and saved searches for members. By next fall, officials

## GRAD

continued from page 1

some insight into the application process and provide a place for students to have their questions answered," Poli Sci club president and political science sophomore Brittany Clark said.

The guest speakers are Patricia L. Sullivan of the University of California, Davis and Phil Gussin, from the University of California, Los Angeles. Sullivan's dissertation explores the efficiency of military

## Coastal bird may lose status

By Terence Chea  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The city of Morro Bay and a Santa Barbara County citizens group filed suit Tuesday to remove the western snowy plover from the federal list of threatened species, arguing that the decision to protect the coastal bird is based on "junk science."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento, seeks to force the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to respond to petitions to strip the snowy plover of its protected status and end restrictions on beaches where it breeds.

The plaintiffs say the federal protections are keeping people off Central California beaches and hurting coastal communities that rely on business from beach-going tourists.

"It's killing business, and when you kill business, it kills the local tax base," said Greg Broderick, an attorney for the Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation, which is representing the plaintiffs. "They don't want to be thrown off the beach for a bird that isn't really threatened."

Still, some environmental groups

are skeptical of attempts to delist the snowy plover, claiming that extensive studies have shown that the species indeed is threatened.

"Focusing on delisting the species is misguided," said Karen Kraus, an attorney with the Santa Barbara-based Environmental Defense Center. "The fact is the western snowy plover is a threatened species, and steps need to be taken to protect it."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife hasn't seen the lawsuit and wouldn't comment on it, but the agency is in the process of reviewing the petitions, said spokesman Al Donner. He said no decision has been made.

The western snowy plover is a small shorebird that lays eggs in tiny nests on coastal beaches from Washington state to Baja California in Mexico.

In 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bird as a threatened species after environmentalists argued that its Pacific Coast population was a distinct group of birds that faced the threat of extinction. Under the Endangered Species Act, a threatened species can't be harmed or killed, and its habitat must be protected.



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Thursday, February 5, 11am  
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for further information, contact:  
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e-mail: wmartine@calpoly.edu

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National Roundup

**C**HEYENNE, Wyo. — Wyoming has asked the federal government to turn over all documents related to the rejection of the state's proposed wolf management plan and said a lawsuit likely will follow.

The attorney general's office filed the Freedom of Information Act request last week. A lawsuit will follow if the attorneys think Wyoming has a case and if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't reach some sort of agreement with the state, Gov. Dave Freudenthal said Tuesday.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is requiring acceptable wolf management plans from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming before the animals are removed from Endangered Species Act protection.

**NEW YORK (AP) - Maria Shriver quit NBC News on Tuesday, saying she could not juggle a journalism job with her duties as California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's first lady.**

Shriver, a "Dateline NBC" reporter, said she will continue to work on specials connected to her children's books for other NBC properties.

Shriver took an extended leave from NBC News when Schwarzenegger ran for California governor. When he won, she returned to work, making two appearances as an anchor for "Dateline NBC."

But she said it became clear to her that as first lady, her journalistic integrity would constantly be scrutinized.

**SAN FRANCISCO — Ford Motor Co. will pay \$23.7 million in punitive damages to the survivors of three people killed in a 1993 Ford Bronco rollover accident.**

In 1999, Ford was hit with a \$290 million jury verdict, which was reduced to \$23.7 million by a California appeals court in November.

The case involved the crash of a 1978 Ford Bronco near Ceres, about 80 miles south of Sacramento. The Bronco's roof was made partially of steel and fiberglass.

**EAGLE, Colo. — Hammering at the work of Kobe Bryant's interrogators, defense attorneys urged a judge Tuesday to bar his secretly recorded police statement and physical evidence including a bloodstained T-shirt from the NBA star's upcoming rape trial.**

Prosecutors fought back, saying sheriff's investigators did nothing without Bryant's consent.

The clash was one of the fiercest yet in the series of pretrial hearings that will help determine what evidence is admitted when the Los Angeles Lakers star is tried on felony sexual assault.

Bryant, 25, says he had consensual sex with the woman. He faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if he is convicted.

— Associated Press

World Roundup

**IRBIL, Iraq — The number of dead rose to 101 Tuesday in the twin suicide bombings of two Kurdish political offices, the highest confirmed toll in any terrorist attack since the U.S. invasion of Iraq.** Kurds blamed Ansar al-Islam, a militant group allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

The string of insurgent attacks killed another American soldier Tuesday and came as U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan met with President Bush and announced he'll send a team to Iraq to break an impasse between the U.S.-led coalition and the Shiite Muslim clergy over how to transfer power to Iraqis.

In Baghdad, the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority put the death toll from Sunday's attacks against the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan at 101, with 133 people still hospitalized.

**KONYA, Turkey — Turkey's prime minister called for tougher laws against shoddy construction Tuesday, as rescuers dug through the wreckage of a collapsed 11-story apartment building to save dozens of people trapped in the rubble. Sixteen people have died.**

Thirty people have been rescued, but between 40 and 100 others are believed buried in the debris, a day after the building went down with a thundering crash. Rescue teams were expected to work around the clock for the second night Tuesday.

Top officials blamed shoddy construction, long a problem in Turkey. Poor construction was blamed for many of the 17,000 deaths in a 1999 earthquake.

**VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia — A car bomb exploded Tuesday night in parking lot near the central market in Vladikavkaz, a southern Russian city near the war-ravaged Chechen Republic, killing two people and wounding several.**

Heavy smoke filled the area as firefighters battled flames. The blast shattered glass in buildings near the lot.

Vladikavkaz is the capital of the province of North Ossetia, to the west of Chechnya.

**SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday that it has agreed to six-way nuclear talks starting Feb. 25, prompting expectations the countries will discuss the communist nation's offer to freeze its atomic programs in exchange for concessions from Washington.**

The announcement was a breakthrough after months of trying to restart negotiations among the United States, China, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas. An earlier round, aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs, ended in August without much progress.

— Associated Press

College Roundup


**WASHINGTON — Despite increased national awareness programs about underage drinking as a serious public health problem, America's youth continue to be bombarded with alcohol ads in the media, according to a recent study by Georgetown's Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth.**

The study found that more than 25 percent of radio ads for alcohol during the last summer would have violated the alcohol industry's revised marketing codes announced in September 2003. The Center's study, which analyzed 106 various alcohol ads aired from June 15 to July 31, 2003, showed that many brands placed ads when underage youth represented more than 30 percent of the listening audience.

These brands, including Heineken, Amstel Light, Corona Extra and Miller Lite, are no longer permitted to advertise to such a significant underage audience. This past September, The Beer Institute and the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States ruled that underage youth should not represent more than 30 percent — reduced from 50 percent — of the audience for alcohol ads.

The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences published a report in September 2003, calling on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to monitor such advertising practices and regularly report its observations to Congress and the public.

— University Wire



# CPTV

Fri. @ 5

Sun. @ 5:30





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# Alcohol violations down sharply under new policy

By Robert Gehrke  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Underage drinking and other alcohol violations among Air Force Academy cadets have dropped dramatically since leaders introduced a strict new alcohol policy and aggressive training for new cadets.

In the 2000-01 academic year, there were 228 alcohol infractions at the academy, 188 involving underage drinking. Through six months of the current school year, there have been just 28 infractions and 19 underage drinking violations, according to academy records.

"We're seeing positive signs," Maj. Gen. John W. Rosa, superintendent of the academy, told the school's board of visitors Tuesday. "We're not there. We have a long way to go. This is a journey."

The new, tough alcohol policy was instituted as part of a sweeping reform in the wake of a string of 142 reported sexual assaults at the Colorado military academy in a 10-year span. An Air Force review found that 40 percent of cadet-on-cadet assaults involved a victim or assailant who had been drinking.

Cadets caught drinking face severe consequences. Cadet David Urton was the first cadet found guilty under the new alcohol policy. Rosa recommended he be expelled and he has left the school until the case is decided.

And last December, Cadet Christina Fifer was threatened with expulsion after she admitted drinking a sip of whiskey, but refusing an order to turn in the cadet who provided her with the alcohol. Academy leaders opted not to expel Fifer.

"Putting in strict policies is tough. You're going to take heat from the parents, you're going to take heat from the press, but it's the only way I know to do business," Rosa said.

Rosa became superintendent of the academy as part of multiple pol-

icy changes and a purge of academy leaders after the scope of the school's sexual assault problem was revealed. The Air Force ordered 140 changes as part of its "Agenda For Change," and all but six are in place or being implemented.

"I believe we have a good beginning. I don't believe this is something we've solved," said Air Force Secretary James G. Roche.

He said the culture will take time to change, but he anticipates the academy's incoming freshman class will be one of its most highly qualified in history, and the school has received more female applicants than ever before.

The scandal also has given a wake-up call to the Board of Visitors — which serves as the school's trustees. In the past, attendance was inconsistent and members acted as supporters of the school. On Tuesday, all but one member attended, and the panel asked probing questions and discussed specific disciplinary matters in a closed-door session.

Academy leaders reported that they are in the process of replacing its traditional cadet disciplinary system that included ridicule, marching and push-ups in favor of one that mirrors the rest of the Air Force which would include verbal counseling, letters of admonition and possibly formal reprimands or court-martials.

Later this month, a review will begin of the academy's athletic department, and in March the Defense Department inspector general will administer a follow-up to an earlier survey that found one in five female cadets reported having been sexually assaulted while attending the academy. Cadets at the Military Academy and West Point will also be given the second survey.

Roche's nomination to become secretary of the Army is being held up by the Senate Armed Services Committee pending the inspector general's report, which may not be done before April or May.

## Breakdown of the decline in alcohol-related infractions and underage drinking at the Air Force Academy since 2000



M.R. BEALS/MUSTANG DAILY

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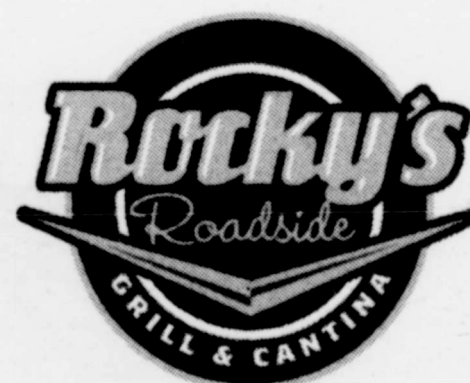


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VIEWPOINTS

Muslim students seek to change perspectives with campus club

• Religious celebration is a chance for community members, students to bond

By JoAnn Sanders  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

While some students in San Luis Obispo spent their Sunday afternoon watching the Patriots and the Panthers battle in the Super Bowl, members of the Muslim Student Association Naiyerah Kolkailah and other members of the Muslim community celebrated a day of sacrifice called Eid-al Adha. Celebrated on the 10th day of Zul-Hijjah (Dhul-Hijjah), the last month of the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Adha is a "festival of sacrifice" to commemorate the Islamic Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for Allah. On this day Muslims around the world gather to celebrate their own commitment, obedience and self sacrifice to Allah. About 20 Muslim families in the San Luis Obispo community gathered at Mitchell Park on Pismo Street to celebrate the first day of this three-day celebration. After "Salatul-Eid," or Eid Prayer, in the

morning, Muslim families and friends met in the afternoon to share food and exchange gifts. Journalism sophomore and president of the Muslim Student Association Naiyerah Kolkailah attended the event. Eid al-Adha served as a day of sacrifice in a celebration that is thought to be one of the most important days in the Islamic religion, but for her it was also a day to spend time with friends and family who share her beliefs. "I've lived here all of my life, and it's hard when you don't have a lot of people to connect to because of your religion," Kolkailah said. As a Muslim woman on the Cal Poly campus, Kolkailah not only has to deal with a limited amount of Muslim students to share her religion with, but also has to face many challenges that confront her on a daily basis because of her religion and way of life. For example, instead of wearing the latest styles from Gap and Express, Kolkailah wears a Hijab and

a Jilbab, the traditional headscarf and dress of her religion. While this symbolizes her modesty and purity to Allah, to the Cal Poly campus it symbolizes her differences. "The bigotry is what gets on my nerves," said Kolkailah after remembering times when she was honked at as trucks drove by. "They really don't know who I am as a person." Kolkailah said she knows the reason for this bigotry is because some people are ignorant of the true meaning and belief system of her religion and also because of the way the media portrays her way of life. However, as president of the MSA, Kolkailah and other members of the club are able to address some of these issues and bring knowledge to the larger student population. The MSA is a religious and social organization. Kolkailah said the group is trying to educate people about the "real Islam" and not the way that people perceive it or the misconceptions demonstrated by the media. The club has hosted events, lectures and Islam awareness weeks

in the past to approach this task and also has a booth at Farmers Market, all in hopes of educating people from a Muslim perspective. "We have a duty to convey the message and try to get people to understand," Kolkailah said. "For me, through MSA, I can do that." The club currently has 25 to 30 active members. Kolkailah's sister, Noha Kolkailah, graduated from Cal Poly in 1998 and finished her teaching credential in 2002. She said when she went to Cal Poly there were not that many Muslim students, and the association here was just starting. "The membership fluctuates," Noha said. "Some years it's really active, and sometimes it's not, but the past three years have been really awesome." The MSA will see a decrease in its membership as a large number of seniors graduate at the end of the year. Naiyerah Kolkailah said she knows there are more Muslims on campus than are a part of the association. The lack of involvement may be due to unawareness or that they are not practicing Muslims. Either way, she said the MSA can bring knowledge to both Muslims and peo-

ple who may not know about the religion or way of life. "I just want to stress to people to have an open mind," Naiyerah Kolkailah said. "People should listen and learn about other people's views, ideas and perspective and then make their own judgment about that person."

*"I've lived here all of my life, and it's hard when you don't have a lot of people to connect to because of your religion."*

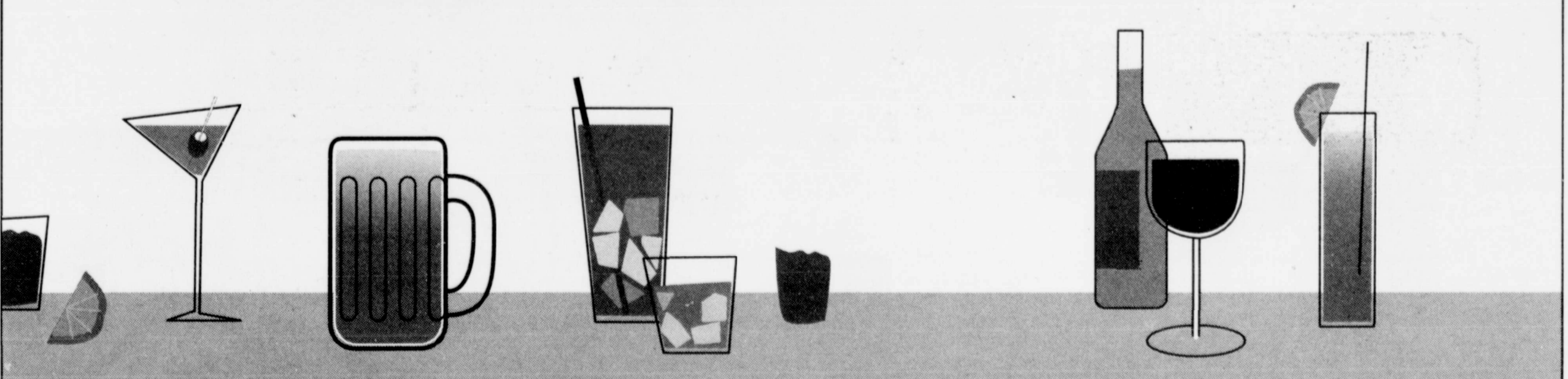
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Muslim Student Association president

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## NEW RELEASES

## Incubus takes metamorphosis one step further with 'Murder'

By Sean Martin

MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS EDITOR

Two main questions shroud the release of Incubus' latest album.

What the hell does "A Crow Left of the Murder" mean? The answer is easy to find with a little research and literary wit.

What was Incubus trying to accomplish when they entered the studio for this album? That is a bit more difficult to figure out. Each listener will interpret the varying atmospheres of the album differently.

The boys were obviously trying to separate themselves from the pack; a quick breakdown of the record's title is evidence. A murder is to a crow as a flock is to a sheep. The raven in question, representative of the Calabasas quintet, is "left" of the murder because he is an outsider, a pariah, if you will.

The album is similar to some of the

more experimental tracks off the band's previous release, "Morning View," with a lot of the songs following the formula of "11 a.m." The difference is there is no "Circles" or "Under My Umbrella" to pick up the rocking slack. Instead, in terms of hardness, this album is stuck in neutral.

With that said, this record is definitely not for the fan longing for the days of DJ Lyfe and a mustache-sporting, dreadlock-wearing, even-skinier Brandon Boyd.

Any songs that are remotely rocking are done so in an upbeat way. "Megalomaniac," the first single, is a perfect example of that point. "Pistola," "Beware! Criminal" and, of course, "Smile Lines" are similar with their crunching chords but are outweighed by their infectiousness and happier nature. The best of that bunch, though, is the album's title track.

"Sick Sad World" successfully travels the spectrum from melodic to dark and brooding, interspersed with rocking moments. The three pieces, somehow, combine for a strong track.

Of course, on every album there is a song that just sucks — no band can escape that. For Incubus, "Zee Deeveel" is that song, with its creepy carnival vibe. It's the tenth track; don't waste your three minutes and 52 seconds. Listen to the slow, flowing "Southern Girl" twice instead.

The album closes on a musical high note, but an emotional low, with "Here In My Room" and its eerie piano. The final track,



COURTESY PHOTO

Calabasas quintet Incubus returns with an album that, while experimental, does not pack the rock-filled punch of its earlier releases.

"Leech," is a perfect ending point because it is representative of the many different styles on the album.

A characteristic that has set Incubus apart from recent music, and can probably atone for their meteoric rise, are the introspective lyrics of Boyd. Those are present here and give a definite boost to the music but are sometimes overdone.

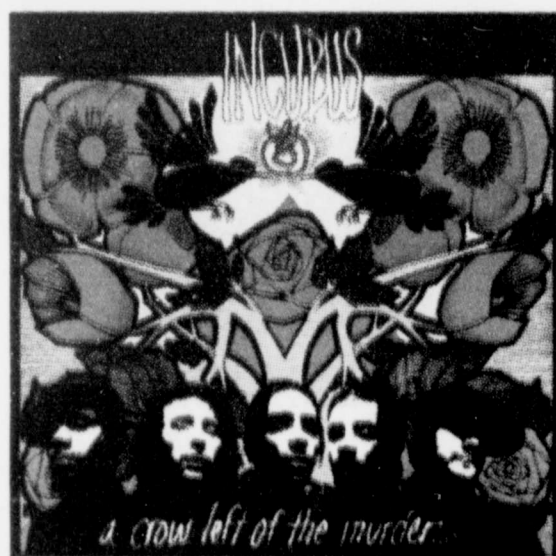
"Agoraphobia" is the album's high

point. Reading those lyrics in the liner notes, which are reproduced in Boyd's handwriting (It's like he really touched them!), is like reading a good poem.

The metaphors and imagery are good, but the topics can be questionable. "Smile Lines" is oddly about how "high school never ends." It would seem these mature rockers would be far removed from such a

subject. As further evidence, the band could do no better than the title "Talk Show on Mute" to take a shot at, you guessed it, talk shows.

"A Crow Left of the Murder" is the output of a band reinventing itself. While at times they seem confused about their final destination, Incubus succeeds if for no other reason than the album sounds like nothing else before it.



COURTESY PHOTO

Incubus  
"A Crow Left of the Murder"  
Epic Records, 2004

## Lostprophets take energy, schizophrenic songwriting and 'Start Something'

By Steve Hill

MUSTANG DAILY ARTS &amp; CULTURE EDITOR

The sophomore jinx is an enigma that puzzles rising bands to this day. While some artists have followed up smash debut albums with a second success — Linkin Park and Hoobastank come to mind — others — Puddle of Mudd, anyone? — fail miserably in duplicating the impact and energy of their first effort.

It looks like Lostprophets, then, are joining good company.

The Welsh band's second release, "Start Something," is a more than worthy follow-up to 2001's "The Fake Sound of Progress." While the

The anthemic chorus of "Last Train Home" has fist-in-the-air-while-you-throw-your-best-friend-in-the-pit written all over it.

new disc retains the band's trademark schizophrenic songwriting, it expands on rhythm and shows a newfound focus on melody that "Progress" lacked. The change is evident on the opening track "We Still Kill the Old Way." While it disguises itself as a purely metallic rock song, the track changes directions with a layered, soaring chorus that somehow seamlessly flows back into the hard, driving verse. The impassioned vocals hint at overtones of war, but that might be reading into it a bit too much; for all the listener knows, it could just be the band's way of welcoming itself back into the spotlight.

And if we weren't yet convinced that their effort was legitimate, "To Hell We Ride" immediately explodes off the speakers, dispelling any notion that the band is going to lay

down and be forgotten.

While these previous two tracks are far too hard to be palatable for radio, "Last Train Home" vies for the title of best sing along track of the year. The anthemic chorus of "And we sing/ If we're going nowhere/ If it's not enough/ Sing without a reason/ To ever fall in love" has fist-in-the-air-while-you-throw-your-best-friend-in-the-pit written all over it. Mike Chiaplin's marching-line drumming adds a range of emotion to the song that, if you didn't get it from the chorus, seals the deal for it being one of the record's strongest tracks.

The rest of the band — Ian Watkins (vocals), Lee Gaze (guitar), Mike Lewis (guitar), Jamie Oliver (backing vocals, turntables, keyboards) and Stuart Richardson (bass) — shines on tracks like "Burn Burn," which is ripped straight from the garage rock owner's manual (think The Hives on steroids), and "Goodbye Tonight." Both songs depart from the band's standard frenetic rock repertoire but fit in with the rest of the album, a testament to the band's strength in diversity of songwriting.

Another stark change for the band is the near absence of turntables, an instrument that was a key focal point of "Progress." This time around, Oliver puts more work into the keyboards, using them to accentuate



Straight out of the burgeoning musical hotbed of Wales, Lostprophets deliver a rocking, if overproduced, sophomore effort with "Start Something."

COURTESY PHOTO

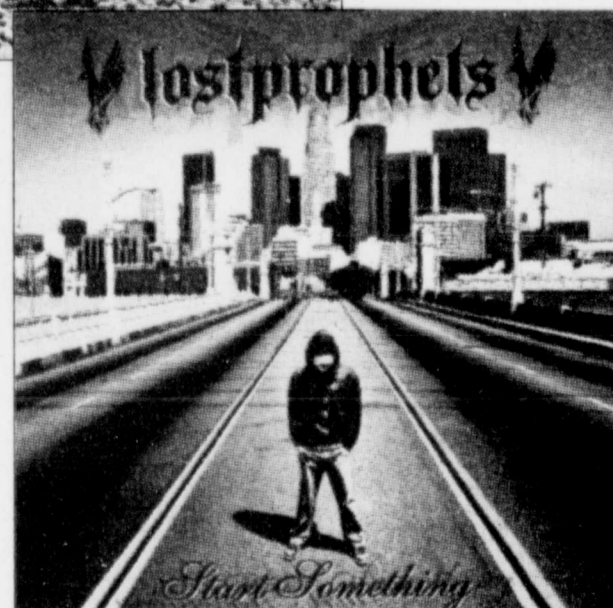
choruses in "Make A Move" and "Goodbye Tonight." This is a welcome evolution, but it makes the few appearances by the turntables, especially on "I Don't Know," extremely awkward.

With this evolution in its sound, the band sought the production skills of Eric Valentine, who has helmed albums by Good Charlotte and Queens of the Stone Age. His influence is noticeable, especially in the power and bite that the guitars have in comparison to "Progress," but slick production has its drawbacks. "I Don't Know" and "Hello Again" are victims of the band's trying to do a little too much, and they pay the price by getting muddled up with effects and mild twinges that, if omit-

ted, would have given the tracks more space and made them more listenable.

Lostprophets, though, use their pure talent and undeniable knack for catchy harmonies to overcome any faulty production. If the closing track, the moody "Sway," is any indication, these six Welshmen only have room to grow and keep pushing the boundaries of their abilities.

The band has, indeed, started something. Whether they fly high or ride to hell is yet to be seen. Either way, it should be a hell of a journey.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lostprophets  
"Start Something"  
Columbia Records/Visible Noise, 2004



# 'FAST' food, SLO style

While the reasons for San Luis Obispo having no drive-thru restaurants are not certain, patrons and employees are split on whether they would welcome the prospect of quick dining

By Ashley Wolf  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The fast-food industry thrives on being speedy, but in the slow-paced town of San Luis Obispo, fast-food restaurants are forced to change their pace.

According to industry experts, 60 percent of the fast-food industry's revenue arrives through the drive-thru lane. Yet a growing number of towns are cracking down on a trend to ban drive-thrus on the basis that they are tacky and cause pollution.

San Luis Obispo had a zoning ordinance passed in 1982 to forbid drive-thru facilities. Theories have circulated that the ordinance was passed to help with the quality of the environment, to keep the small-town atmosphere of San Luis Obispo and because the visual impact of drive-thrus is less appealing. The true reason behind the City Council's approval of the ordinance, the city clerk said, is somewhat unknown.

There are arguments for and against this controversial policy, and the residents of San Luis Obispo seem to be torn on the issue.

"I think it's pretty stupid," aerospace engineering senior Ryan Fowler said. "SLO just added Home Depot, Borders and all sorts of big-box stores, and it's hypocritical for them not to open drive-thrus if they are saying they want to keep it a small town."

Other long-term residents disagree.

"I like it, maybe just because I'm used to it because I've lived here forever," history junior Nate Hamm said.

Residents and potential customers are not the only ones who are divided on their viewpoints. Fast-food managers are also torn on how they view the policy and how a change in the policy would affect their business.

"People have their own taste, and they would go to a restaurant regardless of whether it had a drive-thru because that's what they like," said Diego Leon, a shift manager at the McDonald's on Foothill Boulevard. "I'm happy with the current situation. It makes my life easier."

Santa Rosa Street Taco Bell manager Isidro Soto sees the situation differently.

"A drive-thru would increase our profits," Soto said. "We have a lot of rushes, and if we have a long line inside it turns some customers away. But if we had a drive-thru we could have lines both inside and outside. I'd prefer to see how the experience would be if the city changed its policy."

A big question on Cal Poly students' minds is whether or not an In-N-Out Burger would be opened in San Luis Obispo if the policy had changed.

Senior customer service representative Debbie VanDerWagg said a drive-thru policy wouldn't make or break In-N-Out's decision about opening a store.

"We just opened quite a few restaurants that don't have drive-thrus," VanDerWagg said. "(There are

restaurants) in Fisherman's Wharf (San Francisco), Mill Valley and Laguna Hills."

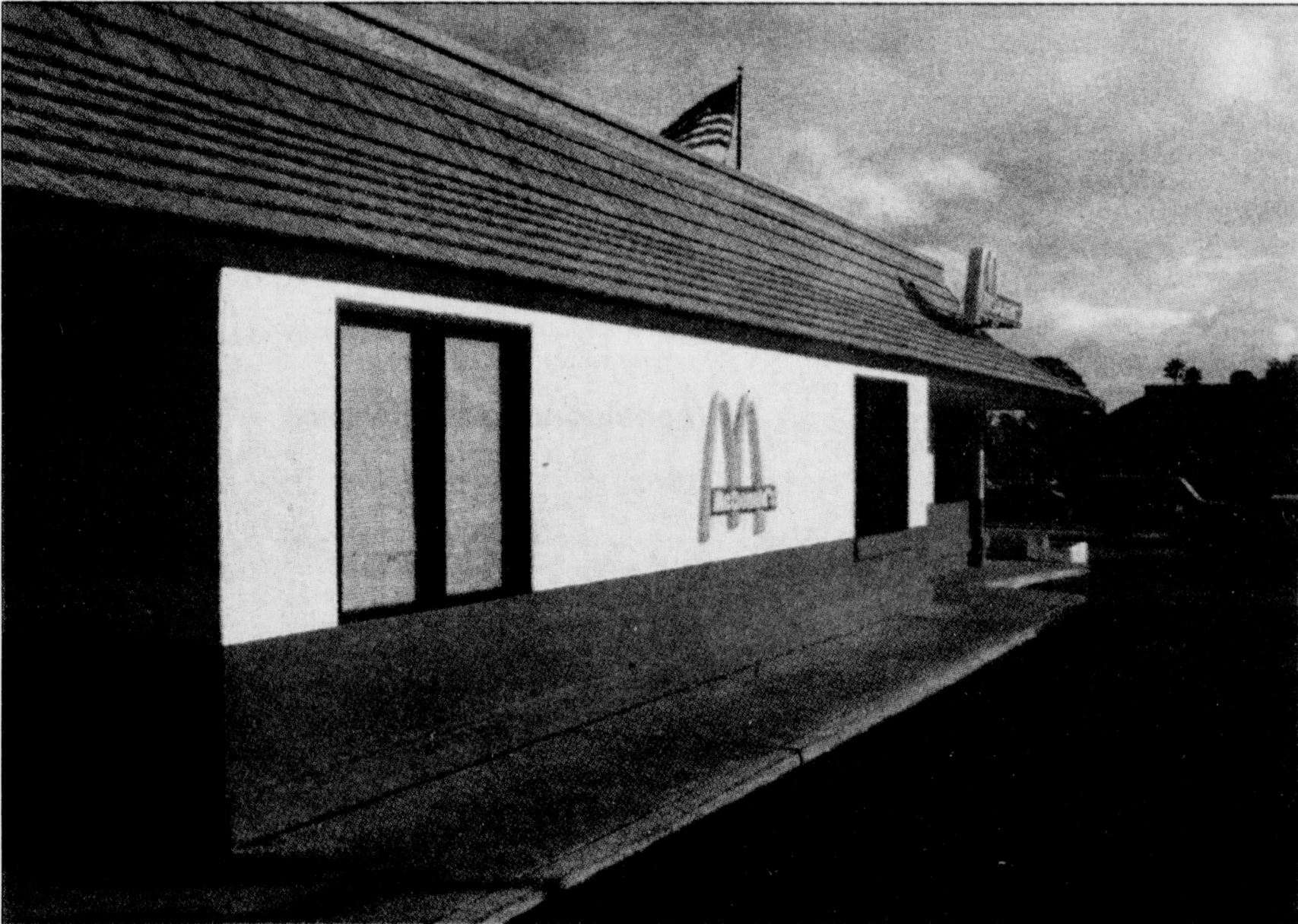
Although these three restaurants do not have drive-thrus now, they were built with the potential to install them in hopes that city officials would change their minds.

"I'm sure a drive-thru ordinance would deter us a bit," VanDerWagg said. "It is a factor, but we exclusively wouldn't choose to not open one in a location because of that type of policy."

The desire for convenience has accelerated the drive-thru industry across the country, creating fast-service pharmacies, dry cleaners, a wedding chapel in Las Vegas and a funeral parlor in South Carolina.

As for San Luis Obispo, the ordinance doesn't look like it will be changing anytime soon, and environmental horticulture science senior Nate Miller is content with that.

"I praise the no drive-thru rule," Miller said. "It keeps me from being ridiculously fat!"



MATT WECHTER/MUSTANG DAILY

**Someday, maybe? San Luis Obispo has an ordinance banning drive-thru restaurants, hence the absence of one here at the McDonald's on Foothill Boulevard.**

## WATCH DAWG:

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# Baby gender selection is risky business

Technology has introduced a myriad of changes to the way fertility works. No longer do couples have to rely solely on fate to determine when, where and how they will conceive and deliver a baby. But the newest technology may alter a genetic ratio that has been a central tenet of nature since the conception of humanity.

An article in the Jan. 26 issue of Newsweek revealed the ups and downs of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, a fertility procedure that allows couples to choose the gender of their baby with nearly 100 percent accuracy.

A specialist mixes the female's eggs with sperm in a lab dish, producing embryos that are tested for gender. Those of the "correct" sex are implanted into the woman and nature takes over from there.

Like a cosmic rubber band, each advance in the realm of reproduction stretches the boundaries of what is acceptable. This procedure, however, is threatening to snap those boundaries, and it's going to sting.

## Commentary

People have been trying for centuries to create a "recipe" for gender-specific pregnancies. An Internet search will turn up multiple studies explaining how a couple can combine pH levels, sexual positions and timing to shift the likelihood of conceiving the preferred gender in their favor. Those recipes have a high rate of success but nowhere near the scientifically manufactured 100th percentile.

It is fine for a couple to have a preference; most people want to buy into the stereotype of little boys playing baseball with their fathers or little girls being enveloped in miles of pink ribbon and lace. But parents who hope for a specified gender are idealizing the relationship they might have with one child while trivializing an equal yet different type of bond.

When couples are given the power to decide which gender will be most convenient for them, they run the risk of letting self-interest disturb the foundations of nature. What happens when little girls become the next big trend? When advertisers begin marketing which sex is the new "it" for the season? It sounds far-fetched, but so did test-tube babies.

Short term, choosing the gender of a baby may theoretically provide balance within a family unit. In the long term, the option could upset a balance that is derived from nature to keep the population at a nearly even split.

For now, there are not enough couples with the funds and desire to undergo the procedure and upset the natural order. According to Newsweek, the price tag is set at nearly \$20,000 plus travel expenses. But just as the once-foreign concept of surrogate mothers worked its way into mainstream consciousness and general acceptance, so too will this option be available to an increasingly broad range of candidates in the future.

Of course there are some situations in which the procedure might be beneficial. In countries where girls are often given up for adoption in favor of their male counterparts, the option would decrease the number of unwanted babies and ease pressure on overburdened facilities. But by making selection easier, is society abandoning advocacy for gender equality?

Such questions only touch the surface of the social and political implications of gender selection. Decisions this powerful may prove to be dangerous in our instant gratification society.

Hillary Schuler-Jones is a journalism and political science senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

# Letters to the editor

## Teachers are behind Dean Editor,

I am extremely proud to support Howard Dean for president. I have voted for most Democratic nominees for president since John F. Kennedy, but I have never invested money and time in a political campaign until now.

As a professor of history, I am proud that the California Teachers Association has endorsed Howard Dean and will work for his nomination and election.

Please stand with us and help nominate and elect Howard Dean.

Joseph A. Bagnall is a professor at Palomar College in San Marcos, Calif.

## 'Monologues' ads offensive Editor,

To all individuals involved with the promotion of the "The Vagina Monologues":

Recent posters advertising the "The Vagina Monologues" have included a word (c\*\*t) that is extremely offensive to many women. While I understand that the individuals who are in or associated with the play did not intend to offend, they have.

After reading about "The Vagina Monologues," I was planning to attend with my friends. I was encouraged by the principle of stopping violence against women that the production claims to present. However, after the use of such a vulgar and offensive word in its advertisements, I will no longer support this play by attending.

I understand that many women may not be offended by the word used in the advertisement. I am sure they will attend the play and show their support. However, I feel that many more are offended and hurt by the small group of individuals who took it upon themselves to justify the use of this word.

This advertisement, to me and to many of my friends, is nothing short of verbal abuse by our peers. Worse, the use of this word in advertisements has only encouraged its use in our society. It is a word that to many people is as offensive as a racial slur or hateful speech.

You have the right to say and print what ever you please. However, with that right comes a certain amount of responsibility. You have driven away the people you hoped to reach with your message, and you have perpetuated the very act that this play was intending to stop.

I hope in the future that more sensitivity is shown toward all members of our community.

Sarah Benoit is an animal science senior.

## Only Dean can beat Bush Editor,

My 18-year-old son was never so inspired as when he heard Governor Dean speak in New Hampshire. He had gone to see all of the candidates, but only Dean shone out to him as honest, true and inspiring. Post Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush asked us to show patriotism by shopping. But FDR said, "In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory."

Like FDR, Howard Dean speaks the truth and trusts us to rise to the challenges facing our nation. To Dean, patriotism means challenging our government and ourselves to be the best that we can be. Since December, the television media has attacked Gov. Dean, and I am ashamed to say that in my own state of New Hampshire the negative and distorted media campaign lost Dean votes and distorted our electoral process.

You can fix that.

Gov. Dean is the only candidate who asks us to help restore our democracy. He quotes Lincoln and Truman. He reminds us that the constitution is ours if we choose to reclaim it. Dean's campaign is unique, positive and based in the best traditions of democracy. The past three years show what happens when a president is beholden to corporate interests. Dean's campaign is powered by the people, not corporate interests or millionaire lobbyists. His agenda will improve our lives in America. Listen to Dean and learn why the GOP fears him.

Vote for him. Only he can beat George W. Bush.

Nancy Tobi is a resident of Lyndeborough, N.H.

## Dean proved a strong leader Editor,

I live in a small town in northern Vermont. I am writing to you because you get to vote in a primary before I do, and I want a chance to vote for Howard Dean.

As a mother, grandmother and community-builder, I am distressed with the direction in which our country is headed.

For nearly 20 years I have watched and voted for Gov. Dean.

If we were sitting together and you asked me about him, this is what I would say:

He has proven to me that he knows how to govern well. He insisted on balanced

budgets, which kept Vermont in good financial shape.

Dean was a strong leader who fought for justice. He used both good judgment and common sense. He focused on jobs, health care and education for all.

He brought people together and wanted to know what they thought. As a doctor and a governor, he knew how to tackle difficult problems and find creative solutions. He is very honest and forthright.

I invite you to listen carefully to Dean's own words. Once the corporate media gets a hold of them, these words are spun, twisted, hyped and lose their context.

Together in this community we call America, we can reclaim our rights and responsibilities. I ask you to consider joining me in voting for Howard Dean.

Linda Fox is a resident of Vermont.

## Dean an electable candidate Editor,

Attacks on Howard Dean's electability are dishonest. Dean is the only candidate who has an electable record on guns (which cost Al Gore in the South in 2000). Re-elected governor five times, only Dean has a record of balancing budgets, delivering health care and jobs and doing the things others have only talked about. Since 1900, two senators have been elected president, while governors have actually been most electable, accounting for half of our presidents. And, only Gov. Dean can raise the money to beat Bush because Dean's campaign has already shattered Clinton's fundraising records. Finally, only Dean is tough enough to take attacks from the media and the only candidate who has consistently stood up to Bush rather than appeasing him and flip-flopping on the war, the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act, Prescription drugs and tax cuts for the rich.

All of this makes Dean the strongest choice to beat Bush.

Robert Hornback is a resident of Washington, DC.

## Letter policy

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

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"Cute umbrella, bad luck."



## Overpopulation concern mounts

Television talk show host Larry King once asked the world's smartest man, Stephen Hawking, "What worries you the most?" The great physicist responded, "My biggest worry is population growth, and if it continues at the current rate, we will be standing shoulder to shoulder in 2600. Something has to happen, and I don't want it to be a disaster." As is often the case with Hawking, there is some wisdom in his words. One doesn't need an IQ above 200 to realize that world overpopulation is an issue of growing concern that has the potential to make human life pretty miserable in the not so distant future.

First, some facts and numbers: The Earth currently has a recorded population of just more than six billion, while 12 years ago it was just more than five billion. The global population growth is about 76 million per year and the total number of humans on Earth has doubled in the past 40 years. Birthrates are on the decline, but on the flip side, life expectancy is climbing.

To paint a more visual picture of the situation, under our current rate of reproduction, there should be nearly 11 billion people in the world by the year 2050. According to the World Overpopulation Awareness Organization, this means that the global food supply would need to be tripled in order to meet the most basic of needs. Furthermore, this would require a 1,000 percent increase in the total energy expended in food production. Strangely enough, production of grains per capita has been declining since 1983 due to a 20 percent decline in per capita cropland, a 15 percent decrease in irrigation water and a 23 percent drop in the use of fertilizers.

But forget about future consequences and think for a moment about the everyday effects of overpopulation. America's schools are crowded and teachers have their hands full due to the size of the current adolescent generation, which is the largest in history. Perhaps it is no coincidence that one out of four schools cannot meet the "requirements" imposed by President Bush's No Child Left Behind plan. With the number of agricultural producers diminishing and the demand steadily rising, the price of foodstuffs is

on the rise, especially health food, of which supermarket chains are carrying less and less. We need not even take into account the correlation between growing population and rising crime rates.

What this all boils down to is that we cannot, as a species, waste much more time without coming up with some semblance of a solution to the problem. While the number of humans continues to rise with no limits, the total amount of resources our Earth has to offer started as a constant, and can only decrease.

A friend of mine once said in jest, "I dream of a world where birth control is in the drinking water and you need a prescription for bottled water." While his "solution" is crude at best, it is a step in the right direction. Population control is not exactly a popular topic of discussion these days but it is something that drastically needs serious meditation.

The fundamental problem here is that it would be near impossible to impose some method of population control, especially in the United States, without causing some individuals to feel that their rights have been seriously violated. After all, people should be allowed to have as many children as they feel necessary. Furthermore, the one-child policy China has followed for some time now does not seem to have done them much good. With a population of 1.2 billion, one in every five humans lives in China.

Something as simple as small fiscal incentives could make a difference and get a good deal of people giving the issue some serious thought. Perhaps the government could offer retirement pension benefits to those who had fewer than three children. This would give a perfectly humane premise for Americans to consider limiting the number of children they have on their own.

Whatever the best solution may be, it is past time for humanity to start considering how it plans to survive when in a few centuries there won't be any space left. We must alter our course or what we are headed for is the opposite of evolution — quite reasonably, our extinction.

Robert Barry is a writer for The Daily Campus at the University of Connecticut.

## Politician wives breaking the mold

It is highly doubtful that Judy Steinberg-Dean, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean, was the woman behind the infamous "HAAAGGGHHH!" speech.

But what, then, is the appropriate role of the wives of presidential hopefuls?

In recent newscasts, interviews and feature articles, the wives rather than the candidates themselves have been the topic of conversation. They are accused of being either too involved in or too removed from the campaign, a good influence on the campaign or detrimental to it.

### Commentary

It is obvious that wives have played a key role in campaigning for their husbands' seat in the White House before, but is there one "appropriate" role for the women to play? Is there an alternative to the mannequin-like statue seen standing next to the president with a smile plastered on her face, wearing a stylist-selected monochromatic frock (said to give the allusion of slenderness), waving to a crowd of people she does not know?

Judy Steinberg-Dean doesn't fulfill this traditional role. For this reason, she has fallen victim to media scrutiny.

Having been described as everything from demure to shy to "not exactly Nancy Reagan material" by Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's Hardball, most of the criticism surrounding Mrs. Steinberg-Dean is in regard to the time her successful medicine practice demands. Many Howard Dean critics feel she is not devoting enough time to accompanying her husband on his campaign trail.

Since when is having a successful career a source of criticism? Most people would be thrilled to have an educated first lady with more to do than simply attend glitzy state dinners and worry about what dress to wear when meeting foreign dignitaries.

When asked by Diane Sawyer about how she would deal with public scrutiny of her clothes and hair, Steinberg-Dean answered, "You know ... I don't really care too much what I wear, and I'm sure it would be criticized and my hair and everything else ... It's just so much more important what (Howard) could do for the country."

This seems like a lose-lose question for Dean. If she broke down and admitted that it would devastate her to hear harsh criticism of her appearance, America should worry about what kind of first lady she would be. What answer was Sawyer looking for?

Once again, comparing her to previous first ladies, Matthews asked Steinberg-Dean if she would be more like Barbara Bush, Bess Truman and Mamie Eisenhower — all considered to be "1's" in terms of their involvement in public policy, or if she would be more like Hillary Rodham Clinton — earning a "10" for her role in America's health care program.

"I think I'd just have a totally different role," Steinberg-Dean responded. "I hope to continue practicing medicine."

How refreshing to have a woman with goals, aspirations and a life of her own.

Steinberg-Dean, however, is not the only woman along for the ride while her husband vies for the position of president.

Former presidential hopeful Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt's wife, Jane, is credited with urging him to switch his position on abortion from pro-life to pro-choice.

Gephardt says his wife has "good Midwestern common sense" and he often goes to her for advice about such issues as health care.

Involved more than Steinberg-Dean, Jane seems to share Judy's mindset that sometimes their husbands need to hear what they're doing wrong.

Steinberg-Dean has admitted to saying her husband looked "kind of silly" giving his now infamous "I Have a Scream" speech.

Other wives of presidential hopefuls haven't been bombarded by questions as to how they feel their outfits and hair would be accepted by the public.

Perhaps Steinberg-Dean is a bit intimidating and mysterious because she would rather go on a wholesome bicycle ride with her family than be showered with expensive gifts and five-star dinners for Mother's Day.

And could it actually be true that in the interview with Sawyer she said, "I don't like watching TV that much ... it's not something I think of doing."

Although the wives of presidential hopefuls are supposed to act, Steinberg-Dean would be a welcome change from previous first ladies who have fought their husbands for the limelight and worried more about setting new fashion trends more than continuing to better themselves and letting their husband run the country.

Tarrah Graves is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Believing in God can be a reasonable choice

It is usually claimed that though one cannot prove God exists, one cannot disprove God's existence either. Showing that something cannot be proved to exist is not the same as proving that it doesn't exist. To establish that God doesn't exist, we need a different set of arguments, which many people believe is impossible to come up with.

So, if God's existence can neither be proved nor disproved, then faith is claimed to have a legitimate place in one's belief in God. On the other hand, if God's existence could be categorically disproved, then, it is believed, it would be silly to have faith in such a nonexistent God.

I would like to show that one can prove that God doesn't exist. But I will also show that this doesn't mean that belief in a nonexistent God is silly. In fact, belief in such a God can be quite reasonable.

It is easy to show that all proof for God's existence is faulty, so one cannot prove that God exists. But how can one prove that God doesn't exist? Let's find out.

We cannot disprove that dragons and unicorns exist, though routinely we say they don't. To be logically precise, we should leave open the possibility of their existence because there's nothing illogical in the claim that they exist — though in the real world, it is highly unlikely that we'll find them.

### Commentary

God is not to be found in our natural world because God is claimed to be a supernatural being. And no argument can prove that God exists. So, like dragons and unicorns, why shouldn't we say that God doesn't exist? Why should we make an exception in the case of God?

The answer is obvious. We are so desperate to believe in God that we bypass our everyday epistemic standards. Because we believe that God's existence is left open, we harbor the wishful idea that God exists, simply as a matter of faith. But then we go against our own logic by falsely proclaiming that God exists as a matter of fact.

Speaking of logic, let's be logical all the way. Dragons and unicorns have more logical claim for existence than God because the notions of a dragon or a unicorn are not logically problematic, but the concept of God, as traditionally defined and understood, is.

The idea of an omnipotent, omniscient and all-good God is hard to put together logically. Each of these three attributes is conceptually questionable, and taken together, they are mutually inconsistent. All this conceptual mess makes the notion of God very implausible, logically speaking.

If the notion of an entity is logically questionable, then the entity is empirically improbable if not nonexistent. For instance, we can say that a square-circle doesn't exist because the very concept doesn't make logical sense. For something to exist, it has to be probable. But for it to be probable it has to be possible, and for it to be possible, it has to be logically feasible.

Given all this, it can be said with confidence that the probability of God's existence is practically nil. I use the phrase "practically nil" instead of "absolutely nil" because it is always prudent to be charitable.

If God's existence cannot be proved and in addition can be disproved, does this make our faith in God silly? Not necessarily. Our faith in the existence of God is a dogma — perhaps the greatest dogma of all. A dogma is by definition not rational. So belief in God is not rational. But can it be reasonable? Yes, it can be, under certain conditions. Something that is not rational can still be reasonable if it is less dogmatic and if it serves some useful purpose. Let me explain.

There is a difference between fantasy and illusion. A fantasy is a make-believe reality that we find useful, though we know that it is not true. There's nothing wrong with fantasy, within limit. In fact, it can add spice to our life. An illusion, on the other hand, is a falsehood that we mistakenly believe to be true. Unlike a fantasy, an illusion is almost always harmful.

Our belief that God exists is an illusion. And it has hurt humankind through out the ages. Look at all the warfare, genocide, conflict, intolerance and hatred based on the belief that God exists. However, if our belief in God is taken as a fantasy, that is, as a wishful and make-believe therapeutic device to improve our life and the human condition (say, by injecting love and acceptance in the name of God), that's another story.

But being a fantasy, it requires that we are fully aware that God doesn't exist, so there's no point in going to war in the name of God or preying on the unsuspecting mind or on the developing world, as missionaries and evangelists routinely do.

This is how faith in God can be reasonable, though it can never be rational. This is what I call a reasonable faith as opposed to a dogmatic faith when it comes to God. Of course, many people don't have a need to rely on a faith in God, however reasonable it may be, to bring love and meaning in their life. They can do it without God.

One may question whether one can have an effective fantasy that can be inspiring and motivating if one knows that it is not true. But why should this be a problem? We all know that Jesus was not born in late December but probably in April, but that doesn't take away the joy and significance of Christmas, though the crass commercialization of Christmas is truly unfortunate. While kids know Santa Claus doesn't exist, the fantasy still means a lot to them.

If kids can have their Santa Claus, why can't adults have their God?

Deen Chatterjee is a writer for the Daily Utah Chronicle at the University of Utah.



# Senator wants CYA to address issues of violence

By Anna Oberthur  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — A day after the release of reports detailing problems in California's youth prisons, state Sen. Gloria Romero Tuesday said the California Youth Authority must develop a plan to restructure what the reports called the nation's most violent juvenile detention system.

"The mission of the California Youth Authority is to rehabilitate," Romero, D-Los Angeles, said. But reading the reports left her to conclude "the first thing that needs rehabilitation is the California Youth Authority."

Romero said the state must settle a lawsuit against the CYA by the San Francisco-based nonprofit Prison Law Office, which provides free legal services to California prisoners. Romero chairs the Senate Select Committee on the California Correctional System, and last month led hearings into corruption allegations in the adult prison system along with Committee on Government Oversight chair Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City.

The lawsuit alleging poor conditions and treatment at the state's youth institutions led the state to commission the reports, which were completed last summer.

The CYA released the reports Monday, which Romero called a sign the new administration of Gov. Arnold

Schwarzenegger will support reforming the system.

The reports, which are largely critical of CYA operations and care of the 4,600 detained juveniles at 11 institutions, detailed concerns over health care, schooling and a menacing atmosphere of violence. They came a week after a report alleging the California Youth Authority provides poor and even abusive treatment to wards with mental health problems.

Among other complaints, the reports chronicled extensive use of mace to control youths and below-grade medical attention.

Agency Secretary Roderick Hickman has asked the CYA staff to review the reports and develop a plan to fix the problems, said agency spokesman Tip Kindel.

The agency also wants to settle the lawsuit, Kindel said, although it first wants to fix the problems cited in the reports.

Schwarzenegger is looking forward to working with the Legislature and Hickman to address these "inherited problems," said Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson.

Donald Spector, director of the Prison Law Office, said the CYA doesn't know how to correct its failures.

"I've never seen an institution that was so out of control with this much violence," Spector said. "This is a system which needs help, dramatic help."

# Hearst family agrees on ranch price

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Conservationists and the Hearst Corp. have agreed the company would receive \$80 million cash and

\$15 million in state tax credits in a deal to preserve a scenic stretch of ranchland the Hearst family has owned for generations.

In an agreement brokered by the American Land Conservancy, public and private money would buy 1.75 square miles of coastal land, while the rest of the 128-square mile Hearst Ranch would be protected under an easement strictly limiting development.

The tract of beach, grassland and

forest about 200 miles north of Los Angeles surrounds Hearst Castle, the never-completed dream home of William Randolph Hearst that draws tourists from around the world.

"This is home," said company vice president Stephen Hearst, one of the negotiators. "It is a picturesque, lovely piece of property. It's the ranch, it's home, it's vacation. We have a true affection for this property."

# Recall campaign costs \$88 million

SACRAMENTO (AP) — In the brief but wild recall campaign that rewrote California history, major candidates spent close to \$88 million — nearly a third of it by Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was elected the state's 38th governor.

Schwarzenegger, whose personal wealth is estimated at more than \$100 million, spent more than \$10 million of his own money on his campaign but also relied heavily on support from business executives, real estate developers and financial institutions, according to final spending reports covering 2003.

The \$88 million figure falls well short of the \$130 million spent by former Gov. Gray Davis and his rivals during the 2002 election — the most ever spent in a California election. But still, observers note, the six major candidates were racing in a condensed 59-day time period rather than the normal primary and general election sequence that takes up the better part of a year.

"On a cost per day basis, this is easily the most expensive campaign California has ever had," said Jim Knox, executive director of Common Cause.

Records show that Schwarzenegger raised nearly \$27 million through two campaign committees organized to recall Davis and to help Schwarzenegger replace him — substantially more than the \$21 million Davis and his supporters spent in sep-

arate efforts to fight off the recall.

Schwarzenegger's status as an international movie star provided him an enormous amount of free publicity throughout the recall campaign, noted Ann Crigler, director of the Jesse Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of California. "The Schwarzenegger campaign got so much free media attention, if you take that into account on top of all the money he was spending — his numbers would be stupendous," she said.

In addition to the recall, Schwarzenegger's fund-raising juggernaut also attracted hundreds of thousands of other dollars last year to help retire debts from a 2002 ballot measure he sponsored in support of after-school programs, as well as aid his new effort to get voters to approve a \$15 billion bond measure on the upcoming March ballot.

The governor's primary campaign committee, Californians for Schwarzenegger, received \$22 million in contributions in 2003. That total includes \$4 million in loans that Schwarzenegger took out in support of his candidacy. The committee had expenses of \$22.7 million and has a cash balance of about \$1.2 million.

A Superior Court judge ruled last week that those loans exceeded voter-approved campaign finance restrictions. The result of the ruling could be that Schwarzenegger will have to pay back the loans out of his own pocket.

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### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1224

ACROSS

1 Marijuana source

5 Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu

9 TV exec Ariedeg

14 Foot problem

15 So

16 Hiked

17 TV show digitizer

18 Urban dwelling, for short

19 Thomas Jefferson, religiously

20 Means of advancement

23 Aurora's Greek counterpart

24 WWW addresses

25 Pink slip

31 Chart type

32 At any time

33 \_\_\_ couture

35 Where the Ob and Indus flow

37 Thumbs-up/thumbs-down guy

40 Montenegrin, e.g.

41 Spaghetti western director Sergio

43 Hospital wear

45 See

46 Features of some antique autos

50 Handily, after "with"

51 Make fast

52 Troop directives

59 "See?"

60 Enter

61 "American \_\_\_"

62 Cooling down

63 Moneyed one

64 Mount of Moses

65 Revealed, in modern lingo

66 Lawn mower site

67 Recognized

DOWN

1 Red \_\_\_

2 Do some cutting, maybe

3 QxQ, e.g., in chess

4 Drive forward

5 Not wishy-washy

6 Press

7 Bug-eyed

8 Absorbs, as gravy

9 Track great Wilma

10 Where pirates operate

11 Miss Crump's pupil, on TV

12 Loch \_\_\_

13 Boston summer hrs.

21 Test by touching

22 \_\_\_-la-la

25 Better informed

26 You'll find them all in a tennis court

27 Cornhusker's state: Abbr.

28 Shorthand system

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MOOR	RAJAH	ACCT
AIDE	AGILE	WORE
PLOD	YULBRYNNER	
SYRIA	ATSEA	IER
ALA	TRICKY	
EUELLGIBBONS		
MFR	ACER	SAMBA
MOOD	RADAR	YEAR
ASSAM	MOVE	RBI
	YULEFESTIVAL	
ANGORA	TOA	
BOO	ADDLE	OGLES
YOULLLAUGH	RATE	
SSGT	EDGAR	EZRA
SEED	DEEDS	EYER

29 Like composition paper

30 Doesn't go

31 Pard

34 Night before

36 "Queen of the Damned" author

38 Knock over

39 Black and blue?

42 Passed

44 Neet rival

47 Suffix with bull

48 Paddock sounds

49 Debts, symbolically

52 Computer screen offering

53 Battling

54 Genesis skipper

55 "Had enough?"

56 Tree of life site

57 Choir attire

58 Not very busy

59 Bit of baby talk

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## FOOTBALL

continued from page 12

ing his duties as wide receivers coach. Joe Seumalo will continue to coach the defensive line and Carl Grisanti will assist Ellerson with the linebackers.

Shields replaces David Fipp, who was Cal Poly's defensive coordinator. Fipp is now a co-defensive coordinator at Nevada.

With Shields as Bucknell's offensive coordinator in 2003, the Bison finished with a 6-6 record and a third-place finish in the Patriot League. Bucknell was the No. 1 rushing team in the league and its two quarterbacks finished second and third in the league in passing efficiency.

Shields guided St. Mary's vaunted option attack for three seasons (2000-02), and each season the Gaels finished fourth in all of Division I-AA in rushing, averaging 309.5, 279.7 and 264.0 yards per game. In 2000, Shields helped St. Mary's shatter school records with 3,404 rushing yards, 50 touchdowns, 233 first downs, 71 points in a game and 535 rushing yards in a game. In his three seasons at the Moraga school, St. Mary's averaged 388.2 yards of offense per game.

Prior to his stint at St. Mary's,

Shields spent three years as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Eastern Oregon University. From 1997-99, he was instrumental in the development of the Mountaineers' all-time leading passer, rusher and receiver. The offense set 35 school records during that time.

Before joining the EOU staff in 1997, Shields was a graduate assistant coach at Oregon State from 1994-96, coaching the tight ends, quarterback and running backs. He assisted in game plan preparation, recruiting and coordinated the defensive scout team.

Shields gained defensive experience at Oregon State in 1994 as an assistant coach with the linebackers and special teams.

Shields graduated from Oregon State in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in speech communication, and he earned his master's in interdisciplinary studies from OSU in 1997.

Shields was a three-sport athlete at Oregon City High School, where he was selected the state's 4A football player of the year in 1988 and earned all-state honors in football, basketball and baseball.

The Mustangs were ranked as high as 14th in the nation this year. They had an outside chance of making the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs for the first time in school history until a late loss to Idaho State.

## MIMNAUGH

continued from page 12

ology and communications, and never intended on becoming a coach.

*"Every player has taught me something. I believe they've taught me more than I've taught them."*

**Faith Mimnaugh**  
Head coach

"To be honest, in college I thought [coaching] was the last occupation I would have interest in," Mimnaugh said. "I thought it was the hardest job anyone could have."

After college Mimnaugh went on to play semi-professional basketball in

Australia for the Newcastle Scorpions for four seasons. It was here that she found her calling as a coach, after being thrust into the coaching ranks and becoming a player-coach for a few years.

The athletes responded to her direction and enthusiasm, and though she says she would have loved to continue playing, it was obvious that coaching would take precedence over her playing career.

Soon after Mimnaugh applied at North Carolina State University and in 1989, got a position as a graduate assistant coach under head coach Kay Yow, the 1988 U.S. Olympic basketball coach.

When she discovered she had been accepted in that position, she was stunned.

"I'd worked so hard as a player," Mimnaugh said. "I dreamed about playing for the Olympics, but this gave me a different goal - it was something I could give back to the game. It was something I could give back to everyone else."

Under Yow's guidance, she learned how to run a basketball program, from preparation for the games to study hall and supporting the athletes.

She remained at North Carolina State until 1993 when she applied for and was accepted as head coach at the University of Evansville in Indiana. After three seasons at Evansville, Mimnaugh made the move to California and became assistant coach at Cal Poly in 1996. The next year she was made interim head coach and was later hired to stay.

Mimnaugh is now in her seventh year of improving the Mustangs' standing in the Big West Conference. She has led her teams through many successful seasons, including 2000-01 when they garnered the most wins the Mustangs have had since moving to Division I in 1994.

Mimnaugh has brought many ideals to her teams and her coaching techniques have been shaped through many years of experience, although she says she's nowhere near figuring everything out.

Odessa Jenkins, an assistant coach and former Cal Poly basketball player, respects Mimnaugh's coaching techniques and has learned a lot from them.

"With Coach Faith's style, it's all about the players," Jenkins said. "She treats everybody with respect, which can't be said about a lot of bosses. She always respects me and gives me the opportunity to say what I feel is going on. She's selfless, she is a winner."

When former Mustang and current assistant coach Kristy Baker was

*"Her greatest gift is her ability to see what's great in others and put them into the program."*

**Kristy Baker**  
Assistant coach

11, the Newcastle native watched Mimnaugh play in Australia. She said that it's almost surreal when she thinks about having watched Mimnaugh play and then being recruited by her to play at Cal Poly a decade later. She has also gained much knowledge from working with Mimnaugh.

"What I've learned most is how to consider the entire athlete," Baker said. "Sometimes it's not just about the player, it's about the person. Coach Faith does this well. Her greatest gift is her ability to see what's great in others and put them into the program."

While leaving a lasting impression on her players, Mimnaugh has been inspired by each one of them.

"Every player has taught me something," Mimnaugh said. "I believe they've taught me more than I've taught them."

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### Comments

"Just because I'm on a diet doesn't mean I can't look at the menu"

Props to the STC (Society for Technical Communication) for putting on a great Job Search Workshop!

Needed: Smart, funny, sensitive, handsome males for Valentine's Day. Must be single. Call the girls in Mustang Daily Advertising 756-1143



# Softball steps to plate starting Thursday

By Lacie Grimshaw  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Another softball season opens for the Mustangs with a doubleheader Feb. 5 against Colorado State at Janssen field.

Cal Poly was picked to finish sixth in the Big West Conference preseason poll.

The team finished in that position in conference last year with a 7-14 record.

"I can almost guarantee we'll perform strong our first time out," middle infielder Chelsey Stoufer said.

Stoufer is one of the top returning players with a batting average of .303 last season and two homeruns.

"We are returning the bulk of our stronger hitters," head coach Lisa Boyer said. "As a team we are much stronger offensively and present a greater threat than last season."

Six new players will take the field this season to replace four players from last year's squad who were lost to graduation.

Fourteen women, including six

starters, are returning for the 2004 season. Stoufer said she's confident that both the older and younger players are working well together.

"We've got a really young team this season," she said. "But we've also got a lot of strong leaders."

The new and returning players have come together to form a competitive group that is optimistic about the season.

"Everyone gets along really well," outfielder Stephanie Payan said. "They love the game, and we're all really excited to start playing together."

Most of the team's practices have been about strengthening their overall game, both on and off the field.

"Right now we're working on putting everything together, before the season starts," Boyer said. "The team's looking good and showing a lot of effort; they're focused and ready to play."

The Mustangs' main concern is to keep their concentration during the season, Payan said.

"We want a winning season, but

we have to make sure and focus on one game at a time," she said. "We need to take care of our end of things and not worry about the other teams."

With all the work and time the team has already put into this year, the players are understandably excited to start playing.

"They're chomping at the bit to open the season," Boyer said.

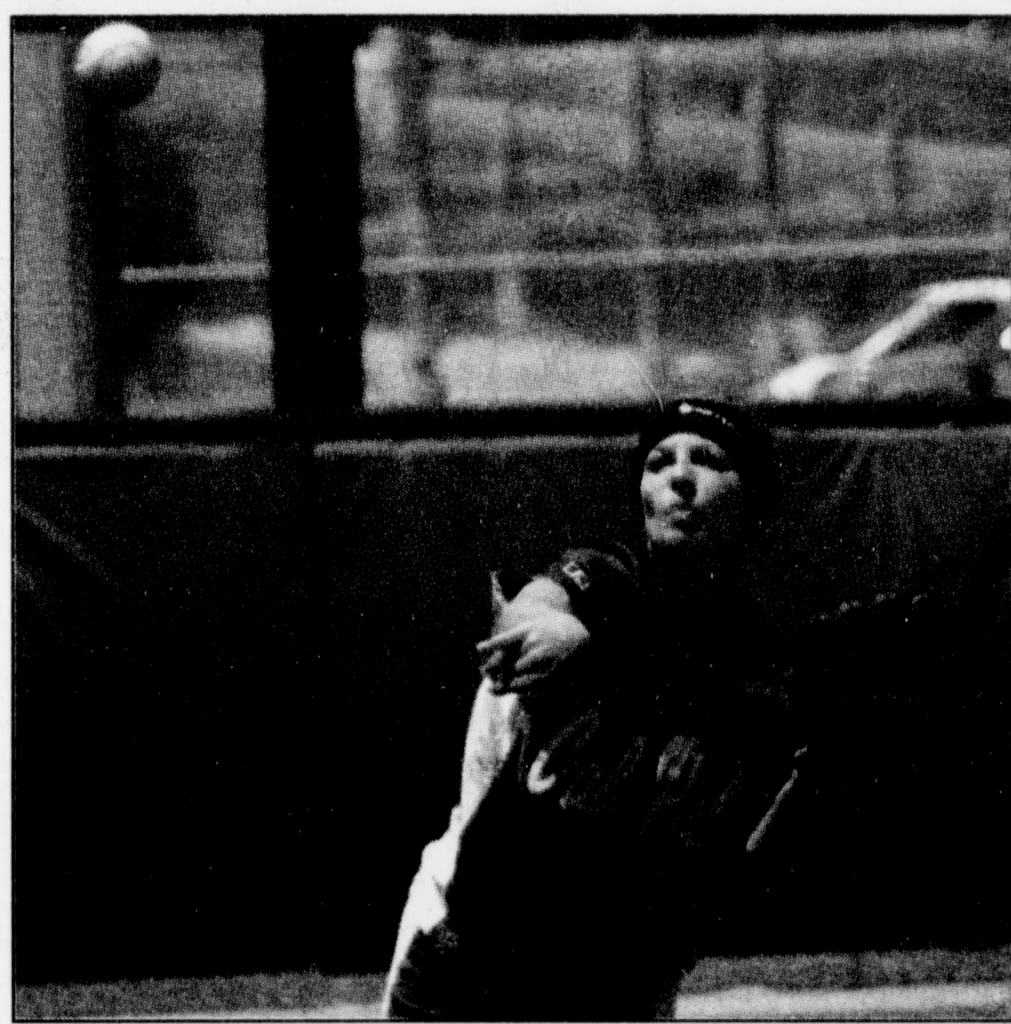
Adding new players opens the team up to more options because of their ability to fill a variety of positions, Stoufer said.

"Although they're young, they're pretty deep," she said.

Even so, no one is underestimating the benefit real competition could provide for new players.

"They'll need to pick things up really quick," Stoufer said. "Hopefully they'll get the experience they need early on, before we get too far into the season."

Confident about the players and the overall strength off the team, Boyer said her goal is to finish at the top of the conference.



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly will host the Mustang Roundup this weekend.

## Undying Faith in her players

By Leah Mori  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The sole girl on a boys' basketball team in junior high school, Faith Mimnaugh knew that she loved the game. She could never have imagined how far it would take her.

Mimnaugh, Cal Poly women's head basketball coach, began playing basketball when she was very young.

"When I was starting out, I really fell in love with the game, playing at every recess," Mimnaugh said. "I nearly broke a guy's arm because he stole my basketball."

In junior high, Mimnaugh faced her first challenge with her school not having a girls' basketball team.

As a result, Mimnaugh became the only girl to play on the boys' team. She proved herself a worthy player and started in many of the games. She was even invited to play on an all-star team.

Mimnaugh encountered another roadblock after she joined the traveling team when she realized that not all coaches and players embraced the idea of a girl playing on a boys' bas-

ketball team. One team argued against playing a game because a girl was involved in the competition.

"This set the course for one of my passions — equality, ensuring that there are equal opportunities for all people," Mimnaugh said.

"Common human decency should be afforded to everyone on Earth." She played on the team for three years and was pleased to see that after she graduated from junior high school, a girls' team was added.

High school was another step in Mimnaugh's climb to success. She played on the girls' basketball team and was an all-conference selection all four years and an All-

American as well.

Mimnaugh's greatest influence through her basketball career was her brother, who was the first in her family to begin playing the sport. She admired his intensity, ball-handling skills, defensive play and constant effort, which she wanted to mimic.

Since he stood more than a foot taller than Mimnaugh, they didn't practice against each other, but instead he taught her everything he knew.

After high school she received a scholarship to play at Loyola University in Illinois and began a record-setting career as the Ramblers' star point guard. Mimnaugh led the nation in assists during the 1984-85 season and to this day holds the sixth-highest single season assist total in NCAA history.

"I think that's the way the game is supposed to be played," Mimnaugh said. "That's the beauty of the game — the award is truly shared, since other players have to make the basket. It epitomizes what I think the game should be, which is true team play, to find the strengths of the other players on the team."

Mimnaugh double majored in the-

see MIMNAUGH, page 11

## Football team hires new assistant coach

• Shields hire is first of many moves within Cal Poly football coaching staff

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Ian Shields, a former starting quarterback at Oregon State and offensive coordinator at Bucknell last season, has been hired as a co-offensive coordinator on Cal Poly's

football team.

Cal Poly director of athletics John McCutcheon and Mustang football coach Rich Ellerson made the announcement jointly on Tuesday. The announcement also includes several changes in assignments for the assistant coaches.

Shields will share offensive coordinator duties with Joe DuPaix, who was in charge of Cal Poly's quarterbacks and running backs. Gene McKeehan has been promot-

ed from offensive coordinator to associate head coach while Ellerson will focus his efforts on the linebackers.

In other changes, David Brown has been promoted to defensive coordinator and will coach the defensive secondary (he was with the linebackers last year), and Brent Brennan is the team's recruiting coordinator, while keep-

see FOOTBALL, page 11

## Tennis team sweeps visiting Kingsmen

• Men beat Division III opponent in second shutout of the season

By Hillary Schuler-Jones  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The men's tennis team appeared to be using broomsticks instead of rackets in their sweeping victory over Division III Cal Lutheran on Sunday at Cal Poly.

The team captured the doubles point early and easily as No. 1 doubles player Brett Van Linge, a sophomore, and transfer John Nguyen defeated the Kingsmen 8-2.

At No. 2 doubles, freshman Matt Baca and junior Travis Crawford overtook the Kingsmen 8-3, while the No. 3 team comprised of senior Stacy Meronoff and junior Davey Jones capped the Mustang's decisive victory with the same score.

The Mustangs lost only one set in singles play during a match between No. 3 Baca and CLU's Shara Salabi. In

the longest battle of the day, Baca came back to win the sweep-clinching point 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

No. 2 Van Linge also battled hard for his victory over Quinn Caldaron, finally earning the win 7-5, 7-6.

"He hits the ball solid," Caldaron said of Van Linge. "He played big on the big points. I give him a lot of credit for coming back in both sets and winning."

The rest of the Mustang lineup

easily snapped up the remaining 4 points. No. 1 Nguyen, who transferred to Cal Poly in January from Santiago College, shut out opponent J.V. Vallejos 6-0, 6-0, while No. 6 Crawford also posted a shut out in his 6-0, 6-2 win over Ben Staley.

No. 4 Jones went 6-1, 6-2 and No. 5 Adrian Mardyks, a sophomore, set up a 6-4, 6-1 win to round out the final tally 7-0.

The Mustangs' second sweep of the season brought the team to 5-2 with only a few weeks remaining before Big West Conference play begins.

Head coach Trevor Kronemann credited a group effort for the Mustangs' early successes this season, especially since several key players are out due to injury.

"A lot of the underclassmen have picked up a lot of the slack," Kronemann said. "The lowest part of the lineup has played a big part in (the wins). There's been someone who's been the star in all seven matches."

Trevor Kronemann Head coach

Meronoff said the heightened unity will pay off in conference play. "We have so much depth and so many guys who can step up and win," Meronoff said. "It's good to see us playing together. I really like the chances this year."

The Mustangs' will begin a series of five road matches beginning Feb. 15 at St. Mary's. The string will also include a face-off with archrival Santa Clara as well as Big West match-ups against UC Riverside and UC Irvine.