

Summer schedule online now

A course booklet will not be printed due to the minimal amount of classes being offered during the quarter

Christina Joslin
MUSTANG DAILY

Due to the minimal amount of classes being offered this summer, the Summer 2004 class schedule will not be printed but can be found online.

Cal Poly and all other California State University campuses have suffered an enrollment reduction of 5 percent for the 2004-05 school year, because of a decision made by the CSU Chancellor's Office to decrease funding.

Cal Poly has chosen to limit summer courses to a bare minimum, in order to maintain the highest enrollment for the academic school year. This decision allows the college departments to offer the most effective schedules during fall, winter and spring quarters.

"I think Cal Poly made the right choice," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Harry Hellenbrand about reducing summer school. "It's important that we offer as many classes as possible while the bulk of the students are here."

Summer school, which starts on June 21, will feature only a few departments providing normal courses, which are available to any major. These departments include economics, business, agribusiness, nutrition, psychology and agriculture. College-based fees are funding these classes.

"The College of Agriculture is offering as many (if not more) classes during this year's summer school," said Dean of the COAG David Wehner. "Students on the fee committee voted to keep these courses available."

Most of the colleges will only be offering courses such as senior project, internship, thesis and individual study.

"These classes are for students who may need only one more unit or have to finish their senior project before graduating," said university scheduling manager Debra Arseneau.

In most cases, students will not be able to take the courses they wanted. These students might consider the options offered by Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. These community colleges will be increasing the amount of

see Summer, page 2

ReMEMber Week: S.A.F.E.R exhibit displayed in UU Plaza



NATHAN CASWELL MUSTANG DAILY

Items of clothing were hung on a make-shift clothes line in the University Union with statements and facts about rape were written by members of the Sexual Assault-Free Environment Resource Programs. 'This isn't an invitation to rape me' was written on a plaid skirt.

Earth Day education event held Friday

Speakers will provide information on engaging the polytechnic university in sustainability efforts during the convocation

Rachel Musquiz
MUSTANG DAILY

In accordance with Cal Poly's learn by doing motto, the university will host a discussion between several speakers about how to position future educational goals. Speakers will present during a special Earth Day "Education for Sustainability: Engaging the Polytechnic University" convocation Friday. The event will be from 4 to 6 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union.

Sustainability aims to find answers to the technical question of

how to construct environment-friendly buildings, the demographic question of where the wisest places of growth are and the personal question of who it can benefit.

"It's all about the future," English professor Stephen Marx said. "We are making environmental and economic considerations to work together rather than conflict."

One of the most anticipated guest speakers is David Orr. He has lectured and written several books on the topic of education for sustainability and has headed up the efforts to design and build the Environmental Studies Center at

see Sustainability, page 2

Library to increase electronic reserves

Crystal Phend
MUSTANG DAILY

Out of town for the weekend but need to check homework solutions? No problem.

Across campus there has been a movement toward posting course material on the Internet.

Many professors make homework solutions, study guides and other items available to students through Web sites or Blackboard. Kennedy Library has increased its emphasis on electronic offerings.

When faculty submit reserve material now, they must choose either electronic or paper. Starting this quarter, they no longer can put

reserve material in both forms with the library.

"It's pretty seamless for the students," library assistant Michael Price said. "It's just working on the faculty mindset."

Both professors and library staff recognize the added convenience of material that is available anywhere, anytime.

"This quarter, only four faculty chose paper; (more than) 400 chose electronic," course reserves coordinator Donna Lister said.

"The minute I heard that they had it online, I switched to online," civil, aerospace and mechanical engineering lecturer Elhahry Elghandour said.

He said he has been using electronic course reserves since 2002 because it saves time and is easier.

"I feel the library does a good job, much better than I would be able to do," he said.

Students have indicated that they prefer the electronic form also. Over the entire winter quarter, paper reserves circulated only 750 times, whereas electronic reserves were used more than 20,000 times, according to figures published in the Cal Poly Report.

"Most of the students I have observed don't look things up. They just go up to the desk and ask for the

see Reserves, page 2

UC SYSTEM

Budget cuts hurt admission figures

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY — For the first time in more than 40 years, the University of California will not be able to accept all eligible in-state freshmen for the upcoming fall term.

State budget cuts have forced the prestigious system to turn away thousands of qualified students this year, reducing admissions by nearly 7 percent from last fall. Meanwhile, black admissions dropped 15 percent, worrying administrators.

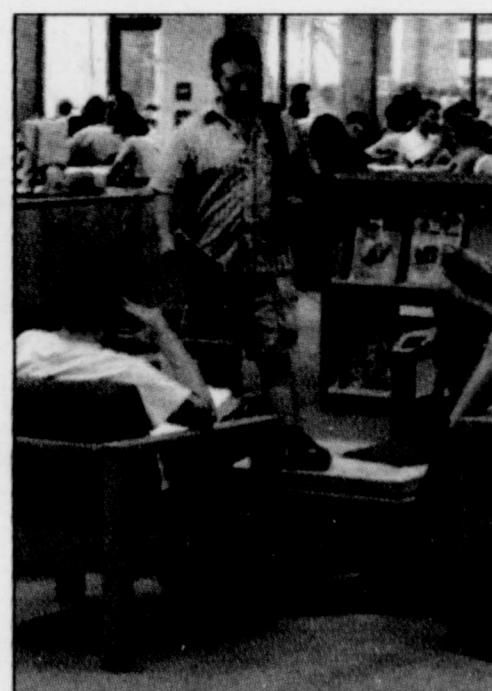
"It's an area of great concern for us," said Susan Wilbur, UC's director of undergraduate admissions.

Wilbur, who called the 2004 admissions process a difficult year for students and the university, said officials are "certainly hoping that this situation is temporary and that we will be able to resume finding a place for all UC-eligible students in the very near future."

This year's admissions decisions came amid financial crisis. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has asked UC to cut enrollment by 3,200 students, offering those students a guarantee of transferring as juniors if they go to community college for the first two years.

At the same time, controversy has been brewing over how UC students are admitted. The chairman of UC's governing board of regents,

see Admissions, page 2



MATT WECHTER MUSTANG DAILY

Students will be able to access more information from home.

INSIDE

Billiards, beer and bands

The Dwelling moves into former Z-Pie location
IN ARTS & CULTURE, page 9

A daily must for women

Birth control pills are a gift to men
IN OPINION, page 12



WEATHER REPORT

TODAY	
Sunny	68°
FRIDAY	
Sunny	74°

Tides

High	3.2 at 1:34 p.m.
Low	-0.2 at 6:46 p.m.
SUNRISE	6:21 A.M.
SUNSET	7:41 P.M.

Reserves

continued from page 1

book. Once they find out it is on electronic reserve, they don't come back and just use it online," Lister said.

Architectural engineering senior Robert Pacheco said he prefers getting course material online because he can get it from home. If it is a big file though, he prefers to come to the library, he said.

"I don't want to print out a whole bunch of stuff," he said.

Some faculty have decided to use their own Web sites or Blackboard to

post such materials. Architectural engineering professor Pamalee Brady used to walk homework solutions down to the library and have them scanned. Now she uses Blackboard to keep everything in the same place.

"It's so much easier to just scan it myself and put it up," she said. "I put all my solutions there. They get their assignments there."

Paper reserves will not disappear, despite the emphasis on electronic forms. Not all course material can be put online. Books for the most part are still put on the shelves of the reserve room at the library. The

library's policy is to put no more than 10 percent of a book on the web to respect copyright laws.

However, homework, solutions and supplemental readings can easily be scanned and put on the library's Web site.

From the library's homepage, students can click on the "yellow splash" or on the dropdown menu for students. They search by course number or the last name of the professor. To access the material, students must enter their last name and the bar code number under the Poly Card photo.

Admissions

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John Moores, has accused flagship Berkeley of discrimination under UC's two-year-old system of "comprehensive review" admissions, which takes socio-economic factors such as academics into account.

Last year, Moores wrote a report based on 2002 data in which he criticized Berkeley for turning away thousands of students with high SAT scores while accepting several hundred students with low scores. Many of the lower-scoring students were black or Hispanic, underrepresented minorities at UC, causing Moores and others to question whether UC was skirting a state ban on affirmative action in college admissions.

On Tuesday, Chancellor Robert Berdahl issued a statement calling the 2004 admissions figures for his campus "flat-out unacceptable." Berdahl, who is retiring at the end of the school year, said he will spend the rest of his term trying to find ways to increase the number of underrepresented students who apply.

All major ethnic groups saw declines in admissions and looking at overall totals, blacks, Hispanics and American Indians increased very slightly as a proportion of overall admits, from 19.8 percent last year to 20 percent.

However, the actual number of underrepresented minorities admitted was down, particularly for black students.

Wilbur said applications from black students were also down, a trend reflected nationally. She said

explanations are still being sought for the decline, but may include fee hikes and cuts in recruitment programs. Wilbur said there was no way to know whether controversy over the Moores' report discouraged some minorities from applying.

At Berkeley, 211 black students were admitted for fall, down about 29 percent from last year's 298. For Hispanics, the decline was about 7 percent, from 1,030 last year to 955.

"I am profoundly saddened and disappointed that so many of these students, especially African American students, will not receive the exceptional education and experience that this public institution has to offer," Berdahl said.

"We have to think about new strategies," he said. "We understand the will of California voters, that admissions should not include racial preferences, but I cannot believe the will of the voters would be to deny us the right to provide targeted programs to prepare more underrepresented students for admission to Berkeley."

For all eight undergraduate UC campuses, the figures released Tuesday, which are admissions offers, not actual enrollment, include 7,600 guaranteed transfer offers. Overall, just less than 47,000 state residents were offered freshman admission to UC this fall compared to more than 50,000 last year.

An additional 2,661 students were offered delayed admission for the winter or spring terms and 1,120 students who didn't get into the engineering programs they applied to were offered the chance to study engineering at UC Riverside.

Sustainability

continued from page 1

Oberlin College in Ohio. He also lead the efforts to raise \$10 million to make it happen. The New York Times has called this green building "the most remarkable" of a new generation of environmentally responsible college buildings, according to a press release. It was also selected as one of the 30 "milestone buildings" by the U.S. Department of Energy, according to the same release.

The university has several interests in sustainability and environmental design. As a polytechnic university and a leader in architecture and architecture engineering industry, Cal Poly wants to educate students to prepare them for their careers after graduation.

"If they can learn to do it here, they can do it anywhere," dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Tom Jones said. "Being able meet challenges in

social and environmental responsibilities gives them the competitive edge."

The university also wants to remain as a leader in education for architecture design. Having sustainable buildings on campus in the future also makes monetary sense.

"Every dollar we spend on power is a dollar we're not spending on quality education," Marx said.

"Education for Sustainability" is a free event for the university community and the general public. Several other speakers will present different issues regarding sustainability.

Cal Poly President Warren Baker will welcome the audience by announcing that the university has become a signatory to the Talloires Declaration. Already more than 300 universities have signed this 10-point pledge to practice, improve and teach methods of sustainable resource use and environmental protection.

Professor George Lewis, chair for the Academic Senate, will address faculty responsibility and opportunity in teaching, research, and governance.

Dean of the College of Engineering Peter Lee will announce the university plans for a new University Center for Sustainable Engineering. The university also has plans to host an international conference on campus and integration of sustainability issues in the engineering curriculum.

Associated Students Inc. president Alison Anderson and vice president Olga Berdial, will discuss how student organizations at the state, CSU and local levels can reorient education toward sustainability.

Jones will relate the need for sustainability on college campuses to other environmental issues in California. In his presentation, he will also explain the leadership role that Cal Poly has the opportunity to play.

Summer

continued from page 1

course offerings for this summer, mainly lower division general education courses. Cal Poly is joining forces with them in an attempt to minimize duplication of certain courses.

Representatives from Cuesta will be available at Cal Poly on April 29 and May 20 during UU Hour and on May 11 from 11 a.m. to noon in the UU Plaza. Find direct links to Cuesta and Allan Hancock Web sites on the Academic programs page. Find the summer schedule at www.ess.calpoly.edu/_records/summer_schedule/index.htm.

Young readers attracted to lifestyle, features stories

Siobhan McDonough
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Newspapers can gain a wider audience among the young and minorities by paying more attention to their interest in lifestyle coverage, features and ads, editors and publishers were told Wednesday.

A study by the Readership Institute at Northwestern University said newspapers can't rely on the conventional wisdom that young adults will read more as they age, so

it's important to deliver content that appeals to them.

The study, sponsored by the Newspaper Association of America, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the McCormick Tribune Foundation, found that readers 35 and older look for hard news, editorials, lifestyle stories, "my community" features and service articles.

People 18 to 24 are attracted to lifestyle stories and features on such subjects as home, health, food, fashion, recreation and science. They're also interested in advertisements.

"They tend to be selective in what they read, looking at less than half of the Sunday paper and less than one-third of the weekday paper," the institute said.

John Lavine, director of the Readership Institute, described the research to a joint session of the annual conventions of the ASNE and NAA.

The study explored ways newspa-

pers can improve readership among 18- to 24-year-olds and among minority groups, where readership is declining slightly.

Only one-third of young readers are heavy newspaper users, according to the study. They spend an average of 21 minutes each weekday reading the daily paper, and an average of 51 minutes on Sundays.

Readers 25 and older average 36 minutes per weekday, 68 minutes on Sunday, the study said.

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State Briefs

SACRAMENTO — Logging in California has dropped 60 percent over the last 15 years, even as the fast-growing state consumes more imported timber, figures being released Thursday show.

The California Board of Equalization timber tax records show 1.66 billion board feet was harvested last year, down from 4.67 billion board feet in 1988.

The state now gets a record 70 to 80 percent of its wood from other states and overseas, projected the California Forest Products Commission, a state-chartered group, that released the figures.

PASADENA — A man who was released after spending 24 years in prison for a murder conviction that was later dismissed filed a claim Wednesday against the city of Long Beach and Los Angeles County.

"I am innocent," Thomas Lee Goldstein, now 55, said. "I was 31 years old. I never got married. I never had children. I never started my career. No human being should have to suffer what I went through."

Goldstein was released April 2 after his murder conviction was thrown out.

The Long Beach Police Department and county district attorney's office relied on fabricated evidence and a dishonest jailhouse informant to convict Goldstein, said his attorney, Ron Kaye.

SAN BERNARDINO — A longtime priest was reinstated as a retired priest in good standing by the Diocese of San Bernardino after prosecutors announced they would not file molestation charges against him.

The Rev. Peter Covas had been removed in April 2002 as pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Rancho Cucamonga when the abuse allegations surfaced. He still faces lawsuits claiming he molested two boys nearly three decades ago.

Prosecutors completed their yearlong criminal investigation in April 2003 and announced they would not seek charges against Covas, now 73.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

UTICA, Ill. — Searchers with shovels and buckets pulled eight bodies Wednesday from the rubble of a tavern where residents had gathered to seek shelter from a twister that flattened the century-old building.

Mayor Fred Esmond said several people from a nearby trailer park had congregated in the basement of the Milestone Tap on a night when dozens of twisters tore through the Midwest. Nine people were removed alive from the ruins of the country-western-themed watering hole.

WASHINGTON — It's tough to protect the United States against terrorism, President Bush said Wednesday, adding that he understands why two-thirds of Americans in an Associated Press poll think terrorists are likely to strike the nation again before the November election.

"This is a hard country to defend," Bush told executives of more than 1,500 Associated Press-member newspapers at the cooperative's annual meeting.

WASHINGTON — About one in every 10 members of Iraq's security forces "actually worked against" U.S. troops during the recent militia violence in Iraq, and an additional 40 percent walked off the job because of intimidation, the commander of the 1st Armored Division said Wednesday.

In an interview beamed by satellite from Baghdad to news executives attending The Associated Press annual meeting, Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey said the campaign in Iraq was at a critical point.

WASHINGTON — Increased violence in Iraq is pushing the cost of the war over budget, threatening a \$4 billion shortfall by late summer, the top U.S. military officer said Wednesday.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the recent decision to extend the stay of some 20,000 troops will cost roughly \$700 million more over three months. The White House is keeping open the possibility it will seek additional funds before the end of this election year.

The war is costing about \$4.7 billion a month, officials said. Defense officials are studying their budget, which runs through Sept. 30, to determine whether some money can be moved from purchase programs or other Pentagon accounts, Myers said.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

BASRA, Iraq — Suicide attackers unleashed car bombings against police buildings in Iraq's biggest Shiite city Wednesday morning, striking rush-hour crowds and killing at least 68 people, including 16 children incinerated in their school buses.

Meanwhile, in Fallujah, the bloodiest battlefield in April, an agreement aimed at bringing peace to the city ran into trouble Wednesday. Insurgents attacked Marines, prompting fighting that killed 20 guerrillas.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A suicide attacker bombed a security police building in the Saudi capital Wednesday, killing at least four people and wounding 148. The attack had the hallmark of an al Qaeda operation, officials said.

The explosion, heard three miles away, shattered the glass facades of nearby buildings and ignited several fires. Smoke billowed from the seven-story General Security building, where workers issue drivers license renewals and do other administrative tasks.

KOROLYOV, Russia — A Russian spacecraft brought a fresh crew to the international space station without a hitch Wednesday, but things weren't so smooth on the ground, where a top space official lashed out at NASA over the length of future missions.







The Soyuz TMA-4 docked with the ISS on autopilot at 1:01 a.m. EDT, several minutes ahead of schedule and two days after it blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It was the third time a Soyuz has filled in for U.S. space shuttle flights, suspended since the Columbia disaster in February 2003.

UNITED NATIONS — With the full weight of the Security Council behind him, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker opened an independent investigation Wednesday into allegations of corruption and kickbacks stemming from the U.N.'s humanitarian program in Iraq.

His three-member panel will hire and oversee a team of investigators, accountants and legal advisers expected to pore through hundreds of pages of U.N. contracts awarded over the years to international companies that did business with Saddam Hussein's regime.

— Associated Press

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Elections:

Wednesday, May 5
Thursday, May 6
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Polling Places:

Ag Bridge
Education Building Lobby (Bldg 2)
Fisher Science/ Science North Plaza
Kennedy Library (Bldg 35)
Crop Science Plaza
University Union (Bldg 65)

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Judge tells feds to back off from medical pot group

David Kravets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge on Wednesday ordered the federal government to keep away from a California medical marijuana group that grows and distributes cannabis for its sick members.

The order by U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel in San Jose was the first interpretation of a federal appeals court decision last year that ordered the federal government not to prosecute a sick Oakland woman who smoked marijuana with a doctor's recommendation under a 1996 California medical marijuana law.

Fogel ruled that the Justice Department cannot raid or prosecute the 250 members of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, which sued the government after the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2002 raided its Santa Cruz County growing operation and seized 167 marijuana plants.

The group's director, Valerie Corral, said the group had been receiving and growing marijuana in secret since the raid out of fear of being prosecuted. But with Fogel's decision, the group intends on immediately planting hundreds of plants at Corral's one-acre property in the Santa Cruz hills.

"You better believe it we're gonna plant," Corral, who uses marijuana to alleviate epileptic seizures, said in a telephone interview. "I'm leaving now. It's amazing."

The Justice Department, which urged Fogel not to issue an injunction barring new raids or prosecutions, declined comment. Spokesman Charles Miller said the government was reviewing the decision.

The marijuana group asked Fogel to issue the injunction after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in December that a congressional act outlawing marijuana may not apply to sick people with a doctor's recommendation in states that have approved medical marijuana laws.

The San Francisco-based appellate court, ruling 2-1, wrote that prosecuting these medical marijuana users under a 1970 federal law is unconstitutional if the marijuana isn't sold, transported across state lines or used for nonmedicinal purposes.

"The intrastate, noncommercial cultivation, possession and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes on the advice of a physician is, in fact, different in kind from drug trafficking," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the 9th Circuit in December.

The court added that "this limited use is clearly distinct from the broader illicit drug market, as well as any broader commercial market for medical marijuana, insofar as the medical marijuana at issue in this case is not intended for, nor does it enter, the stream of commerce."

That decision was a blow to the Justice Department, which argued that medical marijuana laws in nine states were trumped by the Controlled Substances Act, which outlawed marijuana, heroin and a host of other drugs nationwide. The Justice Department on Tuesday appealed that 9th Circuit decision to the Supreme Court.

The Controlled Substances Act, as applied to the Santa Cruz cooperative, Fogel wrote, "is an unconstitutional exercise" of federal intervention.

Fogel's decision, meanwhile, furthers the conflict between federal law and California's 1996 medical marijuana law, which allows people to grow, smoke or obtain marijuana for medical needs with a doctor's recommendation.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state have laws similar to California, which has been the focus of federal drug interdiction efforts. Agents have raided and shut down several medical marijuana growing clubs.

The 9th Circuit court, the nation's largest, does not have jurisdiction over Colorado and Maine.

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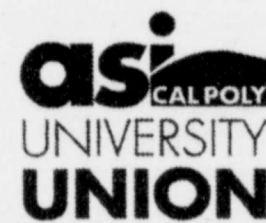
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Sierra Club: Members defeat advocates' challenge in board elections

Anti-immigration forces defeated in Sierra Club election

Terence Chea
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Sierra Club leaders beat back efforts by anti-immigration advocates trying to gain control of the nation's largest environmental group, persuading members to defeat the challengers by a landslide in its board elections.

Candidates picked by the club's nominating committee won all five open seats on the 15-member board in the bitterly contested election, which was conducted by mail and online since March 1. The results were announced Wednesday, several hours after voting closed.

"It's a stunning rejection of the anti-immigration forces who tried to take over the Sierra Club," said Adam Werbach, the club's president from 1996 to 1998. "I think people realized that there's no role for racism or anti-immigrant feelings in the environmental movement."

The five board members elected from a pool of 17 candidates were Nick Aumen, Dave Karpf, Jan O'Connell, Sanjay Ranchod and Lisa Renstrom, said club spokeswoman Kerri Glover Aumen, O'Connell and Renstrom were elected to their second terms, while Ranchod and Karpf will serve their first terms. Renstrom

received the most votes with 141,407.

"It's an extremely talented, diverse group of committed, longtime activists from around the country who will make excellent directors," club president Larry Fahn said Wednesday. "I think the members have shown wisdom and levelheadedness in soundly rejecting some candidates who would have liked to alter the Sierra Club's agenda."

A record number of members — 171,616 out of 757,058, or nearly 23 percent — participated in the vote, the most in the club's 112-year-old history. Less than 10 percent took part in recent elections, which allowed board members to be elected with relatively few votes.

"We are thrilled at the turnout," said Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's executive director. "Our members have shown how much they care about this organization by the way they've turned out to vote."

The election was widely seen as a referendum on the San Francisco-based club's policy

on immigration. In recent years, a growing faction has urged a tougher stance on immigration, calling the growing U.S. population and its consumption of natural resources the greatest threat to the environment.

Before the election, Sierra Club leaders warned that anti-immigration forces were trying to take over the organization and its \$100 million annual budget. With the board's consent, the club sent out a ballot notice warning mem-

bers that non-environmental groups were trying to influence the vote.

In addition, some club leaders organized a movement called Groundswell Sierra to defeat what they called an attempted takeover

by outside groups. Groundswell volunteers reached out to club members by phone, e-mail and postcards and encouraged them to vote for the nominated candidates.

Three of the challenger candidates — former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, Frank Morris and David Pimentel — filed a lawsuit in February, claiming that club leaders were

interfering with the election. They later dropped the lawsuit under threat of a countersuit seeking reimbursement for legal fees.

Lamm and Pimentel didn't immediately respond to calls seeking comment.

Club leaders who supported the challengers said they weren't surprised by Wednesday's results. Board member Paul Watson, who heads the Sea Shepherd Society, accused the club's leadership of unfairly trying to influence the election.

"It was dirty politics of the worst order," Watson said. "It was completely unfair."

Watson said the Sierra Club cannot afford to ignore the population issue.

"It's the most pressing environmental issue of the 21st century," Watson said. "I find it cowardly for any environmental organization to avoid talking about the issue of human overpopulation."

Club leaders said that despite Wednesday's victory, the immigration issue wasn't going away. Board members have agreed to ask voters in next year's election whether the club should take a position on the politically charged question.

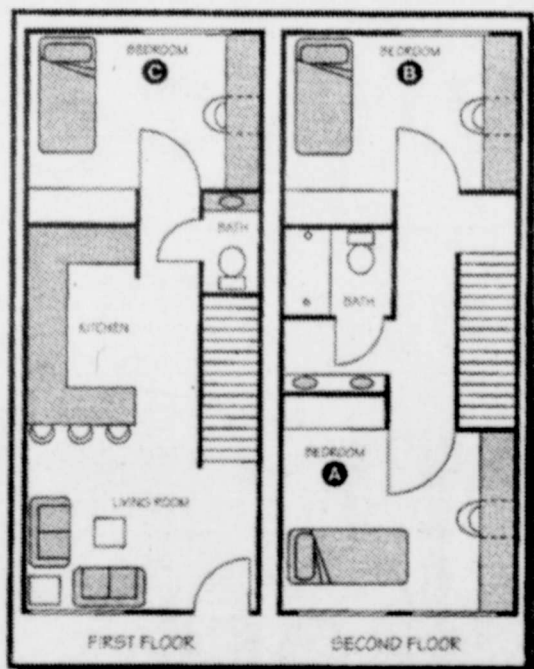
But for now, club leaders said they were happy to put the contentious election behind them.



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Military environmental exemptions opposed

John Heilprin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration hasn't demonstrated the need to further ease environmental laws in the name of military readiness, five Western attorneys general told Congress Wednesday.

Attorneys general of California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Washington state submitted a statement to two House subcommittees opposing any further relaxation of environmental standards for the military. Idaho's and Utah's attorneys general are Republicans; the other three are Democrats.

They said the Defense Department has not identified any conflicts between military readiness and three laws from which it wants exemptions "and we are not aware of any."

"We think that the likelihood of future conflicts is small," they said in their statement to the House Energy and Commerce air quality and hazardous materials subcommittees.

In the last two years, Congress has approved five of eight exemptions from environmental laws requested by the Pentagon. The Defense Department and the Environmental Protection Agency have been working together to develop ways of making the remaining three requests more palatable to lawmakers.

"This is a solution in search of a problem," Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said during a hearing on the issue. "Is this really about readiness, or is it about another opportunity for environmental rollbacks by the Bush administration?"

The Pentagon wants the Clean Air Act amended so any extra air pollution from training exercises wouldn't count for three years in states' plans for meeting federal requirements. States also could require cuts from other sources, such as power plants, rather than make the military reduce its pollution.

Other changes sought by the mili-

tary have to do with toxic waste laws, and what defense officials describe as cleanups resulting only from munitions used for normal purposes during training exercises on 525 operational range complexes nationwide.

"They remain essential to military readiness and range sustainment and are as important this year as they were last year — maybe more so," Raymond DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, told the House panels.

Republicans generally backed the Pentagon's request. "Today's bureaucratic red tape does impede training," said Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif.

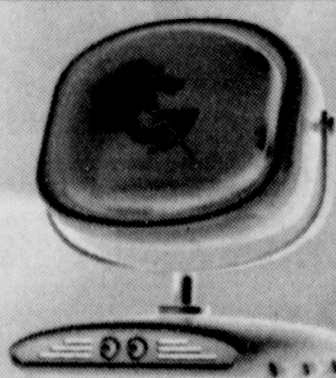
"If it's a close call," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., "the military has to be able to make its case, and make it in a way that doesn't slow up its training."

The General Accounting Office said in a 2002 report that it found little evidence to support the Bush administration's claims that environmental laws hamper military training. And last year, then-EPA Administrator Christie Whitman said she couldn't recall any training missions scrapped or delayed due to environmental regulations.

Among the military's previous requests granted by Congress were to lower the threshold for what is considered harassment of a marine mammal, and fewer requirements for setting aside areas to help recovery of species of plants and animals that could vanish.

Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., expressed concern about contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the largest Marine base on the East Coast. It potentially affects Marines and their families who lived in base housing between 1968 and 1985, when the wells contaminated with solvents and other organic compounds and pollution were closed.

"Trust is absolutely essential when one asks for these exemptions," Burr said of the Pentagon's requests.



CPTV

Gov.'s plan to retrofit Hummer pushed 'down on priority list'

Michael R. Blood
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Labeled an environmentalist-come-lately as a candidate, Arnold Schwarzenegger answered his critics by announcing he planned to retrofit one of his gas-swilling Hummers to run on eco-friendly hydrogen power.

"I think that's where the future of fuel will be going," he said at the time.

But seven months later, the high-tech Hummer has yet to hit the road. For the moment, the project has produced more talk than torque.

Seven companies submitted bids to do the work — ranging in cost from \$40,000 to \$150,000 — but no contract has been signed, said Rick Margolin, assistant director of Energy Independence Now, a Santa Monica group that evaluated the proposals on behalf of the governor.

"He does have people working on it," Margolin said.

Schwarzenegger raised his proposal for a clean-fuel vehicle with officials in the Hummer division of General Motors Corp., but for now the company is not engineering a hydrogen-fueled Hummer for him or anyone else.

"It's out there as an idea," said David Caldwell, a spokesman for Hummer. "It's not something that exists currently. It's not something you would expect to see in the near future."

He added, "We would never do a Hummer on any energy source that would not perform like a Hummer is supposed to perform."

Schwarzenegger took delivery of the first Hummer made available to the public more than a decade ago, a civilian version of a military vehicle that caught the public's attention during the first Gulf war.

His popularity in Hollywood helped transform the brand into a favorite status vehicle. He was forced to defend his association with the hulking, low-mileage Hummer during the campaign when rivals questioned his environmental credentials considering his choice of transportation.

General Motors markets and distributes the latest version of the vehicle, the 6,400-pound H2, and estimates it gets 10-13 mpg. Dealers put the figure at 8-10 mpg.

The issue hasn't vanished. Activists planned to hold a news conference Thursday in Sacramento to urge the governor to stop driving his signature vehicle, citing its

impact on air quality.

There was no mention of his Hummer on Tuesday, when Schwarzenegger directed state agencies to work with private companies and research groups to develop a statewide network of stations offering hydrogen fuel within six years: "Your government will lead by example," he said in announcing the initiative.

With the governor working on the statewide alternative-fueling plan, the retrofitted Hummer was "pushed down on the priority list," Margolin said.

Michele St. Martin, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the governor "keeps his promises" but provided no specifics on the retrofit.

She said the proposal was moving forward but that she was unaware of what company, if any, was working on it, what funding may be involved or if any contracts had been signed for research or shop work on the Hummer.

"We are trying to figure out the best way this can be done," she said.

Retrofitting a Hummer with clean fuel would be a challenge because of its size and the cost, but several companies expressed an interest in working on his idea. And Schwarzenegger's interest in a hydrogen-powered vehicle is far from Buck Rogers' science.

Two years ago, the federal government announced it was forming a partnership with U.S. automakers aimed at creating a network of hydrogen filling stations to help accelerate production of fuel-cell cars and trucks.

EMPLOYMENT

Forest Service seeks diverse firefighting crews

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — The U.S. Forest Service has traditionally recruited most of its California wildland firefighters near the scene of fires and national forests: in mountain communities nestled in the Sierra Nevada and other ranges.

As one result, it wound up with a firefighting force that is 80 percent white.

This year, the service is shifting its recruiting effort to more ethnically diverse areas in an attempt to broaden the makeup of its firefighting crews.

Part of the switch is to meet requirements of a 2002 settlement with Hispanic employees who alleged they were discriminated against by the service's hiring practices, said spokesman Matt Mathes. The service's permanent employees are 9.8 percent Hispanic, compared to about 35 percent for the state's population.

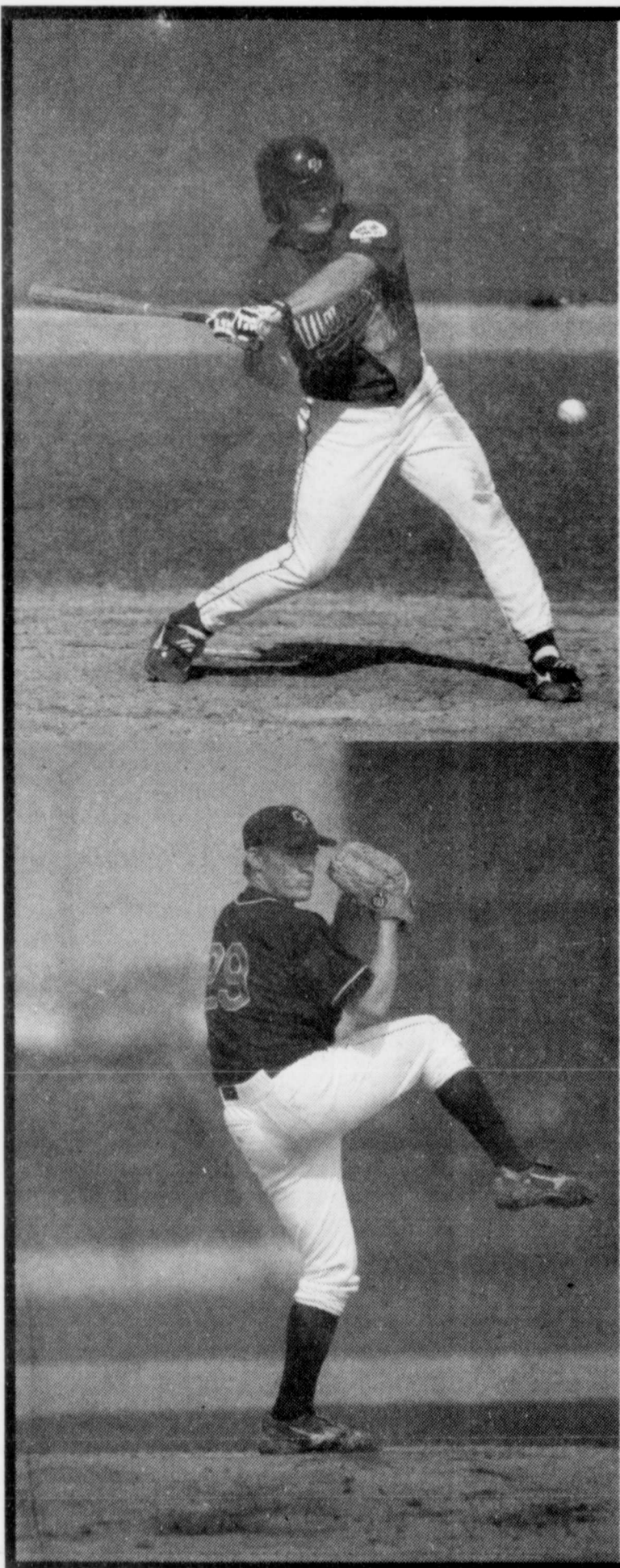
The service is hiring 300 to 500 firefighters of any race or gender,

but is concentrating efforts at "job fairs" Saturday in Sacramento, Fresno and Arcadia, near Los Angeles.

The \$8- to \$10-an-hour jobs will be permanent, but not full-time. Recruits who complete the Sacramento training academy and 4,000-hour apprenticeship program will have a job for 26 weeks each summer without reapplying. The jobs include benefits and substantial overtime for work on fire engines, hotshot crews, smoke-jumper crews, helicopter-based hand crews or regular hand crews.

The service already has hired more than 1,200 seasonal, non-permanent firefighters for what it is expecting to be another extreme fire season.

While conditions are considered normal in Northern California, years of continuing drought in Southern California led to record wildfires there last fall. Firefighters also can be shipped to other states, particularly with drought-fueled fires expected across much of the West.



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Voting machine maker targeted for Cali performance

Jim Wasserman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Embattled electronic voting machine maker Diebold Election Systems weathered new accusations Wednesday of computer glitches, last-minute software fixes and careless job performances that, in the words of the California secretary of state's office, "jeopardized the outcome of the March election."

A state voting systems panel is considering disciplinary action against the Texas-based firm, which could bruise its standing nationally as states gear up to spend billions of dollars for new touch-screen voting equipment.

Diebold President Robert J. Urosevich apologized Wednesday to Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, the eight-member voter systems panel that oversees California voting machinery and to 17 counties that use its varying electronic voting systems.

"We're not idiots, though we may act from time to time as not the smartest," Urosevich told the panel investigating its job performance in California.

A report released Wednesday by the Shelley's office reported that Diebold sold new electronic voting equipment to Solano, San Diego, San Joaquin and Kern counties before it was state- or federally approved, didn't test it until shortly before the March 2 election, installed uncertified software in its equipment in 17 counties and still lacks federal approval for its newest voting machines for the November election.

The Diebold investigation is part of a two-day hearing into touch-screen voting in California, where fears of another disputed presidential election have activists pressing for a ban on electronic voting this November.

Though nearly half the state's voters vote in counties with touch-screen machines, many rallied Wednesday against casting votes without a verifiable paper trail. But advocates for the blind, disabled and those who speak languages other than English defended electronic systems as the only way for them to vote privately, while county voting officials also vigorously protested a possible ban as an invitation to chaos and \$30 million in extra costs.

The committee conducting the hearing is to make recommendations Thursday to Shelley regarding a statewide ban on electronic voting, but also on Diebold's fate, which could include fines or banning its equipment entirely in

California.

Shelley must decide by April 30 whether to ban Diebold's machines in California, and possibly those of all other manufacturers, as well, to give elections departments six months to make other plans for the Nov. 2 vote.

If Shelley declines, state lawmakers have also introduced bills to ban electronic voting in the November election.

Reports presented to the voting systems panel showed 573 of San Diego County's 1,038 polling places failed to open on time March 2 because of Diebold computer malfunctions, while many machines also failed during the day in Alameda County, requiring voters to use paper ballots.

"We were caught. We apologized for that," said Urosevich. "We're sorry for that. We're sorry for the inconvenience it caused."

A former Diebold computer technician, James Dunn, also told the panel he and a fellow employee weren't surprised to hear of problems in both counties after seeing machines shipped with low batteries and different kinds of software from a West Sacramento warehouse.

"I heard about it on the radio," Dunn said. "We both looked at each other and laughed and said, 'Well, that was predictable.'"

Diebold consultant Marvin Singleton disputed Dunn's assertions, saying, "It's our belief he's either confused or misguided on a number of points."

Several county officials that use Diebold machines and those made by other manufacturers defended them as glitch-free, more reliable than paper ballots and popular with voters.

"You improve the software, fix the glitch and go on," said Kern County Registrar of Voters Ann Barnett, who uses Diebold machines. "To decertify our touch screens would be a disservice to the voters of our county and the state."

Urosevich, too, defended the performance of his company's machines used in California, Georgia and Maryland, contending that none has encountered security breaches or misreported vote counts.

Diebold Election Systems, based in McKinney, Texas, is a subsidiary of Ohio-based Diebold Inc., which reported more than \$2 billion in sales last year, largely from ATM machines used in banks. Voting machines represent about 5 percent of its business, but could grow as states receive \$3.9 billion in federal funds to update their voting systems.

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YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Congress calls for more time on rail plan

Nevada congress delegates request more discussion for nuclear waste shipment

Erica Werner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Nevada's congressional delegation asked Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham on Wednesday for twice as much time to comment on a plan to ship the nation's nuclear waste to the state by train.

The lawmakers also asked Abraham for more public meetings on the rail proposal, even as the Energy Department said it was adding two more meetings — for a total of five — in response to Nevada officials' concerns.

The initial 45-day comment period on the rail plan ends May 24. Nevada's two senators and three House members asked Abraham in a letter to extend it to 90 days.

"Ninety days is the minimum time required to allow the public and affected parties to understand

and evaluate the proposed action and prepare comments," wrote Sens. Harry Reid and John Ensign and Reps. Jim Gibbons, Jon Porter and Shelley Berkley.

The lawmakers also told Abraham that three meetings on the plan — May 3 in Amargosa Valley, May 4 in Goldfield and May 5 in Caliente — were insufficient. Energy Department spokesman Joe Davis said the department would hold two more meetings, in Las Vegas and Reno, also in early May, though no dates have been set.

Davis contended there is sufficient time to comment on the rail proposal, noting that the initial public comment or "scoping" period is in advance of publication of an environmental study. Once that study is completed there will be another public comment period.

"There will be plenty of time for, and plenty of opportunity for, the public to comment on the rail line project," Davis said.

The Energy Department hopes to open the Yucca Mountain dump six years from now 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The dump, which Nevada is fighting in court, would hold 77,000 tons of highly radioactive waste.

To bring waste to the dump, the department plans 3,000 to 3,300 railroad shipments over 24 years from 39 states. Before going to the dump, the shipments would end up at a rail head near Caliente, 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas near the Utah line. Exact rail line routes to Caliente have not been specified.

Nevada advises Yucca Mountain workers to get lung screenings

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Nevada state health officials have added a state advisory to federal efforts to get current and former Yucca Mountain workers screened for lung diseases.

The state health division issued the advisory this week, suggesting those who worked in or near a test tunnel from 1992 through 2003 should be checked for inhalation of finely ground particles of fibrous minerals.

Yucca Mountain and Energy Department spokesman Alan Benson said Wednesday he was glad the state was supporting the screening program the Energy Department announced in January.

About 2,400 letters have been sent to current and former Yucca Mountain employees, and about 300 people have signed up for silicosis screening interviews coordinated by University of Cincinnati

researchers, Benson said.

Bob Loux, director of Nevada's Office of Nuclear Projects, said the state health office was concerned that some former Yucca Mountain workers still haven't been screened. He said frequent visitors during tunneling should also be checked, along with some family members exposed to dust brought home by tunnel workers.

The health division said inhaling small amounts of silica and other finely ground minerals can result in potentially life-threatening lung disorders.

In September, a former Yucca Mountain project employee alleged that Yucca Mountain project officials knew excessive amounts of silica and carcinogenic substances were kicked up during drilling, but that workers were not provided proper protective gear.

The Energy Department official

heading the screening program acknowledged in March that workers drilling the first five-mile tunnel were exposed to dangerous levels of silica and other dangerous dusts.

A former tunnel worker now being treated for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease said workers also faced a threat from exposure to airborne erionite and mordenite, two carcinogenic minerals.

Tunneling began in 1992 at the Yucca Mountain site, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

In 2002, the Bush administration and Congress picked Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste dump.

The Energy Department plans to drill a grid of 150 miles of tunnels and entomb 77,000 tons of the nation's most radioactive waste 1,000 feet underground beginning in 2010.

Mustang Daily

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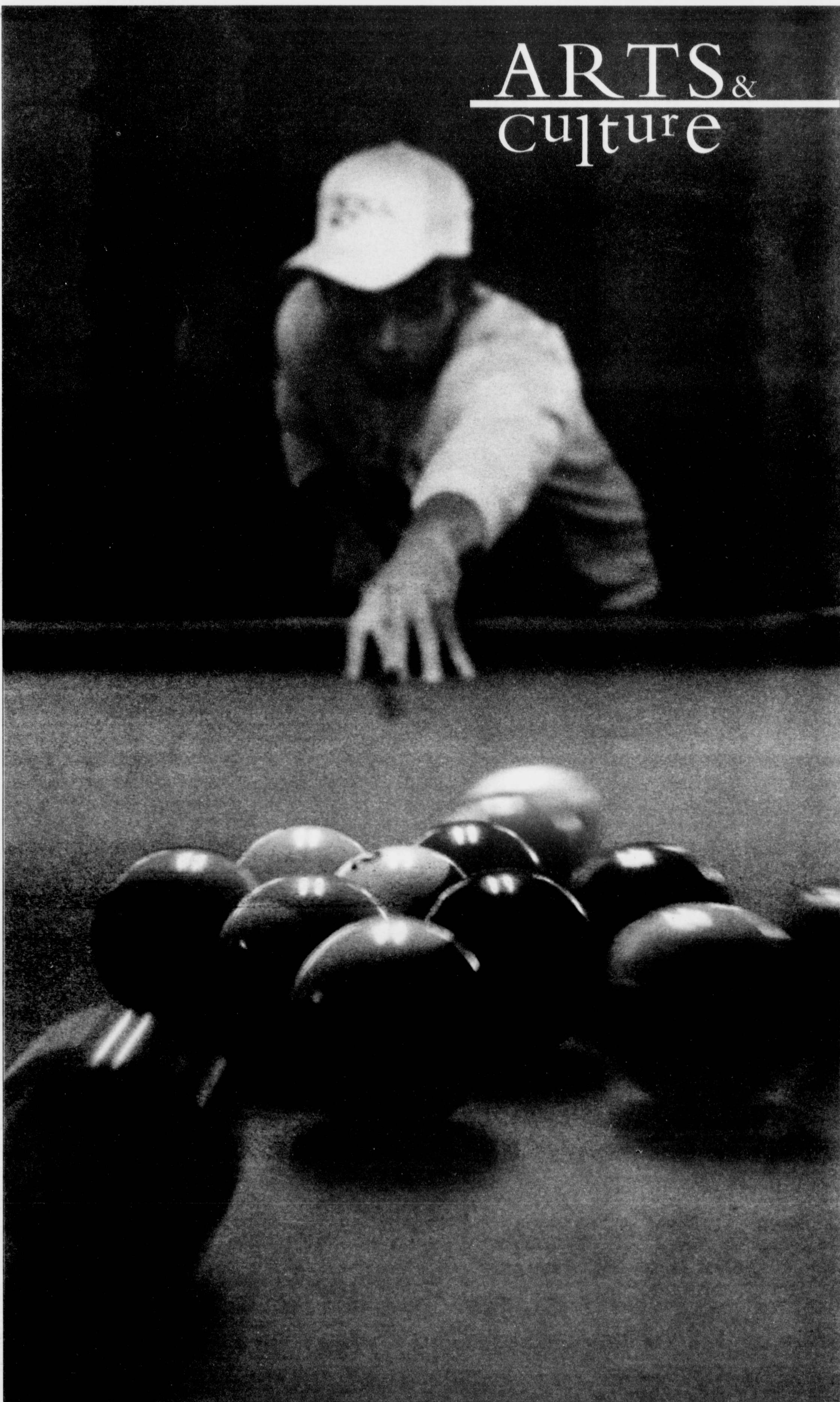
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Peanut butter and live music make The Dwelling a new spot for local entertainment.
STORY BY AIMEE ANDERSON PHOTO BY SPENCER MARLEY

Local artists find new haven in a place that used to peddle pot pies

What sort of person puts African tuna and peanut butter on a couple slices of wheat bread and sells it to the public?

One who has an extraordinary vision for San Luis Obispo and its music scene.

When George Padillo came to town, he hoped to open a martial arts studio. Instead he founded The Dwelling, which could become one of the best joints in town for creative food and live local bands.

"I saw a lot of kids just sitting around," Padillo said. "I wanted to open up a sandwich shop with pool tables and video games for them to play."

Though the menu, which features strange yet interesting meat and peanut butter fusions as well as traditional and vegetarian sandwiches, might be what draws people in, it is everything else Padillo offers that keeps them coming back.

bands.

"My intent is to make The Dwelling a haven for musicians," Padillo said. "This is a rich town for music, but nobody is here to promote it. There are so many bands that I'm booked through July."

Padillo anticipates attracting new bands of all varieties of music from beyond the San Luis Obispo area.

"A lot of bands drive between L.A. and San Francisco," he said. "I'd be crazy not to tap into that."

The Dwelling promotes all types of music, from Spanish DJs to punk rock, indie-rock or just plain rock.

"I'm not going after one group of people where music is concerned," Padillo said. "I want to draw in everybody."

Wednesday night, for example, The Dwelling showcased the sometimes melodic rock band Coda, along with Body Massage, a two-man band

that morphs popular songs into something they call their own. Wednesday's lineup also featured the Sonic Youth- and Mogwai-inspired group Johnny Depp, who, despite two broken guitar strings, managed to inspire an interesting group of quirky

dancers.

"I'm glad there's a place for us to play around here," said Johnny Depp guitarist Jeff Kreige.

Other band members echoed this



SPENCER MARLEY MUSTANG DAILY

The Dwelling is a new addition to the downtown entertainment scene.

sentiment.

"We love playing at The Dwelling," said Coda's Zac Horn, whose fellow band members hinted that money and free beer were also great perks.

Though The Dwelling serves a variety of beers, shows are typically 18 and over.

"San Luis Obispo seems to be a bar scene for half of Cal Poly, but the rest of Cal Poly is 18-, 19-, 20-years-


old. They can't really enjoy that," said Ryan Hosler, a materials engineering senior at Cal Poly. "This is definitely a step in the right direction."

All shows require a cover charge of about \$5. Padillo says he only charges so that the bands he features can walk away with a little cash.

"I want them to know I'm trying to make money for them," Padillo said. "Some people walk by and leave because they don't want to pay \$5,

but then go downtown to pay \$7.50 for a shot of tequila. They could be missing the next Pearl Jam or Nirvana."

The Dwelling is located on Osos Street in San Luis Obispo, where Z-Pie used to be. Shows are typically, but not always, Thursday and Friday nights. Fliers of up-coming performances are usually posted near the counter or inside the bathroom doors.



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Performance

Hollywood stars lend talents to benefit theatre department

Carrie McGourty

MUSTANG DAILY

An award-winning group of Hollywood entertainers will perform a staged-reading of John Pielmeier's "Agnes of God," a mystery that addresses the notion of religious beliefs, at the Cal Poly Theatre this Friday as a theatre department benefit.

Mel Damski, an Emmy- and Oscar-nominated television director, is directing the play. He cast Kathy Baker, Susan Sullivan and Katherine Cunningham-Eves, a group of prolifically talented and successful group of actresses, to perform in the show.

"The subject matter of the play is very compelling and the quality of the actresses is phenomenal," Damski said.

Damski and the three actresses are donating their time and talent to raise money for the theater alumni association, The Friends and Network of Alumni Supporters for Cal Poly's Theater Arts Program (FANS), said Pamela Malkin, a professor in the theatre and dance department.

"The theater department was so important and nurturing to me when I was going to school that this gives me great pleasure to work on a show that will help other students," Sullivan said.

Malkin said all proceeds raised will go to fund FANS events and scholarships, including professional workshops and career days.

"We are enormously impressed by

them and their willingness to spend their time when they don't have to," Malkin said. "All of them are enormously talented and highly regarded in the theater world."

"Agnes of God" is about a young nun who is accused of strangling a newborn baby found in a garbage can in her room of the convent. The convent's mother superior and a court-appointed psychiatrist delve into an examination of religion, faith and love in an attempt to unravel the truth.

Damski said he selected the play because of its relevance to the religious fanaticism that society is confronted with today.

"I think the world is having trouble with religion these days," said Baker, who plays the psychiatrist. "In anyone's journey of faith, there are always questions ... and this play brings up a lot of questions."

The characters of the psychiatrist and the Mother Superior can be perceived as simple representations of science and faith. The author's instructions to the director are to stage the play simply, leaving the implications of the dialogue open to the imagination of the audience, Damski said.

"There's a philosophical spiritual line that runs through it that's really fascinating," Sullivan said.

The three-woman cast garners a wide range of recognized theatrical talent.

Baker played a starring role in the film "Cold Mountain" and has an

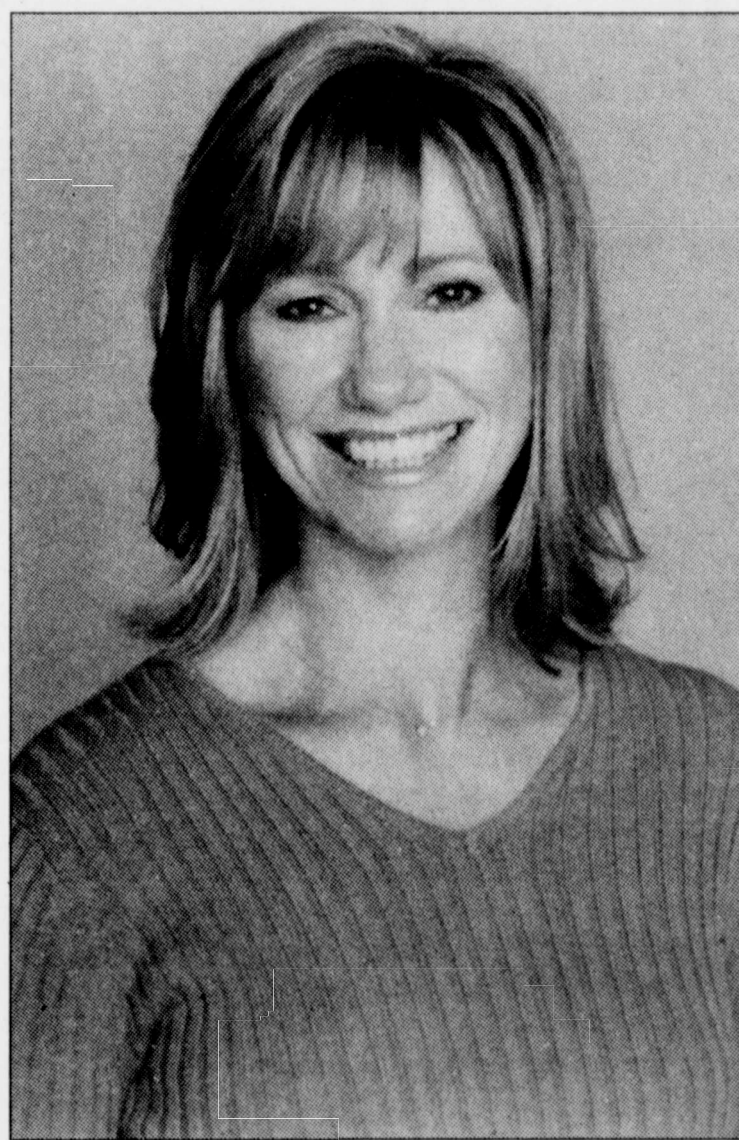
extensive background in film and stage theater. She received a Best Actress Emmy Award for the long-running television series "Picket Fences." In addition, she has appeared in predominant roles in the films "The Cider House Rules," "Edward Scissorhands," "Inventing the Abbotts" and "The Right Stuff."

Baker performed on stage long before her television appearances and appeared in Sam Shephard's first Broadway play, "Fool for Love," for which she won a 1983 Best Actress Obie.

Sullivan is a two-time Emmy and Golden Globe nominee and is well known to television audiences for her role as Kitty Montgomery in the sitcom "Dharma and Greg." Katherine Cunningham-Eves, who plays Agnes, is a "talented up-and-coming actress," Damski said. Her most recent credits include guest starring roles on "Law and Order: Criminal Intent," "Judging Amy," "Charmed," "One Life to Live," "The Guiding Light" and "The Education of Max Bickford."

Damski is a seasoned television director and documentarian in the entertainment industry, as well as a filmmaking lecturer at Cal Poly. He directed 27 movies and garnered an academy-award nomination for the documentary "Still Kicking: The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies." Before pursuing film, he was a reporter for "Newsday."

Damski said he holds education in



Actresses Kathy Baker (left) and Susan Sullivan will appear this weekend in "Agnes of God." The show is a benefit for theatre department events and scholarships.

COURTESY PHOTOS

the highest regard and hopes that by bringing the benefit performance to Cal Poly he will help increase the limited resources made available to students.

"I feel very passionate about teaching," Damski said. "I teach at Cal Poly, so my immediate concern is to help make the program the best it can be."

Damski also involved Jessica Reed, a Cal Poly music student, in a musical component in the show. She will sing offstage for one of the actresses.

Tickets for the Cal Poly performance are \$10 for students, \$20 for non-students and can be purchased at the PAC box office or over the phone on their line at 756-2787.



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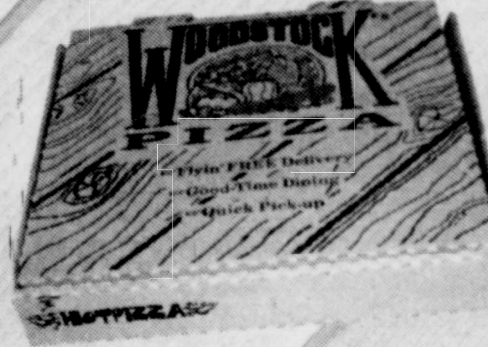


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The pleasures of the pill

Commentary

Cal Poly, it may come as a big surprise to some of you that a few years ago I discovered the savior of mankind. My life, which I now refer to as being "born again," hasn't been the same since. Before I go on with my story, my testimony if you will, I would like to point out that now that I have experienced this blessing in my life, I am fully satisfied, wholly fulfilled and totally lacking of want. Hopefully, after reading this column some of you, who I call the unsaved, will come to know this savior and know salvation.

Ladies and gentleman, allow me to introduce the savior of humanity: the birth control pill.

The birth control pill is the greatest technological miracle in the history of the world. What other pea-sized collection of hormones and chemicals allows college students to bone like gorillas in heat without worrying about the side effect of squawking babies? Indeed, are there any other technological advances that allow us to be truly naked in the sack; free of sponges, diaphragms, and even worse, withdrawal. The pill liberates us from post hook-up thoughts about child support and being called Mommy or Daddy. The birth control pill allows us to make sweet love the way sweet love was meant to be made: in the buck, au natural and skin to skin.



jspot

In the birth control community, it's a well-known fact that once you've been with a "medicated" woman, there ain't no goin' back. You simply can't slide backward down the ladder of sexual progress. This holds true for women as well. My friend Tamara explains it best, "I pop Ortho like candy. I'm like a Boy Scout, always ready." Wise words from a wise woman.

I will be the first to admit that many men, including yours truly, the birth control pill is a wholly foreign object. It might as well be a Mars rock. I wouldn't be able to pick one out of a drug line-up that included horse tranquilizers, crack rocks and cyanide. All I see is that little plastic case in my girlfriend's purse when I'm digging for quarters to feed the meter. Just knowing it's there makes me sleep better at night.

It's obvious that women literally get the shaft when it comes to taking the daily birth control pill. But for all the inequality, I think the people who invented the pill made a wise and calculated decision when they put the gals in charge. I can hardly remember to feed myself and brush my teeth every day. How can I, and millions like me, be expected to be in charge of something as important as keeping innocent babies away from boozing college students. Despite this, I have heard that a male version of the pill is coming out soon. Disgusting.

Aside from the bare-skin sex, certain brands of the pill have been known to contain other near-magical qualities as well. Got zits? Certain forms of birth control pills can clear up acne left over from high school. Got small boobs? No problem there either. Orthotricyclen is famous for its cleavage-enhancing powers.

Of course, some people say that meddling with a woman's natural hormones can turn an otherwise sweet and endearing girlfriend into a raging psycho. The jury on this is still out, but if it comes down to bare-balls sex with a lunatic woman or condom sex with an angel, I'll take the lunatic woman any day of the week.

While getting on the pill is indeed a milestone for any college couple, it's also really important to know that the pill, despite its vast power, does not protect against STDs or any other form of nastiness passed onto us from casual sex partners. If you really want to avoid STDs either abstain from sex altogether, always use a FDA-approved condom or try to limit your exposure to Cuesta kids.

James Whitaker is a business major and Mustang Daily columnist. He can be e-mailed at jwwceo@yahoo.com.

Letters to the Editor

Health Center is gratified by 'yes' vote

The staff of Health and Counseling Services and the Student Health Advisory Council would like to thank the students for their support of the Health Services fee referendum last week. The overwhelmingly positive vote was very gratifying to us. We will be able to maintain our services while we continue to look for new ways to make health services and information more accessible to you.

Martin Bragg is the director of Health and Counseling Services.

Experimentation is part of college life

Recently, agricultural student Baley Thomas wrote a letter to the editor about his concern that the image of the school was not being properly promoted by performers during UU Hour near the time of our Open House ("UU performers were inappropriate" April 19). His concern was that the message delivered by the performer was not "what we are about." I, on the other hand, would like to commend this performer for showing a side of the college experience that is usually not addressed in campus tours — experimentation.

Drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll are a large part of my college experience and evidently part of other people's too — the Greek system, to my knowledge, is rife with drug use (to the point of a fatality last year), not to mention the muffled explosion of sexuality that holidays such as Mardi Gras produce each year. It is naive to look the other way on such matters; college is, for many, the first time to try new things, to learn and watch and grow. Since college students make up a large percentage of this town, "what we are about" becomes these experiences, along with the academic challenges. This school has excellent colleges and the students of these colleges do participate in illicit activities such as (God forbid) smoking marijuana.

I challenge this campus to show visitors who we really are. Our campus does have excellent campus religious organizations, extremely intelligent students and staff and excellent scholastic programs. But we also have a student body of alcoholics and binge

drinkers (according to the ever present "studies"), as well as drug users, a police force that inconveniences students rather than assists them and not enough parking or dormitories. Those who visit should know the whole story. What they see is what we have become — not a reality but a campus trying hard to present a one-sided image.

And don't get me started on smoking pot. Our campus motto is, after all, learn by doing.

Ben Burlingham is an aerospace engineering junior.

Referendum should not have passed

I would like to send my appreciation to all the students who supported the fee increase referendums. Your "school spirit" and willingness to throw money at over-funded programs is really appropriate during a year of budget crunches.

It's good to know that every time some public body says, "we need more money," you'll be there with Daddy's checkbook in hand. I work at the Rec Center and make about \$80 a week. This is just enough money, combined with my student loans and a nearly maxed-out credit card to get me by each quarter. Maybe next quarter, when I am paying for Tiffini's third trip to the Health Center for sniffitis and Mongo's free ride through kinisology because he can throw a football, I can drop one of my architecture classes (it's not like they're that important anyway) and work a few extra hours. Or maybe I can just put these new financial burdens on my Mastercard and pay interest on someone else's scholarship. I would like to send an even bigger thanks to those who couldn't bother to vote "no" on these ridiculous referenda.

Chris Weber is an architecture junior.

Athletic cigar party was unnecessary

So, let me get this straight. The athletic department is poor and goes to the students for more money. Students decide, out of some misplaced sense of generosity, to give the athletic department money. The supposedly cash-strapped athletic department then

proceeds to throw itself a party with live music and cigars? And I, the person who it seems is helping to pay for these essential athletic expenditures, wasn't even invited to the party? I guess that'll teach me.

Russell Lewis is a computer science senior.

Referendum voters were harassed

Although I agree sports are important, I believe education and availability of courses and teachers are far more important. Instead of saving our teachers' jobs and possibly graduating on time, students now have to pay extra for scholarships and tuition for athletes. This is unfair and not right. I have heard a lot of complaints about this particular fee being passed. I know I am not the only one who stood in line waiting to vote, while an athlete harassed me and everyone in line to "vote yes for the athletics fee," or "You're going to vote yes, right?" This person was right up in my face when I did not respond to her question. I finally told her to back off and leave us to decide on our own. Isn't it illegal to stand less than 100 feet away from a polling place? Well, this individual was not aware of it. Most likely, many people voted "yes" to the athletics fee because of harassment and constant taunting.

I voted by building 10 where there were only two spots where a person could stand privately enclosed to vote. Some people would get tired of waiting in line to vote in one of the booths, so they started voting right on the table where people were getting their IDs swiped and where the athletes/harassers were. There was no privacy during this voting process. I personally do not want my money going to support an athlete's education. I need to support my education, and I can barely do that with all the classes being cancelled and tuition going up every year. I wouldn't have made a big issue out of this if I hadn't been harassed.

The Health Center fee benefits all of Cal Poly. Paying for athletes to go to school doesn't. Cal Poly is known for its academic integrity, not its athletic success.

Dina Lucchesi is a theatre junior.

Letters Policy

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"I'll be holding something of yours, and it won't be horses."

Protecting America means protecting the environment

Commentary

Will President George W. Bush do everything in his power to defend his country? Can the U.S. military protect the United States from all harm? Will the Pentagon do all that it can to protect civilian lives?

If the Bush administration continues putting pressure on Congress to ease military environmental standards, then the answer is clearly no.

The Pentagon, which the National Resource Defense Council reports has been trying to lessen the military's environmental regulations for decades, is now cloaking itself under the guise of Sept. 11 and the war in Iraq in an attempt to do just that.

Bush's environmental record is atrocious. Under his administration, Padre Island, home to 11 endangered species, became the first national park to be drilled. Funding for endangered species recovery has been slashed by nearly \$10 million and the U.S. Navy planned to start a huge dredging project in Key West Harbor, which is a known habitat for endangered turtles.

Additionally, the north slope of the Alaskan Wilderness was recently opened for drilling. Bush opposed a provision of the Senate energy bill that would require power companies to produce just 10 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2020. He has sought exemptions for the agriculture industry from restrictions on use the ozone-depleting pesticide methyl bromide.

These actions represent only a

fraction of the many ways the current administration has undermined U.S. environmental standards, and now, with the support of Bush, the Pentagon hopes to ease environmental regulations for the military.

The many changes the Bush administration hopes to oversee include: amendments to the Clean Air Act so that additional air pollution from military training wouldn't be counted for three years, fewer requirements for impeding on protected habitats and changes

in toxic waste laws so the military can avoid cleaning land of munitions used during training exercises.

Also included in the proposals is a lower threshold for what is considered "harassment" of a marine animal, such as the use of a low-frequency active sonar system that scientists suspect drove a plethora of whales to beach themselves last year.

President Bush and the Pentagon argue that these restrictions interfere with military training and should, for the sake of national defense, be eased. Rather than seeking more nature-friendly alternatives, however, they hope to create blanket military exemptions from such regulations.

The amendments to the Clean Air Act, for example, would exempt even non-military procedural activities, such as vehicular standards while a

car or truck is driven on a military base. They would also eliminate timelines for the military to report the quantity of dangerous emissions in areas not used for military training purposes.

The military was established to protect U.S. citizens from threat both within and beyond U.S. borders, but agencies such as the Environmental

The amendments to the Clean Air Act, for example, would exempt even non-military procedural activities, such as vehicular standards while a car or truck is driven on a military base.

Protection Agency were founded to regulate environmental standards, promoting national and international health and safety. These regulations are meant to protect U.S. military and civilians alike.

Bush should understand that these laws were put into place for a reason, and that in undermining them he is undermining the health and safety of not just ordinary American citizens, but also soldiers who will train in these areas. The air they breathe will be unhealthy and they will be forced to deal with the repercussions of toxic waste.

If Bush and Congress care about the environment and safety of their constituencies, they will not permit such dangerous legislation.

Aimee Anderson is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

U.S. must modify oil consumption to lower prices

Commentary

As we approach the end of the spring quarter and enter into the summer travel season, when temperatures and UV indices climb, so will gas prices. Rising gas prices are by no means unusual, but this year we are starting from a much higher point than in years past. As it stands now, we are all going to pay much more to drive to work, summer school or vacation.

As of Wednesday, a gallon of unleaded gasoline averages \$1.81, higher than even the oil embargo prices of the 1970s. The Energy Information Administration has projected gas prices to reach \$2 nationally over the summer, also an all-time high. Because no organization has imposed an embargo and America benefited very little from the limited oil Iraq was producing before the war, we should ask: Why are prices so high?

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, producer of 40 percent of the world's crude oil production, voted last month to cut its supply by 4 percent, or 1 million barrels a day. This move hits the United States particularly hard, as America consumed almost 8.8 million barrels a day during the first three months of the year, a large percentage of which came from the 11 OPEC countries.

A variety of domestic reasons impact the higher cost at the gas pump as well. It makes sense for us to look at these reasons for the spike in gas prices since we can control some of these factors.

In America, we have an independent spirit and one of the ways this manifests itself in our daily lives is in our automobiles, large and small. We have a compulsory need to drive everywhere. For some of us, particularly those of us from rural areas, it is impossible to avoid long, solitary drives.

We seldom stop to think about ways we can reduce our gasoline usage, whether by carpooling, reducing the load we're carrying in our car or finding the shortest distance to our destination.

This phenomenon is neither new nor changing, but what is changing are our automobiles. The mid-90s saw the rise of the SUV into the mainstream. The infiltration of SUVs into traditional "soccer mom" situations is quite remarkable, especially given their perilous safety record. This is one reason fuel efficiency is at its lowest point since 1981.

Critics have argued for years that the United States should seek alternate energy sources or should consider drilling in locations such as Alaska. This is a nice sentiment, but unlikely to do anything to stem current gas prices. Domestic drilling reduces our dependence on foreign oil interests but doesn't address long-term considerations.

Of course, gas prices in America are nothing when compared to the prices paid by drivers in Europe. With gas prices approaching \$8 a gallon, it's easy to see why Europeans want and need a reliable public transportation system. Indeed, the European Union is looking to phase out fossil fuels by 2020.

The question before us is why should any of us care? Isn't this just a natural market reaction and shouldn't we just deal with it?

For one thing, it is obviously cheaper for each of us to conserve fuel. Some of the simple things we can do to preserve gas will not prohibit our lifestyles, like turning down the air conditioner and not letting the car idle in the parking lot while going to the ATM.

Secondly, as Bill Maher points out in his book, "When You Ride Alone, You Ride With bin Laden," by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels from the Middle East, we do not support corrupt governments who don't care much for us.

Lastly, it is better for the environment. You can argue as to whether or not driving automobiles produces a marginal harm for the environment, but isn't it inherently obvious that by not driving as much, it must be better?

The benefits are obvious. When Virginia Tech Parking Services sells 20,000 permits for 13,000 parking spots, many of which are a long walk from the academic side of campus, it is obvious not everybody can commute to campus. Students who live in Blacksburg, Va., have no excuse not to take the Blacksburg Transit to class occasionally, especially when the stops are often closer to class than a commuter lot.

In the end, it is fairly obvious what will happen. We will keep driving as we always have until the next fuel crisis hits, whether it is due to embargo, war or simply the lack of fossil fuel, which could come sooner as middle-class economies grow around the world, particularly in China.

We will not modify our behavior until we absolutely have to and it will likely be too late. That is a shame, especially when it is not so difficult to affect meaningful change. What will you do to make a difference?

Brent Blevins is a writer for the Collegiate Times at Virginia Tech.

Food pyramid won't solve obesity

Commentary

With Americans more fat, inactive and health illiterate than ever, the U.S. Department of Agriculture thinks it's time to revamp their food guide pyramid to help get America back on track and back into shape.

But it's not the food guide pyramid that needs revamping ... it's U.S. society. Americans eat too much and exercise too little, said Susan Swadener, a nutritionist, registered dietician and lecturer in Cal Poly's Nutrition and Health Department.

With more than 64 percent of Americans considered overweight, the federal government needs to stop wasting time and money tampering with a pyramid no one pays attention to.

"I think most people know (the food pyramid) and recognize it," Swadener said. "But do people follow it? No."

Simply revising dietary guidelines and the food pyramid is not going to promote a healthier lifestyle and reduce obesity completely.

With more than 64 percent of Americans considered overweight, the federal government needs to stop wasting time and money tampering with a pyramid no one pays attention to, and start investing in ways to communicate and encourage people to follow a healthy diet. The current food guide pyramid can do just that;

its basic concept is still adequate.

The triangle sliced horizontally into segments shows the different food groups and recommended daily serving sizes, which promote eating a variety of foods in moderation every day. It's about nutrition and survival.

"I think it's the best thing we've got," Swadener said. "There's problems with it, but I like it because it's real visual."

"Carbs are getting a horrible, bad rap from the press," she said. "The problem with the pyramid is that it doesn't distinguish the difference

between the complex carbohydrates and the simpler ones — the foods that have carbs in them but are high in fiber and nutrients, versus a thing like white bread."

Another problem Swadener mentioned is that the food pyramid doesn't guide food choices based on calories or energy.

"You can pick fried zucchinis instead of regular zucchinis and you're following the food pyramid," she said.

The proposed new food guide, due out in early 2005, will supposedly address these issues by providing more detailed advice, but will keep the basic concept the same, only making a few small changes on what and how much to eat.

Based on the latest research the new food guide advises an increase in serving sizes of dark, green vegetables, whole grains and legumes, increase total fat intake by 5 percent and decrease calories by 200 to 600 a day from the current food guide's recommendations.

Other changes include: expressing portion sizes in ounces or cups rather than servings, and breaking down consumption recommendations into three levels based on a person's physical activity (sedentary, low-active and active).

That's quite a bit of information the USDA is trying to incorporate into one, simple visual. At this point there are 12 diet recommendations and some fear that the new food guide will be too overwhelming and complicated, and consumers won't want to use it.

It's not enough to revamp the current food guide pyramid to promote healthier diets and reduce obesity. Americans need help weeding out bad dietary advice and incorporating the variation, moderation and nutrition principle the USDA has been advocating for years.

"There's so much misinformation out there," Swadener said. "Americans need to listen to their body and trust it."

Moderation and exercise are key ways to lose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle. It's common sense.

Liza Sullivan is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Marriage debate simmers in Ohio

Candidates need to 'tread lightly' on gay-marriage issue

David Crary
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio — Mayor of one of Ohio's most liberal cities, Edward Kelley works closely with gay-rights activists. Looking ahead to Election Day in this crucial swing state, he has blunt advice for them on the topic of gay marriage: Tread lightly.

"If I were in the gay and lesbian community and wanted John Kerry elected, I wouldn't be pushing this issue," said Kelley, a self-described conservative Democrat. "All you're going to do is help (President) Bush get re-elected."

Kelley may prove right; statewide polls show Ohio voters opposing gay marriage by a 3-1 ratio. Gay and lesbian leaders in the Cleveland area are reluctant to back off on an issue that has galvanized their traditionally cautious ranks as never before.

"It's daunting — but what better thing to be working on?" said Mary Zaller, co-director of the Lesbian Gay Community Center of Greater Cleveland. "Largely because of this marriage stuff, our community is growing up, coming out of its adolescence and saying, 'We're here' ... We can't be seen as backing down."

The most eye-catching developments on the gay marriage front have unfolded in relatively liberal states along the East and West coasts.

Debate also has flared in the heartland, providing a dramatic election-year barometer of the political clout of gay-rights advocates and those who oppose them.

"This will be THE issue of the election — categorically the issue that will decide Ohio," said David Zanotti, who heads a conservative public-policy group called the Ohio Roundtable.

"But it's not the issue the paid political consultants will tell their candidates to focus on. They are so far removed from the grass roots that they just don't get it."

Until this year, Ohio had been one of 13 states without a recent law explicitly banning same-sex unions. In February, Republican Gov. Bob Taft signed one of the toughest bans yet, containing an extra provision barring state employees from obtaining benefits for their unmarried partners.

Ohio gay-rights groups lack the political muscle to advance state legislation. A few years ago, they even failed to persuade officials in Lakewood, a Cleveland suburb with a large gay population, to offer domestic-partner benefits to city employees.

"The gay community here is incredibly closeted, very conservative," said Jack Hart, an activist who worked in Boston, New York and Washington before moving to Cleveland. "Sometimes I feel I've stepped back into the 50s."

Hart said attitudes are changing

because of the nationwide campaign to broaden rights for same-sex couples.

In January, Cleveland Heights implemented a domestic-partner registry. The measure won 55 percent support in last November's election thanks in large part to door-to-door canvassing by gay activists and their straight supporters.

Among the canvassers was Katy Alex, 24, a graduate student in neuroscience at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University who knew no other gays or lesbians while growing up in upstate New York and had never engaged in politics.

"I was always the girl who didn't know who the vice president was," she said. "Now I feel I've stumbled on a whole new side of myself."

Engaging voters in conversations about gay relationships was the key to winning support, Alex said. "People were willing to listen; even people who were against us were respectful."

Among those promptly registering as partners were mortgage lender Thom Rankin and his partner of 17 years, Ray Zander, a home decorator and costume designer.

Rankin, president of the Cleveland lesbian-gay center's board of directors, said he and Zander have spent several thousand dollars in legal and administrative fees to replicate, as best they can, the protections afforded automatically by marriage. They were among more than 50 couples who went to a Cleveland courthouse last month and requested marriage licenses that they knew would be refused.

"We're becoming more aggressive than in the past," Rankin said of the local gay community. "After the Massachusetts court ruling, and the backlash, that's when we said, 'We've talked the talk, now we have to walk the walk.'"

Although the Cleveland Heights registry carries virtually no legal weight, the Rev. Jimmie Hicks has filed suit trying to quash it.

"It's another level of protection for homosexual relations," he said. "Once you have that, then you have civil unions, but none of that will be enough. The ultimate goal is marriage."

Hicks, an insurance salesman and youth pastor, said he has quit the Democratic Party because of support by Kerry and other party leaders for civil unions.

"It's a defining issue for me," Hicks said. "We have to look at whose moral standards align with our beliefs."

Blacks comprise roughly half of Cleveland Heights' 50,000 residents, and were less supportive of the registry than voters as a whole.

John Everett, director of an organization of gay blacks in greater Cleveland, said he encountered little hostility during his door-to-door campaigning for the registry in Cleveland Heights' black neighborhoods.



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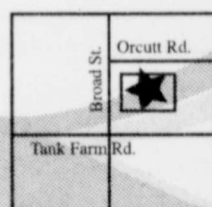
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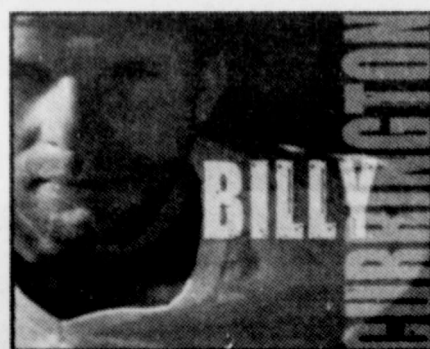
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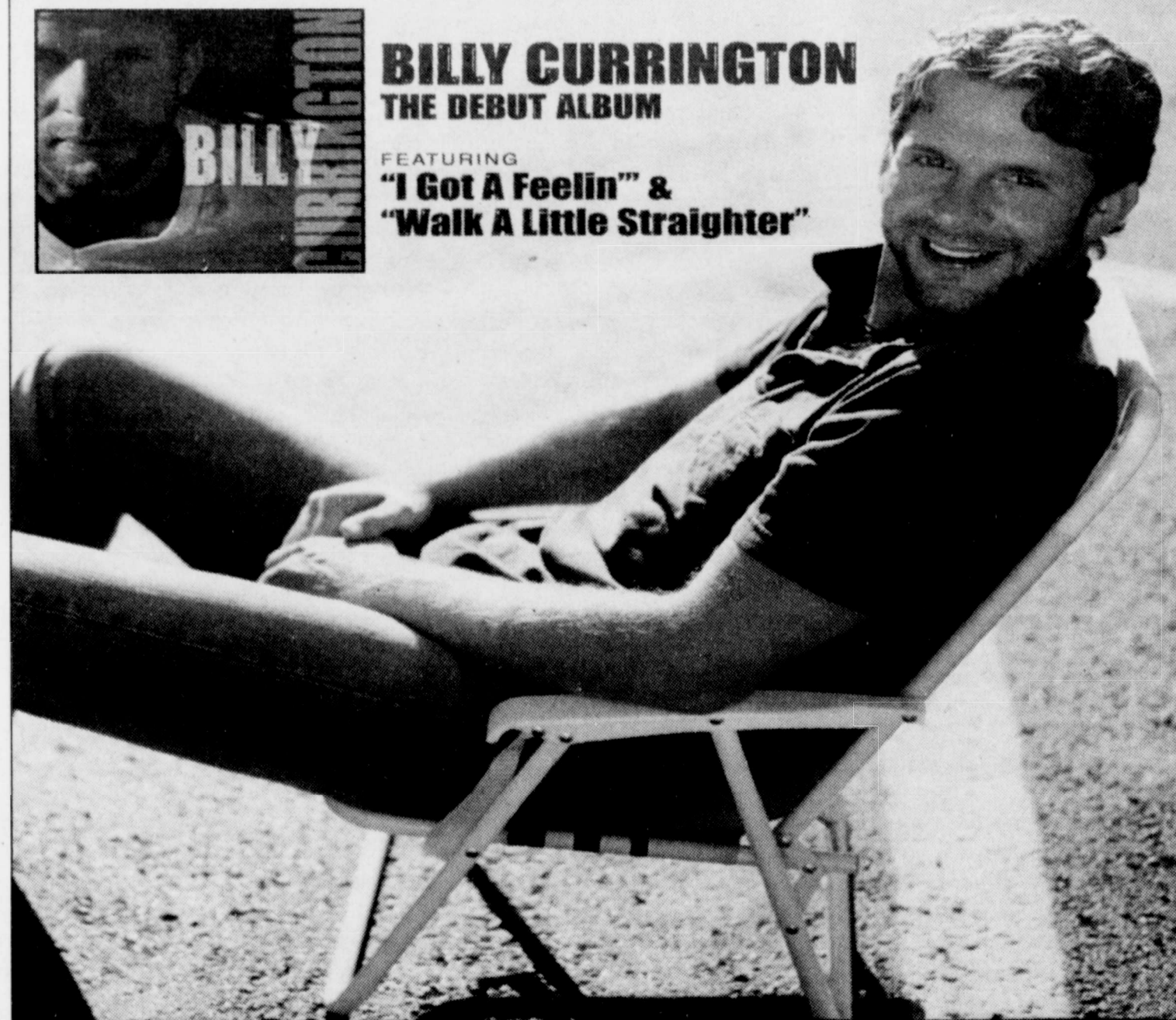
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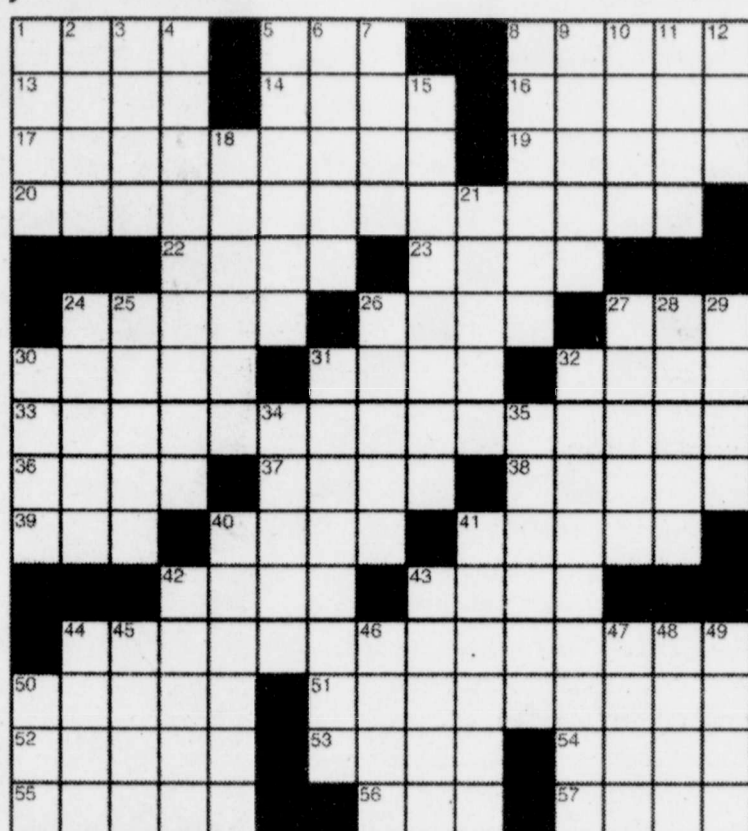
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Marking on an old MIG
- 5 Some degs.
- 8 Item thrown on a barbecue
- 13 Part
- 14 Vista
- 16 Team subset
- 17 Certain Protestant
- 19 They get into jams
- 20 Santa's wife?
- 22 Lots
- 23 Once-popular street liners
- 24 Marina sight
- 26 Architecture critic Huxtable and others
- 27 I.C.U. test
- 30 Library holding
- 31 Inlets
- 32 "The Egg ____"
- 33 Utility's advice to an excavator?
- 36 Yank, e.g.
- 37 It comes from une tête
- 38 Knife brand
- 39 Bowl features, for short
- 40 Kind of mark
- 41 Western Australia's capital
- 42 Round part
- 43 Host
- 44 Make attractive requests?
- 50 Region famous for the blues
- 51 Infinite
- 52 Oil holder
- 53 Miss. neighbor
- 54 Writer Murdoch

- 55 Dentist's advice
- 56 Understand
- 57 Word in many business names

DOWN

- 1 "Phooey!"
- 2 Scoop holder
- 3 Cut short
- 4 Director of exercises, in brief
- 5 "... And God Created Woman" star, 1956
- 6 Unfamiliar
- 7 Cartoonist Drake
- 8 Whence the line "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet?"
- 9 Blues
- 10 1984 Peace Nobel
- 11 Ski Valley (western resort)
- 12 QB's gains
- 15 Precede
- 18 Pregame ritual
- 21 Conflict
- 24 Produce
- 25 High points
- 26 Broadcast
- 27 Opposite of vote down
- 28 Head of Hollywood



Puzzle by Jeremy Thomas Paine

- 29 1970's-80's singer Vannelli
- 30 Group known for pranks, in short
- 31 Steer elsewhere
- 32 Showy bloom
- 34 Cyclist
- 35 Give a waiver
- 40 Floral envelope parts
- 41 "The Scarlet Letter" woman
- 42 Digital data
- 43 Carry ____ (sing on pitch)
- 44 Stamp
- 45 Additionally
- 46 Low digits
- 47 Architect Saarinen
- 48 A ____ apple
- 49 Flat tire indicator
- 50 Telephone trio

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Tennis

continued from page 15

ed Pacific. The Mustangs are the defending champions and are looking for their second title. They finished the season 8-1 in the Big West and are ranked 59th nationally.

Head coach Hugh Bream said his team will be tough to beat.

"I have a lot of confidence in this team," Bream said.

Like the men's team, the women's doubles teams have proven to be one of the Mustangs' greatest strengths, as

well as the depth of the team in general.

The biggest challenge that faces the women's team will be Pacific, who are first in the Big West and undefeated. They defeated the Mustangs by a close 4-3 margin in their mid season meeting during the season.

The team has been preparing by playing matches as well as conditioning for the intense heat of Palm Springs, where the tournament will take place. Bream said the mentally toughest team will win, which will be the team that can stay the sharpest and strongest through the tournament.

Golf fifth at Big West

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly posted its best round of the Big West Conference women's golf championships but remained in fifth place following the final round of tournament play on Tuesday at the Tijeras Creek Golf Course.

After carding a 328 and a 321 on Monday, the Mustangs posted a four-person 316 Tuesday to finish with a 965 total for 54 holes. Cal State Northridge won the conference title with a 925 total, followed by UC Irvine (929) and Long Beach State (938). Idaho (948) was fourth and UC Riverside (986) finished last.

Elizabeth Allen of Cal State Northridge, who was awarded as the Big West Conference Player of the Year, carded a two-under-par 70 Tuesday and

a seven-under-par 209 total on the par-72, 6,054-yard course. She finished 15 strokes ahead of runner-up Angela Won of UC Irvine.

Cal Poly's top finisher was Staci King as she placed eighth with a 236 total following a final-round 79. Teammate

Rebecca Norris was two strokes back at 238 for ninth place after shooting a 74.

Other Cal Poly finishers were Gina Drago, who placed 15th with an 82 Tuesday and a 240 total; Jessica Huss, who placed 25th with an 81 Tuesday and a 251 total; and Holly

Lampert, who placed 30th with an 87 and a 269 total.

Bonnie Murphy of Cal State Northridge was named Big West Coach of the Year.

• **Staci King finished eighth after shooting 236 for three rounds.**

• **Cal State Northridge's Beth Allen won the event by 15 shots; the Matadors won the team title as well.**

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A game to remember forever

Commentary

Dan Watson

MUSTANG DAILY

There are just some numbers that slap you in the face when you see them: Wilt Chamberlain scoring 100 points in a game, Bob Beamon long jumping 29 feet, 2 1/2 inches.

These numbers aren't just extraordinary, they're plain stupid. If you read them for the first time in a headline you might spill the coffee.

What Emily Hively did over the weekend wasn't in the vicinity of those accomplishments, but it was plenty filthy.

I expected a gurney, ice, maybe a roll of gauze to enter the media relations office Tuesday, but not the smiling, vibrant figure of Hively. Hively pitched 17 scoreless innings Saturday against No. 20 Long Beach State before finally watching her teammates squeeze out a run to win 1-0.

Here's the kicker. She took the mound in the second game of a doubleheader the next day and pitched six innings, giving up one earned run. Her efforts earned her Big West Pitcher of the Week.

Now, a few things have to be considered here.

For one, Hively was facing one of the top teams in the country. Second, pitching the entirety of a four-hour game and then pitching the next night is something special. Three, somehow Hively, after showing the Beach her stuff for 17 innings, was still able to tease them the next day.

But then again, last weekend's performance was nothing new for the freshman from Troy High.

Hively was the only pitcher on her team after her freshman year.

"If I was sick it couldn't happen," Hively said.

In all, Hively pitched 51 outs.

"I didn't expect anything less of myself," Hively said.

Rambles: Barry Bonds, as of Tuesday, was on pace to hit 104 home runs while batting .514, meanwhile, San Francisco was 6-8 ... Spending money sucks, but not having sports programs to support does too ... Do yourself a favor, go watch Jered Weaver at Baggett Stadium Friday.

Dan Watson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.

Tennis poised for postseason

Leah Mori

MUSTANG DAILY

The men's and women's tennis teams spent a lot of time in match play last week, preparing themselves for the Big West Tennis Championships, which will be held April 22-25 at the Indian Wells Tennis Gardens.

The men's team is seeded fourth out of seven teams and will play the University of Idaho in the first round. They finished the season 3-2 in the Big West. UCSB is seeded first in the tournament and is attempting to attain its third consecutive Big West Championship title.

Cal Poly has not played a match against Idaho this season, but they have split wins in previous years, losing to them in the 2001-02 season, the year Trevor Kronemann became head coach, and winning last year.

The Mustangs defeated UCSB last week.

"We have momentum now after beating UCSB," Kronemann said. "We're looking pretty dangerous."

The biggest threat to Cal Poly is Pacific.

"They've got the most balanced team throughout," Kronemann said. "But we can't get to them until the

finals."

He describes the Mustangs' season overall as OK.

"Some people have said we've underachieved until Wednesday (when the Mustangs defeated the Gauchos)," Kronemann said. "We have as good a team as these teams that are ranked 50 and below. Now I think the guys are starting to feel that way since they've beat a nationally ranked team."

The doubles teams have been Cal Poly's greatest strength. The singles players near the top of the ladder have also been playing well.

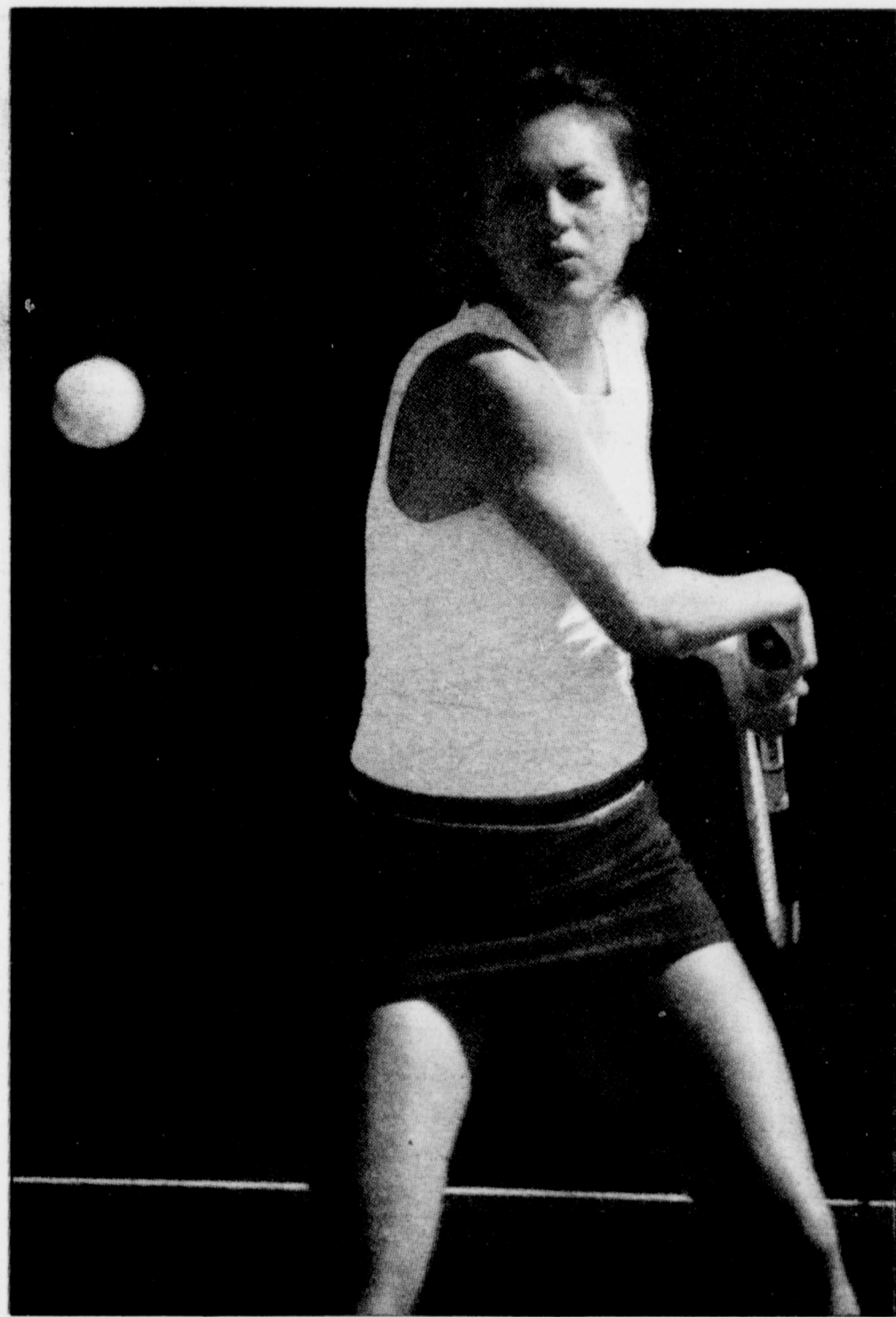
"We've had a great team effort and realization that at the beginning of the year, we had a long season," Kronemann said. "It's like a marathon, and hopefully it'll be a sprint to the finish."

To prepare for the tournament, the team played dual matches Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

The best way to get ready for the tournament is "letting the guys go, letting them play," Kronemann said. "Nothing's that different than any other day we have."

The women's team is seeded second out of 10 teams and received a first-round bye, along with top-seed-

see Tennis, page 15



FILE PHOTO

The Mustang women's tennis team is looking to repeat last year's championship season.

A-Rod's slump will not be a long-lasting affair

Jim Litke

AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

CHICAGO (AP) — It was half-price ticket night at the old ballpark. That might be as good an explanation as any why Alex Rodriguez resorted to a cheap hit to start digging out of the most-publicized slump of his career.

In the first inning of what would turn out to be an 11-8 slugfest won by the Yankees, A-Rod faced White Sox starter Mark Buehrle with runners at first and second and nobody out. It was one of those situations that pitchers dread and hitters live for.

Buehrle couldn't afford to put A-Rod on with a walk, not with Jason Giambi on deck, and so it came down to strength versus strength. About the only thing the Chicago left-hander had in his favor was A-Rod's paltry 2-for-15 career mark against him; that, and the fact that Mr. \$252 Million — the highest-paid player on the most expensive team in baseball — was hitting a buck-sixty.

Those numbers were on Yankees manager Joe Torre's mind at that moment, too. And as Buehrle stared in on the catcher for a sign, Torre turned to Willie Randolph, his bench coach and joked, "Should we put the bunt on?"

Before Randolph could answer, Buehrle reared back and fired a fast-

ball. Rodriguez took full advantage of the macho moment and decided to call for the bunt himself.

"Right before I stepped into the batter's box," Rodriguez said afterward, smiling.

Two hours before Tuesday night's game, he'd sat in the same spot, in front of a double-locker in the visiting clubhouse, enjoying one of the perks that come with being the star in baseball's brightest galaxy. He looked like a man without a care in the world.

"I never feel like I'm struggling," A-Rod said then. "I really don't."

There was one thing that bothered him, though.

"It's a funny thing. I had a girl come up to me in New York last week and she said, 'You know, you're not as pretty as everyone makes you out to be.'"

But the hitting woes?

Those didn't faze A-Rod.

"Every day is a new day, every at-bat is a new at-bat and every pitch is a new pitch," he continued. "And I've never felt like 'struggling' or 'slump' is even a word in my vocabulary. It's just the way I've gone about my business. It's nothing one game can't fix or one pitch can't fix."

He could turn out to be right, of course.

A few lockers over, and a few minutes earlier, Giambi told a story with that very ending. Like Rodriguez, he arrived in New York in December

2001, in a blur of hype, pulling an expensive contract behind him like a ball and chain. Giambi got off to a bad start the following April and wasn't going much better by the middle of May, when he settled into the batter's box at Yankee Stadium against Minnesota's Mike Trombley. The bases were full, but it was the 14th inning and his new employers trailed the Twins by three runs.

"The way things were going, I didn't know what to expect," Giambi recalled. "I thought I was starting to play my way out of (the slump), but you don't always know where the bottom is until later. So naturally, I hit one out — a walk-off grand slam."

"I think I wound up 2-for-4 or something like that," Giambi said, "and I heard about the two outs almost as much as the hits."

A-Rod's saving grace may be that the Yankees haven't been home much so far this season. They began it in Tokyo, then detoured through Tampa Bay before playing a half-dozen games at home. By the time his batting average began to resemble what figure skaters call a "death spiral," the team was already in Boston.

Good thing, too, since Rodriguez went hitless in 16 straight at-bats against the Red Sox, the team that tried to sign him first, and the Yankees dropped three of the four games. If anything resembled a silver lining, it

was that A-Rod's struggles took up so much time and space on TV and in the papers, that few people noticed how bad the rest of the lineup was playing.

Captain Derek Jeter began the three-game series at .241, Giambi at .229. Slugger Gary Sheffield, who came over from Atlanta as a relative bargain at three years for \$39 million, was at .255.

"Some struggles are meant to be," Sheffield said cryptically, "and some last longer than others."

In A-Rod's case, a few more games will be necessary before the slump is formally declared over. Beside the bunt single against Buehrle, he collected two solid, up-the-middle singles against relievers Jon Adkins and Billy Koch. The 3-for-6 performance, only his second multihit outing in 14 games, hoisted his average from .160 to .196.

Rodriguez knows the probing won't end until he climbs another hundred points higher. Until then, cabbies will keep doling out tips, TV analysts will be doing frame-by-frame analysis of his swings and Boss Steinbrenner will keep his phone number on the speed dial.

For all that, he sounded as cool and collected as a guy can be — at least a guy with the entire weight of New York pressing down between his shoulder blades.

SCORES

W Golf (5th place) @ Big West
Staci Kling — 8th place (236, +20)
Baseball (8) vs. Pacific (3)
Cal Poly — 5-1 in Big West play
Softball (1) @ No. 20 Long Beach State (0)
Jeana Gevas — game-winning RBI (HBP)
No. 59 W Tennis (7) vs. UC Davis (0)
Cal Poly — won all nine matches
M Tennis (3) vs. UCSC (4)
Cal Poly — won doubles point

SCHEDULE

W Tennis @ Big West
thurs.-sun., april 22-25
M Tennis @ Big West
thurs.-sun., april 22-25
Baseball vs. Long Beach State
fri.-sun., april 23-25
Softball @ UC Santa Barbara
sat.-sun., april 24-25
M Lacrosse vs. Playoffs
sat., april 24, 1 p.m., @ sports complex

Today's Question

Who holds the record for most home runs in consecutive game?

Yesterday's answer: 23/ Congratulations to Zachary Lelevierjoseph.

Sports editor Sean Martin can be reached at 756-1796 or mustangdailynews@yahoo.com