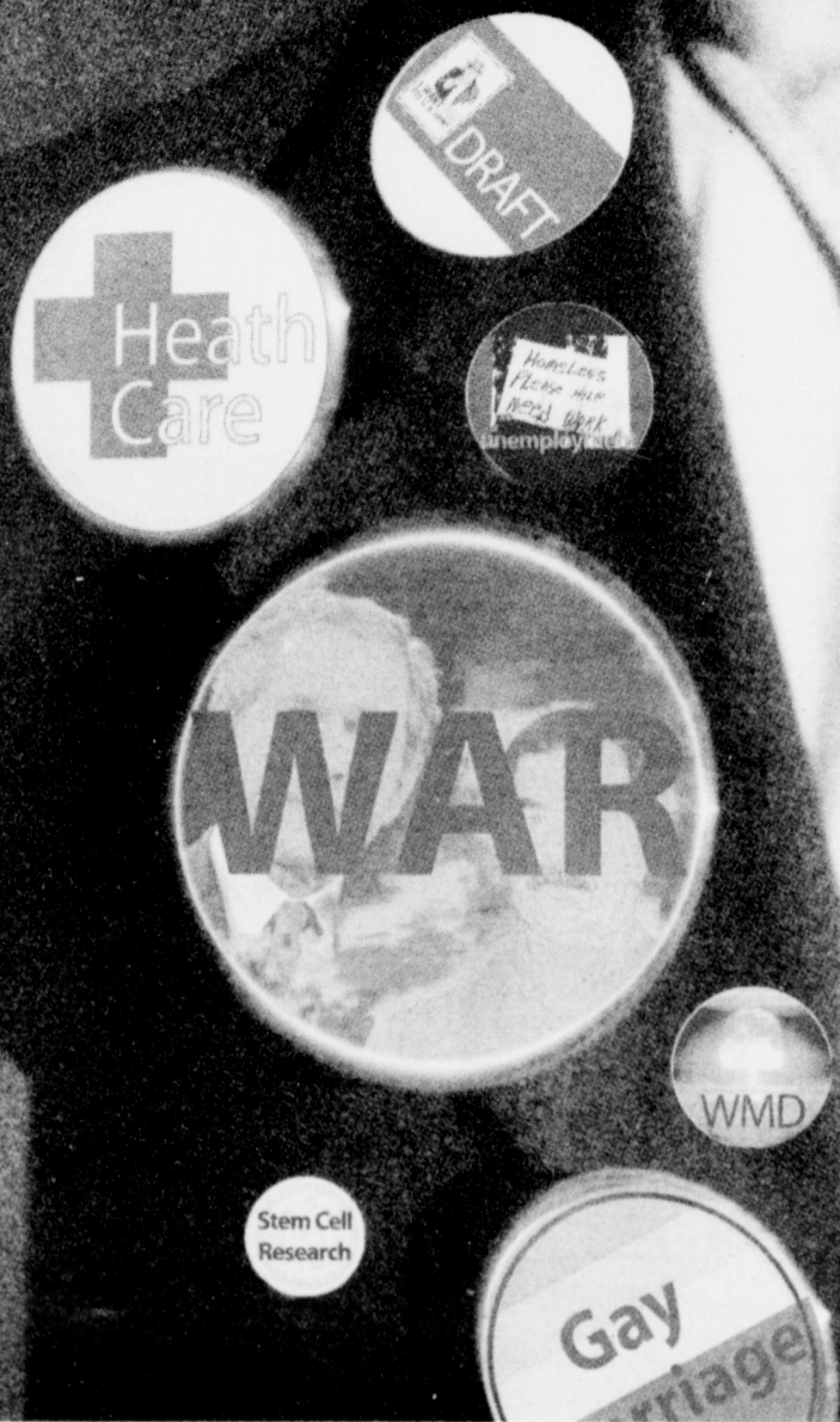


MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

ELECTIONS 2004 ISSUE



Choose or Lose, Vote or Die — Go out and vote for something

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

In a time of war and controversy, voting in the upcoming presidential election is becoming increasingly more important as the fierce competition between President George W. Bush and John Kerry comes to an end.

Young people especially are being encouraged to get informed and take a stand. In January, MTV started 20 Million Loud, a national campaign of organizations mobilizing more than 20 million young adults ages 18 to 30 to vote and be a deciding factor in the 2004 presidential election.

"A lot of people our age have never voted in a presidential election before and since this is a controversial election, every vote matters so it's important to get out and vote," architectural engineering junior Jeff Jones said.

With MTV's 20 Million Loud and Choose or Lose campaigns and P. Diddy's Vote or Die campaign, today's youth are being influenced to vote not just for a name or for a person representing the country, but for an issue that they can relate to and feel passionate about.

"We have such diverse candidates that it really just comes down to the core of who you are," history sophomore Gary Fisher said. "Take one issue like Iraq for example. I feel that although Bush might have gone in the wrong way, he is justifying the deaths of the people who died in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. I'm for Bush because I believe he is doing what is necessary to make this country safer."

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, many people are still angry and are searching for justification and a resolution to the conflicts.

With the continuing war in Iraq, the economic slump and general national feeling of discontent, voters are looking for a president who can fix some of the problems at hand.

"What is getting me to vote are all the controversies about the war in Iraq," animal science sophomore Emily Lewis said. "I'd like to see things get resolved so we could get back on track. We need someone who can find a solution and I feel like it's my duty to get out there and vote and make a difference."

Other students are simply searching for a

change of pace. Unhappy with the state of the world today, some are choosing to vote for what they personally feel passionate.

"I'm voting for the future of the global community, for the future of American integrity, for the people who are dying in war and dying from hunger, for the people in our country who have lost jobs and loved ones overseas, and most of all I'm voting so I don't have to hear GW's stupid voice on the TV or radio anymore," social sciences senior Valerie Branaugh said.

Many Americans have very strong opinions about the two presidential candidates, and voice these views through bumper stickers, T-shirts, song lyrics and protests. With all this propaganda, it is important to find an issue that is personally relevant and important in order to make an educated decision on Nov. 2.

"A lot of people see this election as meaning a lot more to the future generation, this election is affecting us," said Mike Motroni, president of Cal Poly College Republicans and a civil engineering senior. "Politicians aren't going to listen to us until we vote."

Lunch and local candidates

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

To escape Tuesday's rainstorm, students gathered in Chumash Auditorium for Soup and Substance, an opportunity for dialogue with mayoral and city council candidates over a hot soup lunch.

Dave Romero As part of Associated Students Inc. Four Tuesdays in October, the event gave students a chance to meet a handful of the candidates running for positions in the Nov. 2 local elections.

Co-sponsored by ASI, Student Life & Leadership, and the Multicultural Center, Soup and Substance gave students a chance to ask questions and engage in conversation with candidates in a relaxed setting.

"The point is to provide lunch and intellectual dialogue about politics and other major issues," ASI vice president Tylor Middlestadt said.

Mayor Dave Romero, mayoral candidate Matt Mackey and city council candidates Lauren Lajoie, Paul Brown, and Shane Kramer attended the luncheon.

The candidates sat with students while enjoying their soup casually

discussing their lives and families, and building relationships with the roughly 20 students in attendance.

When asked for their motivation in running for a local public office, the candidates each introduced themselves and took a platform explaining how they will better the San Luis Obispo community if elected.

"I have the ability to communicate with students and young people,"

Mackey said. "The median age of San Luis Obispo is 27, making this a very young city. But there is no younger perspective on the city council, and in general I don't see the city reaching out to the students. If elected, I intend to improve community relations with students."

Romero claimed San Luis Obispo as being "his city" since he attended Cal Poly, then married and raised a family, became a member of the city council and finally mayor two years ago. He added that he has spent his career improving and loving San Luis Obispo, focusing on housing, traffic, and water issues.

"I have enjoyed a lifetime of accomplishment in shaping our city,"

lot of negative energy between permanent residents and students, but we live in a college town and I can't imagine how boring life would be here without Cal Poly students."

Lajoie noted the importance of preserving the small town quality of life in San Luis Obispo despite the rumors of the building of large chain retail stores like Costco and Target and other major developments in the community.

Matt Mackey

like Costco and Target and other major developments in the community.

"There is a lot of negative energy between permanent residents and students, but we live in a college town and I can't imagine how boring life would be here without Cal Poly students."

— PAUL BROWN
City Council candidate

Romero said. "I look forward to continuing to serve as your mayor, bringing skill, experience and personal commitment to the city we all treasure."

Since San Luis Obispo has such a large student population with Cal Poly and Cuesta College campuses, candidates were asked to comment on how they plan to work with the university to address student-related issues.

Brown emphasized the need for more communication between students and members of the permanent community.

"Many members of the community look at students as people who pee on their lawn, leave beer cans in their yard and keep them up until two in the morning," Brown said. "There is a

The candidates ended the lunch by emphasizing the impact students have on the community since they make up a large block of the voters. Lajoie especially encouraged what he called "all citizen input."

"I think it's ironic that everyone pays so much attention to the presidential election but ignores the local election, when that is the one that really affects you," Mackey said.

"Growth is inevitable, and this place should welcome new citizens and businesses, but not at the expense of the natural resources that give San Luis Obispo its unique character," she said. "It is not whether we accommodate growth, but how that will shape our future."

Lauren Lajoie

Speaker to address U.S.-German relations today

Daniel Ely
MUSTANG DAILY

Since Sept. 11, Germany and the United States have been at odds over several issues of international affairs. Dr. Hans J. Wendler, the German Consul General will come to Cal Poly to shed light on post Sept. 11 relations between the two countries at the Christopher Cohan Center today at 11 a.m.

Wendler has more than 30 years experience as a diplomat for the Federal Republic of Germany, and works currently at the German Consulate in Los Angeles.

"The colloquium is an important opportunity for the Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo communities to hear the views of a foreign-service diplomat from one of our country's key European allies," Linda H. Halisky, College of Liberal Arts interim dean said.

After Sept. 11, Wendler says, the German people showed great support for the United States.

The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder risked losing a close election by sending troops into Afghanistan. Germany has, however, refused to send troops into Iraq and has remained critical of the war there.

"We were not convinced that Iraq was a true source of terror," Wendler said. "We thought it would destabilize the whole region."

This position has been complicated because there are many American soldiers on bases in Germany. The American air base in Ramstein remains a critical staging area for troops and supplies coming and going to Iraq.

Wendler maintains that though

Germany has refused to be directly involved in the military action, they have been finding other ways to help. Germany ships fuel to Iraq and helps to guard the U.S. bases in Germany

while soldiers are serving in Iraq. Soldiers wounded in Iraq are frequently flown to Germany to be treated.

According to Wendler, Germany has not forgotten how America has

helped Germany throughout the past century; specifically America's role in the defeat of the Nazis, defending West Germany from the Soviet Union during the Cold War and assistance in the reunification of East and West Germany.

Wendler says that Germany is dedicated to combating terrorism alongside the United States, but there is a lack of "strategic debate" between Germany and the United States that he feels is necessary for the two countries to work together. A breakdown in relations between the two countries could have potentially negative consequences, Wendler said.

This lack of dialogue is Wendler's main concern for German-American relations for the future.

"We interpret our values differently," Wendler said. "We have to talk more so we can fight for our values together."

Wendler still remains optimistic that future relations are in no serious peril. "America is still our closest ally," he said.



Hans J. Wendler



Shane Kramer



Paul Brown



Lauren Lajoie

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Hacker attacks Berkeley

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY — A hacker attack on a computer at the University of California, Berkeley, may have exposed the personal data of up to 600,000 state residents.

Officials investigating the breach said Wednesday they aren't sure if the intruder accessed the critical information and they haven't seen signs of identity theft. However, they are recommending that people whose data may have been compromised take precautions.

"Given the nature of the information that was there, our call was that it was most prudent to get the word out," said Carlos Ramos, assistant secretary for the California Health and Human Services Agency.

The database included information going back to 2001 on people in the In-Home Supportive Services program, which provides assistance to the elderly and disabled. A researcher had been authorized to use the data for a study on how wages paid to IHSS providers affect turnover, Ramos said.

Ramos said the information included names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers of as many as 1.4 million people, although he said some of the records may have been duplicated.

Late Wednesday, Berkeley officials said up to 600,000 people were involved. They identified the researcher as a visiting scholar working in the campus' Institute of Industrial Relations.

IHSS recipients and providers who could be in the database were warned to notify major credit bureaus that their information may have been compromised.

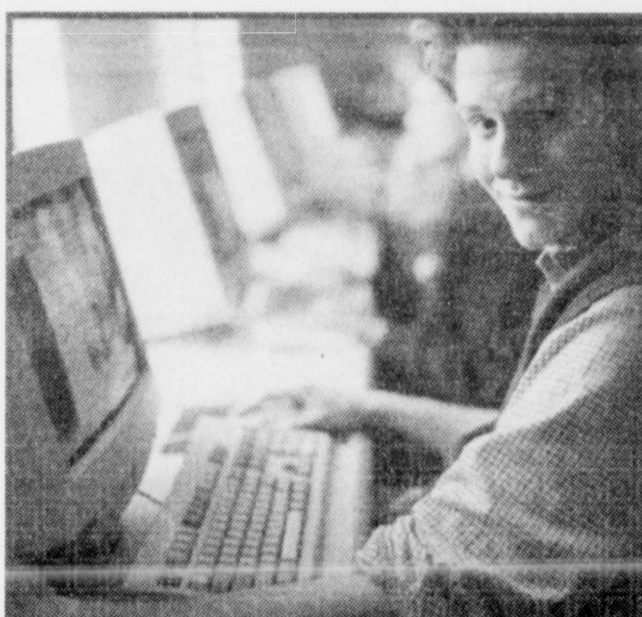
Since 2003, California law has required companies and agencies to warn people when their personal data may have been compromised.

Chris Jay Hoofnagle, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, D.C., said that's been a catalyst for more openness and "given the public a window into a very serious problem of information security. About once a month now, we hear about a very major information privacy breach as a result of this law."

Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., has been working to pass a similar bill at the federal level.

California law SB1386 requires that state agencies and businesses keeping computerized data disclose any breach of security that includes personal information. It was passed after a hacker broke into a system containing information on about 260,000 government employees.

Ramos said officials decided to disclose the breach as a precaution; he said the law doesn't force disclosure unless it is determined a database has been downloaded. However, Hoofnagle noted that the law provides for notification if the data "is reasonably believed" to have been taken by an unauthorized person.



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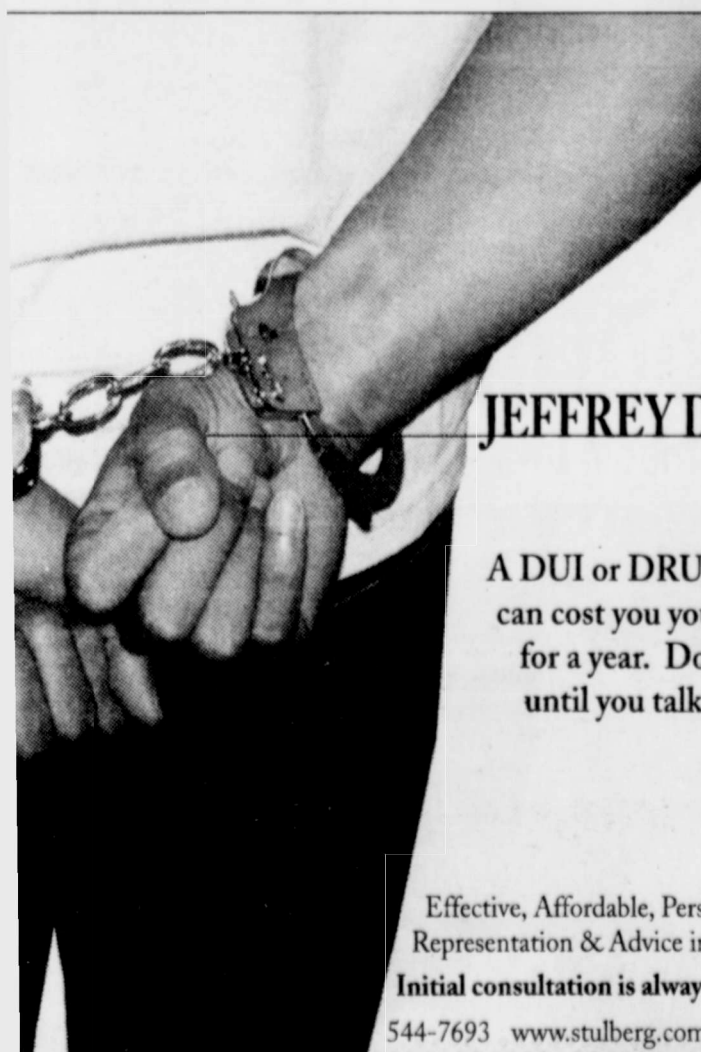

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BRIEFS

4 Thursday, October 21, 2004

STATE NEWS

SAN FRANCISCO —

Heavy snow and high winds were hampering efforts Wednesday to rescue several teams of hikers stranded in the Central Sierra.

At least three separate rescue attempts were under way in the mountains of Fresno and Madera counties:

Four members of a Santa Cruz County wine-making family have

been missing since Sunday. Rescuers located their vehicle near Courtright Reservoir east of Fresno and believe they were hiking east toward a high-elevation lake.

Four men from the eastern San Francisco Bay area city of Lafayette remained stranded near the southern boundary of Yosemite National Park. They were reported missing Tuesday morning but apparently changed the itinerary they left with family members, setting back

rescue efforts.

A man and a woman from San Luis Obispo County were missing in the Dinkey Creek area east of Fresno.

...

SACRAMENTO — A Southern California lawyer was ordered to pay nearly \$1.8 million for misusing a consumer protection law by filing "shakedown" lawsuits against small businesses, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Wednesday.

Attorney Harpreet Brar was also ordered by Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter J. Polos to repay 10 nail salons and one video store a total of \$11,200, Lockyer said.

In a lawsuit filed in July 2003, Lockyer claimed that Brar and the Brar & Gamulin law firm sued hundreds of small businesses in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties solely to obtain nuisance settlements.

—Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. —

Emergency crews searched woods and open fields early Wednesday for possible survivors of a commuter plane crash that killed at least eight people but left two others with only broken bones.

The American Airlines-affiliated Corporate Airlines plane, a twin-engine turboprop, crashed in the woods a few miles short of the

Kirkville airport where it was preparing to land. Five people were missing, and the cause of the crash had not been determined.

One survivor, a 44-year-old woman, was walking around when rescuers arrived at the crash scene, and a 68-year-old man was found alive in brush about 25 feet from the fuselage.

...

ST. LOUIS — The National Park Service is upset over a plan to illuminate the Gateway Arch in

pink on Monday in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Spokesman Dave Barna said Wednesday the Park Service is not opposed to the cause, but rather the precedent it sets for possible future uses of the 630-foot-tall arch, which the agency is charged with maintaining.

"If you allow a certain type of event with one organization, you open it up to everyone else," he said.

...

SEATTLE — A two-seat Czechoslovakian fighter-trainer jet with two men aboard vanished en route from Boeing Field to Idaho after reporting flight-control problems over the Cascade Mountains.

A search for the single-engine L-39 registered to Rocky Stewart of Hollister, Calif., was launched by the aviation emergency services division of the state Department of Transportation.

—Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The shaky coalition governing Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus resigned Wednesday after months of confusion in the minority government following a failed referendum to reunite the divided island.

Mehmet Ali Talat, who serves as prime minister in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, submitted his resignation to Turkish Cypriot

leader Rauf Denktaş, nine months after taking office. Talat, who is extremely popular for his efforts to reunite the island, is expected to remain as premier until a new government can be formed.

...

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Retired Gen. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was sworn in as Indonesia's sixth president on Wednesday, but must now make good on election promises to tackle rising Islamic militancy, battle

graft and fix the economy.

Yudhoyono, 55, begins his five-year term as president of the world's most populous Muslim nation amid high expectations after comfortably winning last month's elections — the first in which the country's 210 million people voted for their head of state directly.

...

JERUSALEM — Israel's Shin Bet security service has tightened protection of the prime minister, legislators and parliament ahead of

next week's crucial Knesset vote on a Gaza withdrawal, security officials said Wednesday.

In the countdown to the decision, Israel's political climate has become increasingly explosive. Some withdrawal opponents have harshly attacked Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, denouncing him as a dictator who is endangering Israel. Security officials said the Shin Bet is on high alert regarding possible attacks on Sharon.

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A pastor says he was "just kidding" when he told airport security he had a bomb, reached into his luggage and pulled out a Bible, declaring, "This is my bomb."

Jose L. Gonzalez, a citizen of Spain living in Deltona, Fla., was arrested and charged Sunday with making a false statement.

Gonzalez was earlier reported to be part of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. However, organization officials said Wednesday he is not a member of their group, but a part of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, a group that broke from the denomination in the mid-1860s.

The incident occurred as security screeners at the Nashville International Airport were searching his carry-on bag. Gonzalez, a passenger on an Orlando, Fla.-bound Delta flight, had already raised suspicion when screeners found a laptop computer that he said at first he didn't have.

An investigation determined that Gonzalez did not pose a threat, but the FBI still arrested and charged him with making the statement. U.S. Magistrate Judge Cliff Knowles presided over Gonzalez's initial court appearance Tuesday and advised him that, if convicted, he faces up to five years in prison and a potential fine of \$250,000.

—Associated Press



UNDER FOUR? OR OVERINDULGING?

54% of students go to parties or bars once a week or less. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.



Based on a survey collected by Cal Poly Reality of 512 randomly selected CalPoly students with an error margin of +/- 5%.

WITH THE MANY ADVANCES in technology, it seems everyone is using it to simplify their lives...including thieves. Laptop computers have become one of the top stolen electronic items in the last three years.

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- Store your laptop in a satchel and don't leave it in visible places.
- Back up files to your desktop regularly and keep critical files on a disk separate from the laptop.

Lock up your laptop or lose it.



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U.S. soldier pleads guilty to Iraqi prisoner abuse



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick, meets the media at the U.S. military court in Mannheim, Southern Germany, following his hearing, Aug. 24

Jim Krane
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The highest-ranking soldier charged in the Abu Ghraib scandal pleaded guilty Wednesday to five charges of abusing Iraqi detainees at the prison as a two-day court martial opened at a U.S. base in Baghdad.

U.S. Army reservist Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, 38, of Buckingham, Va., admitted to conspiracy, dereliction of duty, maltreatment of detainees, assault and committing an indecent act. He was expected to be sentenced Thursday.

Under a plea bargain deal, several other charges against Frederick were dropped, according to his attorney, Gary Myers. Frederick has agreed to cooperate fully in future investigations and courts martial, and will testify in future trials.

The Abu Ghraib prisoner scandal broke in April with the worldwide publication of photos and videos showing American soldiers abusing and humiliating naked Iraqi detainees.

Frederick is alleged to have watched as a group of detainees were made to masturbate while other soldiers photographed them. He also is accused of jumping on a pile of detainees, stomping on detainees' hands and bare feet; and punching one in the chest.

Frederick is one of seven members of the Cresaptown, Md.-based 372nd Military Police Company charged in the scandal. One, Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits, of Hyndman, Pa., is serving a one-year prison sentence after pleading guilty in May to three counts.

Spc. Armin Cruz, 24, a Military Intelligence soldier, was sentenced last month to eight months of confinement, reduction in rank to private, and a bad conduct discharge for his part in the scandal.

Frederick, who was in charge of the night shift at the "hard site" facility at Abu Ghraib, told military judge Army Col. James Pohl that Military Intelligence and civilian interrogators "would tell us what conditions to set for (detainees)." That included removing

detainees' clothing, depriving them of sleep, or taking away their cigarettes, Frederick said. He said they wanted detainees "stressed out, wanted them to talk more."

During a notorious Nov. 4 incident captured on camera and transmitted around the world, Frederick said he had helped place wires on a detainee's hands and told him he would be electrocuted if he fell off a box.

"I took one and wrapped it around his finger. Sgt. (Javal) Davis put one on his hand. Spc. (Sabrina)

Harman one on his toe," he said.

Frederick said he thought the interrogator wanted him to scare the prisoner to help out with the interrogation.

"Did you think what you were doing was right?" the judge asked.

"I was wrong about what I did and I shouldn't have done it. I knew it was wrong at the time because I knew it was a form of abuse," Frederick replied.

He said that photos taken of the incident were personal photos.

During another incident on Nov. 8, Frederick admitted that he joined another soldier who jumped on a pile of seven detainees accused of rioting.

Frederick said the soldiers stomped on the prisoners' hands and feet, adding "I should have stopped it right there."

Detainees were strip-searched and remained naked, even after female soldiers arrived on the scene, Frederick said he pulled out the ringleader in the group and hit him in the chest so hard that he needed medical attention.

"I stood him up and punched him in the chest. I was angry. They told me he was the ringleader. He hit a female soldier in the face with a rock," the soldier said.

During the same incident, Frederick said he watched as the group of detainees lined up naked against a wall with bags on their head, and then forced them to masturbate.

Then he and several other soldiers took pictures of the scene, he said.

Asked whether he believed the actions and pictures were "indecent," Frederick agreed but said he did it "just to humiliate" the Iraqi detainees. The detainees were later piled into a naked, human pyramid. Twelve photos and a video were submitted as evidence.

Frederick said he only learned afterward that there were regulations regarding treatment of the detainees.

I had no support when I brought things up to my command. They told me to do what (Military Intelligence) told me to do," he said.

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REVIEW

Punk veterans The Vandals gave fans what they wanted

Jamie Brady
MUSTANG DAILY

Orange County punk legends The Vandals lived up to their reputation at SLO Brew on Sunday night, performing some of their most recognized songs along with their new tunes.

The band blended fan-favorites such as "It's a Fact," and "Be a Good Robot," with new tracks from their recently released LP, "Hollywood Potato Chip." They threw the audience a curveball with a reinterpretation of the "Grease" classic, "Summer Lovin'," but the audience ate it right up. The band kept the crowd's intensity high throughout the entire set, fueling the mosh pit with energy.

The Vandals, like many other bands in their genre, use humor in many of its songs. But, unlike bands such as Sum 41, for instance, they have the skill and musical talent to back up the joke.

The band kept a close connection to the audience, grabbing their hands, pulling people up onto the stage and cracking jokes.

The Vandals are the kind of punk band that would never be found on a major label like some of their musical counterparts. They prefer using indie labels that aren't as well known. The band has stuck to its roots

throughout the years, adding their own flavor to every record they create.

The Vandals originated in the early 1980s in Huntington Beach, and have been known for setting the tone of Orange County's booming punk and ska scene. The group worked up a reputation for themselves, earning them the opportunity to sign with Bad Religion's Epitaph label for their 1982 debut album, "Peace Thru Vandalism."

The current members in the band have been together since 1989, but through the years some of the members have become involved in side projects. Josh Freese, drummer, did a stint with Guns 'N' Roses and A Perfect Circle, and is the current drummer for Devo. Warren Fitzgerald played electric guitar for Tenacious D's album and performs with them when they play as a full



COURTESY PHOTO

Southern California punkers, The Vandals, took the stage at SLO Brew Sunday night. The band played old favorites as well as songs off their new album, 'Hollywood Potato Chip.' The God Awfuls opened the show.

band.

In 1996, band members Joe Escalante and Warren Fitzgerald formed their own record label, Kung Fu. They launched their label with a holiday album, "Oi to the World: Christmas with The Vandals" and also

began signing other up and coming acts as well, including the band that set the tone for the night, The God Awfuls.

Originally from Los Angeles, The God Awfuls featured a more hardcore sound than the straightforward

punk of The Vandals. The group's tight set paved the way for the night's headliners.

Both bands put on solid performances and gave the audience just what they were looking for: a real punk show.

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PIZZA

Elliott Smith leaves behind one last gift

Valerie Chung
TUFTS DAILY

MEDFORD, Mass. — For an album that Elliott Smith was working on at the time of his death, "From a Basement on the Hill" is surprisingly beautiful, complex and, at times, even vigorous.

Rest assured that this is not one of those cases where the record company throws together bits and pieces from old recordings and previously unreleased material to cash in on the passing of an artist. These are his last efforts, which seem to gain a poignant coherence even though he was an artist who had previously been so successful at distorting and muffling strong emotion.

To be sure, the feelings have stayed the same. The searing isolation, bitter

melancholy and weary resignation still resound from heart-rending balladry and heavily orchestrated indie-rock arrangements.

Smith has always achieved emotional effect by combining scathing or gut-wrenchingly sad lyrics with warm, beautiful melodies. In the potentially-titled "A Distorted Reality Is Now A Necessity To Be Free," Smith's silken voice sounds strangely placid, floating over his strumming guitar as he sings, "You disappoint me / You people raking in on the world / The Devil's script sells you the heart of a blackbird."

Smith himself described his music as "impressionistic" and rejected the classification of his work as "folk," saying that folk music was too defined, too carefully crafted to put forward a message or moral. Indeed, while an artist like Dylan seems much in control behind the tongue-in-cheek humor of his lyrics, Smith only reflects and projects the moments that seem to overwhelm him.

He wearily chides himself for his alienation and lack of purpose in "Memory Lane," singing "I do what people say and lie in bed all day" and regretfully accepts being "strung out again" in the appropriately titled song, "Strung Out Again."

Throughout his life, Smith struggled with drugs and depression. Although he told interviewers that the drug theme in his music was more often used to depict dependence and emptiness in general, he

also mentioned that most of the people in his life were depressed or addicts. Sadly, friends told the press after his death that working on this album seemed to be helping him through a bout of extreme depression.

Musically at least, the album makes progress. Smith was a huge Beatles fan and while previous albums like "XO" and "Either/Or" were certainly Beatlesque, "From a Basement" particularly recalls the White Album in managing to combine melody and poetry minimalistically. The lullaby "Little One" resembles the Beatles' "Good Night" and Smith's fondness for combining upbeat, catchy strumming with haunting character sketches does not stray far from classics like "Eleanor Rigby."

The tracks range from quieter, acoustic ballads like "Let's Get Lost," to fuller, louder rock pieces complete with clashing symbols, background vocals and hammering piano chords. The best tracks on the album are those in which Smith translates his frustration into full-blown musical brilliance, like in the opening track "Coast to Coast."

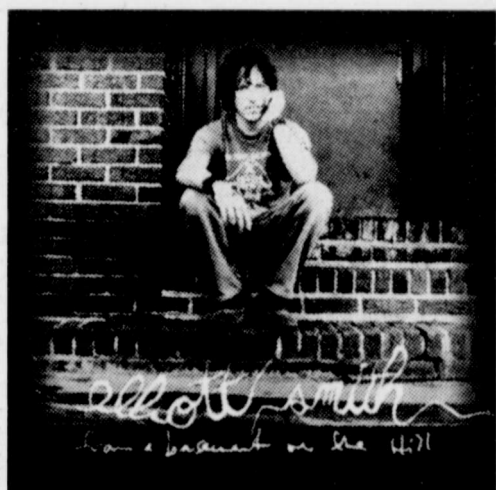
With these songs, it's easy to see how he's influenced an indie scene that includes Badly Drawn Boy, the Shins and Bright Eyes.

The posthumous release of "From a Basement" will surely instill fans with much regret that, despite the many signs of energy and progress to be found in the album, it will be his last contribution to the indie-pop scene that he helped to create.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elliott Smith, who died a year ago from an apparent suicide, has left behind masterpiece album, "From a Basement on the Hill."



COURTESY PHOTO

According to Smith's friends, the recording of "From a Basement on the Hill," was helping him work through a bout of depression.

Download of the day

Xiu Xiu

"I luv the Valley Oh!"

Vocalist Jamie Stewart earned comparisons to the Cure's Robert Smith, while Xiu Xiu has been compared to many angular guitar bands from the 70s and early 80s, while taking a more avant-garde, minimalist approach.

Courtesy of theatre arts senior Lindsay Kronmiller

Have a suggestion for the Download of the Day? e-mail us at artsandculture@mustangdaily.net

please include your name, year and major and why the song should be downloaded

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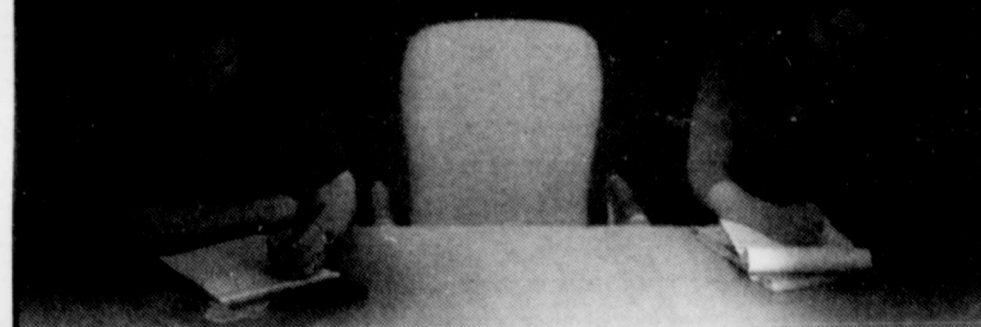
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Choosing a political party

Erica Drummond
MUSTANG DAILY

From a stance on abortion rights to whether a candidate looks presidential, a wide array of reasons to choose a political party can bombard students, with many influences coming from one's own home.

Throughout childhood, it might seem logical for kids to imitate their parents' political views. As they grow up, some may find it hard to shake the perspective they've assumed their whole lives, while others may become easily swayed by friends and the media. This can become especially true for teens entering college and reaching the voting age.

"The friends you make in college can have a big influence on you," business freshman Jenna Savage said. "You meet so many people and have all these new ideas introduced to you."

Some people may never be influenced by their parents to begin with, deciding early on to think for themselves, as computer science and philosophy junior Nam Nguyen did.

"I'm definitely the black sheep of my family," Nguyen said. "Most of my family's Republican and I'm not — I get yelled at a lot."

Nguyen does feel, however, that it's easy to be persuaded by the views of one's parents.

"Choosing a political party is an issue that hits close to home with people because we live here — our choice has a direct effect," he said. "But it's also an issue that can feel far away and hard to grasp because we don't interact with our leaders."

It's that distant feeling, Nguyen said, that makes it comforting for a student to fall back on the values and ideas that their parents have tried to pass on.

A sense of comfort, as political science sophomore Hans Poschman pointed out, can persuade people to join a political party.

"It's a way of identifying yourself," Poschman said. "No matter how much they say they want to be different, people

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ

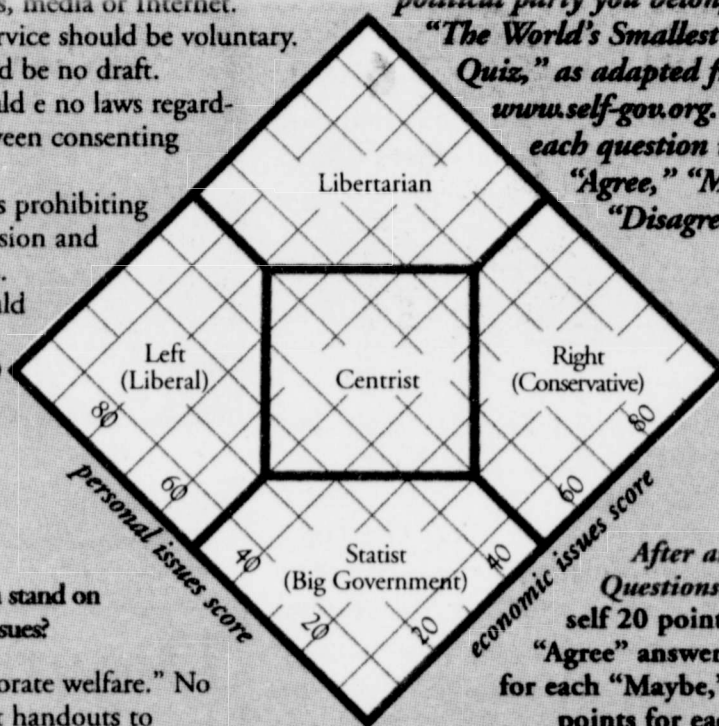
What political party best fits you?

How do you stand on personal issues?

- Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet.
- Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft.
- There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults.
- Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs.
- There should be no National ID card.

How do you stand on Economic Issues?

- End "corporate welfare." No government handouts to business.
- End government barriers to international free trade.
- Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security.
- Replace government welfare with private charity.
- Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.



Instructions: To find out what political party you belong in, here's "The World's Smallest Political Quiz," as adapted from www.self-gov.org. Answer each question with "Agree," "Maybe" or "Disagree."

Agree 20 pts
Maybe 10 pts
Disagree 0 pts

After answering the Questions: Give yourself 20 points for each "Agree" answer, ten points for each "Maybe," and zero points for each "Disagree." After you're done answering, add up your two totals (one from the Personal Issues, the other from the Economic Issues). Find your Personal Issues total on the left side of the grid and your Economic Issues total on the right side. Where the two lines intersect is where you most fit in politically!

What your score from "the worlds smallest quiz" means

Libertarians: support liberty and freedom of choice. They believe the only governmental purpose is to protect people from violence. They value individual responsibility, and tolerate economic and social diversity.

Left-Liberals: generally embrace freedom of choice in personal matters, but support central decision-making in economics. They want the government to help the disadvantaged in the name of fairness. Leftists tolerate social diversity, but work for what they might describe as "economic equality."

Right-Conservatives: favor freedom of choice on economic issues, but want official standards in personal matters. They favor free market, but frequently want to defend the community from what they feel offends morality or traditions.

Statists: want government to have a great deal of control over individuals and society. They support centralized planning and often doubt whether liberty and freedom of choice are practical options.

really like being in a group. They see is all you know."

Poschman also noted what an impact the media can have on someone's political decisions.

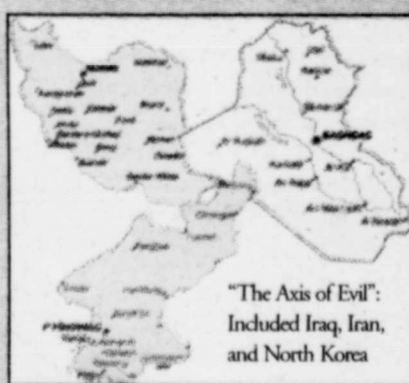
"The media can be a huge influence, especially if you get it only from one source," he said. "If you just listen to Air America, you're going to think liberally. If you watch Fox News, you're going to think conservatively, because what you

These types of biases can lead some people to shun the media, feeling that these sources are not accomplishing their objective duty.

Whether students allow themselves to have their opinions molded by outside sources or not, by the time they finish college, many feel they will have a solid stance on the politics that concern them most.



Civil Rights	Has both opposed and supported affirmative action
	Backs constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages
	Supports "don't ask, don't tell" policy
	Opposes gay adoption
Defense	Opposes expanding federal law to cover sexual orientation
	Has ordered limited NMD system deployed by 2004
	Has not proposed increasing Army's size
Health Care	Would increase military spending 4.2 percent to \$380 billion
	Supports reducing drug costs for low-income patients
Social Issues	Supports adding drug benefit to Medicare
	Opposes except in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life
	Supports the death penalty
Foreign Policy	Reduce illegal drug usage by 10 percent over two years
	Authorized war to oust Saddam Hussein regime
	Initially opposed UN involvement; now warming to the idea
	More than \$1 billion proposed for reconstruction



Jan. 29, 2002 — In President George W. Bush's State of the Union address, he identifies Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "Axis of Evil." He declares that the United States "will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."

Nov. 8, 2002 — The U.N. Security Council unanimously passes Resolution 1441, enforcing tough new arms inspections on Iraq and clear-cut, explicit definitions of what makes up a "material breach."

Nov. 27, 2002 — Weapons inspections begin again in Iraq under command of the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.N. experts.

Dec. 21, 2002 — President Bush approves the deployment of U.S. troops to the Gulf region.



Jan. 27, 2003 — Bush receives a letter signed by 130 members of the House of Representatives, urging him to "let the inspectors work."

Jan. 28, 2003 — In his state of the union address, President Bush states he is ready to attack Iraq, even without a U.N. mandate.

Feb. 24, 2003 — The United States, Great Britain, and Spain present a proposed resolution to the U.N. Security Council stating it is time to approve use of military force.

2002

January

August

November

December

2003

January

March

May

War In Iraq timeline

Jannie Brady
MUSTANG DAILY

The war in Iraq and its aftermath have left many Americans with mixed emotions. They are saddened by the loss of life, proud of their soldiers and wondering what will happen next. Here is a timeline the events that happened since President George W. Bush's first State of the Union speech.

The information for the dates of January 29, 2002 to July 9, 2003 was found at www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/war-timeline.htm

The information from July 22, 2003 — September 15, 2004 was found at www.cnn.com.

In a report made public on Oct. 6, Charles A. Duelfer, the top American inspector in Iraq, said Iraq essentially destroyed its weapons capability after the Persian Gulf ended in 1991. Its capacity to produce weapons eroded even further by 2003.

More than 1,000 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the invasion and after the end of major combat in May 2003. The Iraqi civilian death toll is estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000.



March 17, 2003 — Great Britain's ambassador to the U.N. says the diplomatic process on Iraq has ended, causing arms inspectors to evacuate. President Bush gives Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war.

March 19, 2003 — Invasion of Iraq begins when the United States launches Operation Iraqi Freedom.

March 20, 2003 — The United States launches a second round of air strikes against Baghdad, and ground troops enter the country for the first time, crossing into southern Iraq from Kuwait.

March 21, 2003 — The major phase of the war begins with heavy aerial attacks on Baghdad



Word on the Street

What issue is getting you to vote in the upcoming election?

Supports affirmative action policies	<i>Affirmative Action</i>
Against same sex marriages, backs benefits, rights for same-sex couples	<i>Gay Marriage</i>
Favors allowing gay men and women to serve openly	<i>Gays in the Military</i>
Supports adoption by gay men and women	<i>Gay Adoption</i>
Expand federal hate crimes legislation, assure equal justice	<i>Hate Crime Legislation</i>
Opposes NMD, supports nonproliferation and arms control	<i>National Missile Defense</i>
Recruit more service members; start Community Defense Service	<i>Increase Army Size</i>
Invest in new equipment, technology; offer better pay, benefits	<i>Program Budgets</i>
Close loopholes; financial incentives to lower drug costs	<i>Drug Costs</i>
Tighten rules on drug companies; focus on seniors, vets	<i>Prescription Drugs Benefit</i>
Supports a woman's right to an abortion; planning resources	<i>Abortion</i>
Opposes the death penalty	<i>Death Penalty</i>
More police; aggressively target traffickers; fund treatment	<i>Drug Policy</i>
Supported the war; later said Bush misled nation	<i>War in Iraq</i>
Involve other nations more in Iraqi rebuilding and security	<i>Iraqi Reconstruction</i>
Boost international efforts to secure peace, beat al Qaeda	<i>Afghanistan</i>

information gathered by Jamie Brady



"I like the way Bush is handling (the war and security), and we need to keep going down this path since Kerry doesn't have a strong standpoint on the war."

Scott Mosbacher
architectural engineering freshman



"The moral issues of America, largely the marriage issue to keep marriage between a male and female."

Laura Oates
nutrition senior



"I have voted since I turned 18 and I just believe you should raise the population to vote in this election."

Jillian Lombardo
english senior



"I'm against the conflict in Iraq and I'm for same sex marriages."

Danielle Maher
economics freshman



"I'm voting for Kerry because he's not Bush."

Josh Hardester
modern language and literature graduate



"If I were a U.S. citizen, I would vote for Kerry because he stands up for women's rights."

Marie Gonzalez
modern languages and literature sophomore

July 22, 2003 — Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay Hussein, die in a firefight in a Mosul palace.



April 30, 2004 — The appalling physical and sexual abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad comes to light when photographs are released by the U.S. media. The images spark outrage around the world, especially in the Middle East.



July 9, 2004 — The Senate Intelligence Committee releases a report evaluating the Bush administration's justifications for the war. It harshly criticizes the American intelligence agencies saying that most of the key judgments on Iraq's WMDs were either overstated or not supported by the underlying intelligence report. It disputed that Iraq was reconstituting its nuclear program or that it had chemical and biological weapons. It also concluded that there was no "established formal relationship" between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.

"In the end, what the president and the Congress used to send the country to war was information that was provided by the intelligence community, and that information was flawed," said Senator Pat Roberts, the committee's Republican chairman.

July | September | December | 2004 | January | April | July | September | November

May 1, 2003 — The United States declares an end to major combat operations.

July 9, 2003 — In hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld admits the cost of U.S. forces in Iraq tops \$3.9 billion a month — double that previously reported and not including funds for reconstruction or relief. The hearings confirm that 140,000 U.S. troops will remain in Iraq for the foreseeable future.

October 2, 2003 — According to David Kay, the lead investigator searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, no weapons of mass destruction have been found as of yet.

December 13, 2003 — Iraq's former leader Saddam Hussein is captured by American troops. The former dictator was found hiding in a hole near his hometown of Tikrit and surrendered without a fight.

January 28, 2004 — David Kay, the former head of the U.S. weapons inspection teams in Iraq, tells a senate committee that no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq and that prewar intelligence was "almost all wrong" about Saddam Hussein's arsenal. His report sets off allegations: did the U.S. receive bad intelligence, or did the Bush administration manipulate the intelligence to build the case for war, or both?

February 2, 2004 — Under pressure from both sides of the political aisle, President Bush calls for an independent commission to study the country's intelligence failures.

May 8, 2004 — Nicholas Berg, an American contractor, is beheaded by Iraqi militants, who claim the grisly murder was in retaliation for the treatment of Iraqi prisoners.

June 8, 2004 — The U.N. Security Council unanimously passes a resolution endorsing the appointment of an interim government in Iraq. It authorizes U.S. military forces to remain in the country until Jan. 2006.

June 16, 2004 — The 9/11-Commission (formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks) concludes in its report that there is "no credible evidence that Iraq and al Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States." The link between al Qaeda and Iraq was used as one of the justifications for the war. President Bush disputes the report's conclusion the next day, insisting there was "a relationship" between the two.

June 28, 2004 — The United States transfers power back to Iraqis two days early. The ceremony was held in secret to prevent attacks by Iraqi rebels. Only 30 people were present.

September 15, 2004 — The Bush administration requests that the Senate shift \$3.4 billion of the \$18.4 billion Iraqi aid package meant for reconstruction work to improving security measures. The worsening security situation — with pockets of Iraq essentially under the control of insurgents — threatens to disrupt national elections, scheduled for January.

Moore's documentary attacks Bush, could influence voters

Erica Drummond
MUSTANG DAILY

Only one man has been called everything from a hero to a dirty liar, been booed by thousands on national television, has the Republican Party of Michigan calling for his arrest and has walked away from it all laughing.

Who is this man?

You guessed it. None other than Michael Moore.

After 2002's "Bowling for Columbine," Americans began to see what strong reactions Moore could stir up. From his book "Stupid White Men," to heated debates with FOX News' Bill O'Reilly, Moore has increasingly become the focus of the public's eye. After this year's "Fahrenheit 9/11," however, it is evident that the country underestimated how strong his grip on the nation, socially and politically, could get.

In the movie, which is the highest-grossing documentary to date, Moore bashes President Bush's handling of the presidency by accusing him of going to war for personal gain and business deals, lying to the American public and not responding appropriately to the Sept. 11 attacks.

The film is inundated with statistics and statements that undermine Bush's adequacy as a leader, including a jab at his actual time in the office. Moore says that Bush has spent 42 percent of his presidency on vacation — more than any other president. The movie also attacks

the way Bush was elected, observing his political and family ties in Florida that could have aided in snagging him the state in 2000. Moore even touches on what he feels was Bush's inaction on Sept. 11, saying that when the president was informed that the planes hit the twin towers, he continued to read "My Pet Goat" to an elementary school class for seven minutes.

While Moore continues to support his facts through interviews and on his Web site, there have been several claims that the movie is just a twisted piece of propaganda. The loudest of these protests is Alan Peterson's "Farhenhype 9/11," a new documentary on DVD that counters many of Moore's attacks, trying to "unravel the truth" behind the Moore's film.

"Vanity Fair" columnist Christopher Hitchens said, "To describe this film as dishonest and demagogic would almost be to promote those terms to the level of respectability."

Hitchens is not alone in his public expression of distaste. An outpouring of angry articles has flooded America's newspapers, magazines and Web sites. Moore however, seems to love the attention, negative or not — it keeps intrigued moviegoers coming to the box office.

Yet no matter how many people see the film, many wonder whether it will be powerful enough to sway the upcoming election.

"I don't think the film was particularly persuasive," mechanical

engineering junior Matt Sorgenfrei said. "If you went in supporting Bush, you probably left still supporting him; if you went in disliking Bush, you probably came out even more incensed."

Sorgenfrei said, however, that it is the middle-of-the-road voters who could be affected by the film.

One such voter is biology senior Steve Aikins, who said he still hasn't quite made up his mind on whom to vote for on election day.

"My roommates just saw 'Fahrenheit 9/11' and they really want me to see it now," he said. "But I think I'm going to wait until after the elections. Moore is just so one-sided and I don't want to take that with me when I go to the polls."

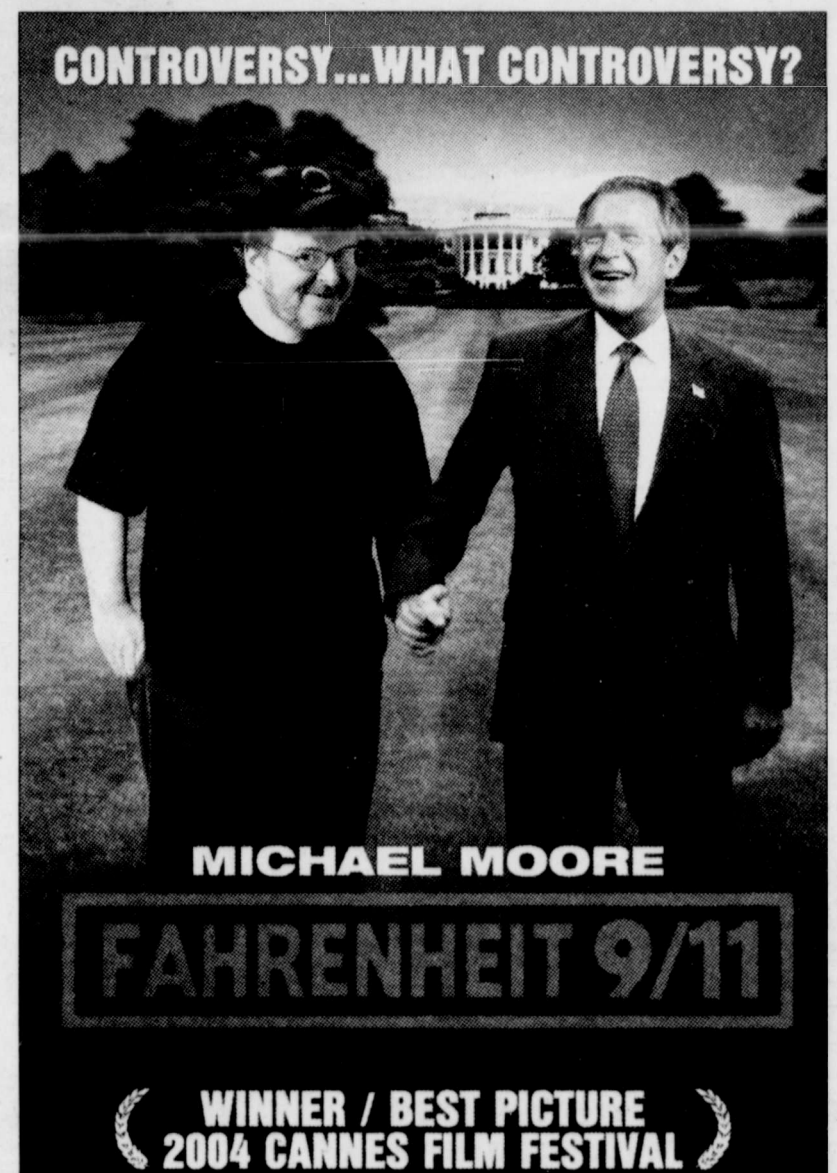
Sorgenfrei said, that one shouldn't refuse to watch a movie because of the beliefs it expresses.

"If people don't want to have opinions thrown at them, they probably shouldn't watch any news network on television," he said. "Everything has a little bias in it. You're supposed to look at it and make your own opinions about it."

"I think for the sake of being an American, with troops at war on the other side of the world, it's important to be as knowledgeable as possible," Sorgenfrei said, in an effort to urge people to see the film.

Nonetheless, Aikins said that the film is too biased to not have an effect on undecided voters' decisions.

"Some of my friends who saw



In the controversial film 'Fahrenheit 9/11,' director Michael Moore expresses his disdain for President Bush and the Bush administration's actions after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

COURTESY PHOTO

the movie are unsure like me (about whom to vote for)," he said. "And I'm sure the movie will factor into their voting decisions. I just want to wait until the election is said and done."

With election day just two weeks away, Moore is still stirring up excitement over his film, hoping that it will be nominated for a "Best Picture" Academy Award.

Sorgenfrei said he's not sure if a movie like "Fahrenheit 9/11" should be eligible for the category.

"Movies should be more about the movies themselves, not the uproar they make," he said.

As long as Moore has some say, however, everyone should expect that uproar to keep intensifying — all the way to the poll booths.

SLO local election ballot: Measures, mayor, City Council

Kimberly Masculine
MUSTANG DAILY

Presidential debates and campaigns make front-page news but important local candidates and measures are also on the ballot.

The County of San Luis Obispo has six local measures but only two will be on the San Luis Obispo Ballot.

Measure L-04 affects the county libraries. Local libraries have lost \$1 million per year due to State budget cuts. Measure L-04 proposes an increase in countywide sales tax 7.25 percent to 7.5 percent. The revenue received from the increase will be used to repair and modernize county libraries, increase library open hours and provide new books and materials that are currently outdated.

"I use the San Luis County Library all the time," public policy graduate student Leilanie Bruce said. "They have whole sections of books you can't find on campus."

Another measure that affects the residents and farmers of San Luis Obispo County is Measure Q-04. This measure would prohibit the growing of genetically engineered organisms, also referred to as GMOs. Genetically engineered organisms are organisms whose native DNA has been intentionally altered with non-species specific DNA. Penalties for growing GMOs under this measure include the destruction of all GMO crops and a monetary penalty to the grower.

Arguments in favor of measure Q state that keeping San Luis Obispo GMO free will maintain the strong

agricultural economy in the area.

"The scary thing about GMOs is that they can spread and cross-breed, contaminating crops without farmers being aware," agribusiness senior Beth Vukmanic said. "GMOs need to be labeled clearly when being sold and potential contamination needs to be addressed."

Some people see measure Q as being against more than just crops. GMOs and their resulting products are used in the medicine industry and food and beverage production.

"I wouldn't be opposed to lengthier testing of GMOs," biology senior Faith Enfield said. "But I think it is a hasty step to ban them completely."

Voters in the City of San Luis Obispo will be picking a new mayor and two city council members.

"I think voting for local council members is important because as Cal Poly students, we need people in local government who understand the problems students face living in San Luis Obispo and who will represent our best interests," industrial engineer junior Eric Veium said.

Voters in this election have a choice of three very different mayoral candidates.

Matt Mackey is a 20-year-old political science senior at Cal Poly. His priorities include affordable housing, city growth while still maintaining the distinct San Luis Obispo life and bridging the gap between student and non-student residents. He also wants to change zoning requirements to allow for more housing density per acre. Mackey would also like to see that decisions which affect all residents of

OFFICIAL BALLOT San Luis Obispo County, CA		
<p>Instructions: To vote for a candidate, make an X in the oval beside the name of the candidate you prefer.</p> <p>MAYOR (vote for one)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> David Booker</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dave Romero</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Matt Mackey</p>	<p>CITY COUNCIL (vote for two)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Christine Mulholland</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lauren Lajoie</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Orval Osborne</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Philip Hannifin</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Shane Kramer</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Andrew Carter</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Paul Brown</p>	<p>Measure L-04 Increase sales tax one quarter percent in order to repair and modernize county libraries, increase library open hours and provide new books and materials that are currently outdated. Increase will be removed.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Measure Q Destroys current crops of genetically engineered organisms, prohibits future crops and enforces a monetary penalty to the grower.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>

San Luis Obispo are voted on by the residents and not the council members and mayor alone.

Dave Romero, the current mayor, also wants to preserve the small town way of life. He has served as mayor for two years, was a city council member for eight years and a Public Works Director for 36 years. His top priorities are improving housing, the water supply and traffic congestion, to preserve and improve the downtown area and protect city revenues.

David Booker, a local businessman, also wants to preserve the quality of life. He supports sustainable growth and responsible planning. Booker has been a resident for more than 25 years and serves as the chairman if the Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo.

There are six candidates to fill two city council seats.

Christine Mulholland, a current city council member, is seeking reelection. She has also served as a

member of the County's Water Resources Advisory and as ECOSLO board chair. She supports the wise land use planning.

Lauren Lajoie, an urban planner, has been a resident since 1981, and wants to bring her experience as a planner to the growth of the city.

Orval Osborne is a planning commissioner and businessman. He has served on the City Planning Commission for the past four years and was chair last year. He is also the president and founder of Creek Environmental Labs.

Philip Hannifin, an environmental health and safety engineer, promotes affordable housing, reasonable economic development and environmental, economic and social sustainability. He has worked as an engineer on the Avila Beach project and advocates Best Available Control Technology, which ensures that planned projects are sustainable.

Shane Kramer is a lawyer who has

lived in San Luis Obispo since attending Cal Poly in 1973. He would like to enhance the quality of life through increasing access to the creek in the downtown area, more bicycle paths and park-like settings.

Andrew Carter moved to San Luis Obispo in 1996 and is a freelance writer as well as a stay-at-home dad. He is also a former business man who worked in various positions included marketing and accounting. His top priorities are increasing affordable housing and increasing neighborhood quality.

Paul Brown has been running Mother's Tavern for ten years. He moved to San Luis Obispo to attend Cal Poly and stayed to become an active member of the community. His top priorities include providing workforce housing and maintaining the quality of life in San Luis Obispo by investing in police and fire protection and public areas.

The story behind 'fair and balance' media coverage

The average news station may aim to be corporately unbiased, but those leaning to the right or left tend to top rating lists

Ji Jun
MUSTANG DAILY

Could it be we're all under the influence of giant political agendas? Are our news stations unbiased? Is your television station truly "Fair and Balanced?"

"The media on the whole is consistently centrist," political science professor Alison Keleher said. "This centrism is despite the fact that many journalists surveyed admit liberal personal beliefs, but are constrained by corporate and editorial policies that require stories to fit into centrist parameters."

While the average news station may be corporately unbiased, the few stations on the far left and far right are neither fair nor balanced and atop the ratings lists.

The most famously conservative 24-hour news channel, FOX News, has been slammed by Robert Greenwald and other media critics who question its claim as both "Fair and Balanced." In Greenwald's movie, "OutFoxed," media experts point out the conservative biases and the procedures the station uses to obtain and report news.

"I can tell you that most studies of FOXNews have concluded that FOX is neither fair nor balanced, at least not in the ways that most other mainstream media is," Keleher said.

Air America, which calls itself "America's progressive talk radio network," came to the scene as a place for liberals to get their political news. Radio, which has been dominated by conservatives like Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, is still a largely conservative network. Air America began

with little fanfare and has been somewhat successful since it arrived.

"I think most of us tend to lump news commentary shows into news which does a disservice to news shows and the media in general. FOX News itself is only a little right of center, but certainly the other commentary shows on that and other networks can be very conservative," Keleher said.

The distinction between commentary shows and the actual news sections has been blurred when the media has been examined. But Keleher's point shows there is a spot of hope when it comes to watching news which gives viewers and listeners facts and not bias.

"The media seem fair to me, but seem to shy away from asking the more difficult questions and covering the complex issues of government, business and the economy," political science department head Dianne Long said.

Print journalism is not without its own critiques and biases. After the presidential debates, editorials were written to choose a winner from each respective debate. Journalism professor Teresa Allen held up several editorials in discussing slants and biases. Newspapers like the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times showed a particular slant toward John Kerry with the Washington Post leaning toward George Bush.

Even with the inundation of political news and punditry, one professor sees a need to bring local politics into our newspapers.

"Our media needs to spend more time on ballot measures and local candidates rather than crime and police reports," said Allen Settle political science professor and former San Luis Obispo mayor.

From votes to the Electoral College

Ji Jun
MUSTANG DAILY

For most people, the election process is like clockwork — they don't know how it works but they all know it should.

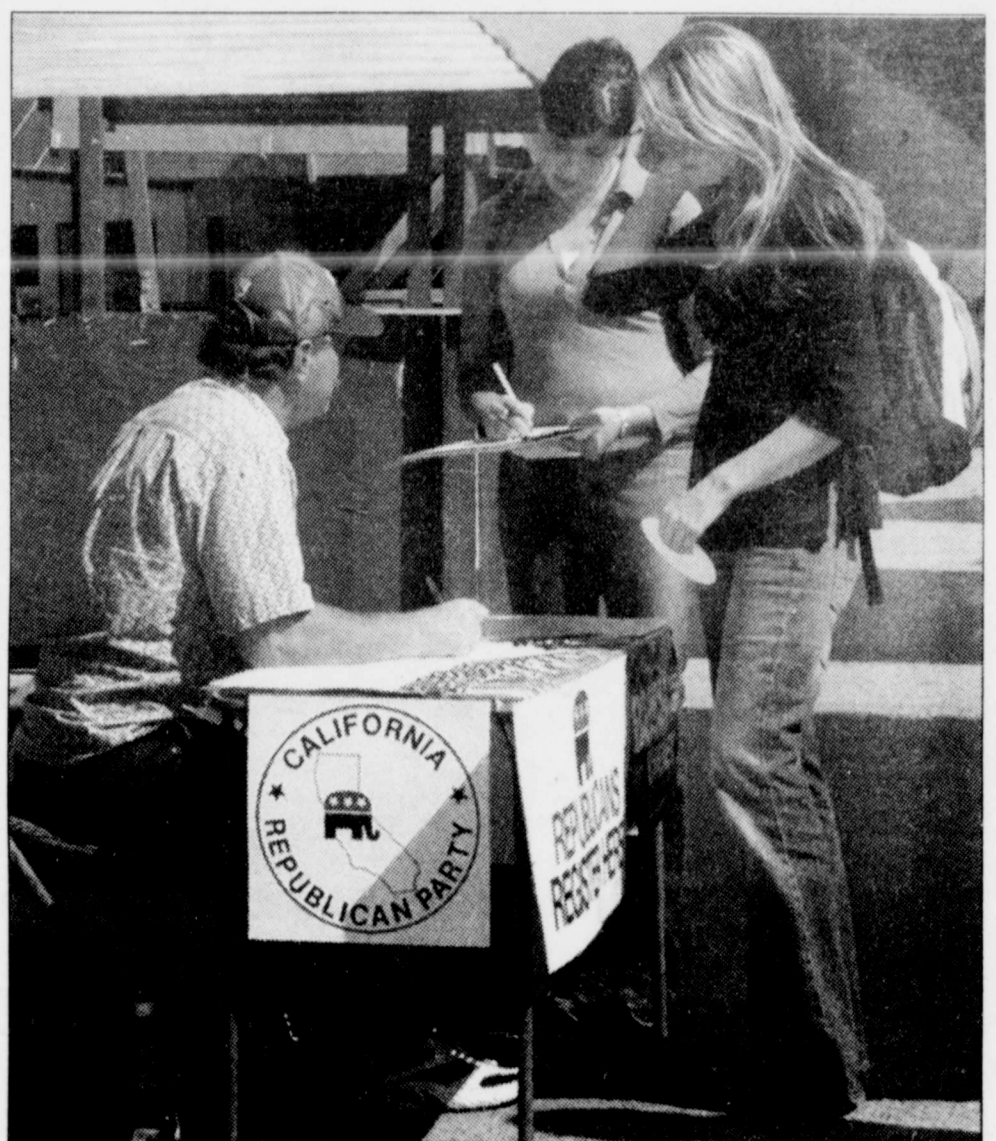
In the 2000 presidential election, the electoral process was placed under much scrutiny after flaws were revealed in the ballot-casting systems in Florida. Recount after recount, the election was eventually decided for George W. Bush, who won the election despite losing to Al Gore by more than 500,000 popular votes, according to the Federal Election Committee. What gives? What does Florida have that California doesn't?

To be elected president, a nominee must receive an absolute majority, at least 270 out of 538 of the votes of the Electoral College, political science professor Carroll McKibbin said. "Each state has a number of electoral votes equivalent to the number of senators and representatives it has in Congress. Plus, the District of Columbia has three."

Electoral College? Who would want to go to school there? Well, it's actually not a college or a school and this process of voting makes the United States a republic and not a true democracy where the majority, 51 percent, takes all. Truth is, the votes cast by the public, popular votes, are actually a means to decide which party the votes will be administered to.

Registered voters — citizens of the United States of America who are at least age 18 and have not committed a felony — will have a designated polling place where they can cast their votes. Registering, which is very simple, must be done at least 15 days before a statewide or local election and is as easy as filling out a simple application. Once registered voters cast their ballots, they are sent to an official ballot-counter which will tally votes and declare a winner.

"Whichever candidate receives a majority in a state will receive all electoral votes," political science pro-



BARBARA BENSE MUSTANG DAILY

Students stop by a voter registration table in the University Union Plaza. The last day to register to vote was Monday.

fessor Phil Fetzter said.

For example, come November, California's 55 electoral votes will be up for grabs and public voters will choose between a myriad of candidates including two of the most popular: President Bush and John Kerry. If Kerry takes more than 51 percent of the vote, he will be able to designate electors. These electors, who have sworn an oath to cast their vote for their respective party, will be sent to Sacramento to cast their ballots.

"They may be big donors or have something to do with the campaign," Fetzter said. But they are "not legally bound" to vote for their specific candidate.

In the 2000 election, a District of Columbia elector chose to abstain. In 1836, 26 Virginia electors decided to collectively change their minds. There have been 156 total "faithless

electors" according to the Center for Voting and Democracy, but it has never adversely affected a presidential election. Some states have given their voters a little more say in whom their electoral votes go to. If an initiative is passed, states like Nebraska, Maine, and Colorado, won't give all of their electoral votes to just one party, but will apportion them by percentage determined by popular votes.

"One point students should know is the Electoral College gives disproportional benefit to the smaller states," Fetzter said. Small states such as Wyoming and Nevada, whose populations are nowhere close to California's 35.5 million, still receive a mandatory two votes, one for each senator. Because of this uneven balance, it is much more possible for a candidate to be elected president without winning the popular vote.

Third party candidates offer different views

Green, American Independent, Libertarian, Peace and Freedom parties are little known groups with varying platforms

Nicole Stivers
MUSTANG DAILY

With all the media coverage surrounding Bush and Kerry, some may be surprised to learn that they are not the only ones on the presidential ballot.

Four other political parties have candidates running for a multitude of offices. With a close race expected this year, voters outside of the mainstream face the dilemma of whether or not to abandon their third party candidates in order to get one of the dominant parties into office.

"Anytime you place a vote for a candidate or a party you don't support you're telling them that you do (support them)," said Megan Arenaz, coordinator of the Cal Poly College Libertarians and an

environmental horticulture senior. In response to the idea that she is wasting her vote she said, "Someone who genuinely supports a third party should revel in the idea that a major party feels threatened."

In an e-mail interview, Steven Schlotterbeck, vice president of the Cal Poly Young Democrats and an aerospace engineering sophomore, said he has "no problem with parties other than the dominant two."

"The unfortunate problem is third parties just don't work right now. Both dominant parties have such a grip on the voting public and campaign finances that no third party will ever stand a chance of being elected."

Arenaz said when people do not vote for the Democratic or Republican parties, they are sending a message that they are unhappy with the status quo. She hopes this will cause mainstream candidates to reevaluate their positions.

According to the secretary of state's election division there were 15,625,180 Californians registered to vote as of Sept. 3. A little over 43 percent of voters are registered as Democrats, 35 percent are Republicans, 17.1 percent declined to identify with a party and 4.7 percent selected a third party.

There are six political parties on the San Luis Obispo ballot including: Green, Libertarian, American Independent and Peace and Freedom. With a lack of media coverage, not many voters are familiar with the platforms of parties outside of the mainstream.

According to the Green Party Web site, there are more than 2,500 registered party members in this county. The party nominated David Cobb and Pat Lamarche for the presidential election. The Green Party focuses on environmentalism, non-violence, social justice and grassroots organizing.

The Libertarian Party is on the ballot more than any other state

with presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik. He is on the ballot in at least 48 states and the District of Columbia.

The party advocates individual rights over governmental control, as long as individuals do not interfere with the equal rights of others. Party members value individual liberty and personal responsibility, a free-market economy and a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade.

The American Independent Party is the only party supporting the state's rights to recognize God and the Ten Commandments. The party nominated Michael Anthony Peroutka and Chuck Baldwin for the presidential ticket.

According to their Web site, party members promote the United States as a "fundamentally Christian nation" and place emphasis on the traditional family values. They would like to see Christian principles return as the basis of education. The party sup-

ports limited taxation, environmental responsibility, second amendment rights and reducing immigration.

Founded in the 1960s, the Peace and Freedom Party is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism and racial equality. Leonard Peltier and Janice Jordan are the party's candidates for president and vice president.

In the 2000 presidential election Bush received 47.87 percent of the popular vote. Al Gore received 48.38 percent and the Green Party candidate, Ralph Nader, received 2.74 percent of the popular vote. In some states, like Florida, the Republican Party had a slim advantage over the Democratic Party.

In Florida, 2,912,790 people voted for Bush and 2,912,253 people voted for Gore. Nader accumulated 97,488 votes. There may have been a different outcome if the Green Party had not received as many votes.



tb3398 The Race

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America is rescuing the world through Iraq war

Courtney Dahl, last Friday, voiced her disgust with American imperialism. I must confess that I share that disgust.

There has been time in our history that stunk of malevolence, specifically, the Trail of Tears, under which the Cherokee Nation was unjustly uprooted and starved upon a trek to Oklahoma. Also, the Mexican-American War smelled of empire-building. But interestingly enough, when Polk gave the order to start a skirmish near the border, news came that the Mexican government had already attacked.

The fact is these instances are not a reflection of the vast history of America. Time and time again, America has come to rescue the world in a time of hurt. Truthfully, if America is imperialistic, it would have made the world bend a knee after WWII, or face annihilation with the A-bomb.

The War in Iraq is just the most recent extension of America rescuing the world.

It's fascinating to think that Iraq indeed hasn't become the victim of imperialism. Its own government is now up and running and strives to imbibe the principles of freedom. Dahl, if you need an example that defines imperialism, take a look at 19th-century Great Britain or Rome 2,000 years ago. But if the Iraq War suits your idea

of "imperialism", I say a little "imperialism" never hurt anyone.
Joel Ashby
Construction management senior

Religion breeds ignorance, destroys democracy

Though I applaud Mr. Elam's retention of Philosophy 231 reading assignments, I must admonish his incomplete reasoning that led to the conclusions stated in his Oct. 18 letter.

His central argument is that religion breeds ignorance and destroys democracy.

In response to this, I turn to the Declaration of Independence, the foundation of the most successful democracy ever created. Jefferson states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ..."

Unfortunately, Nietzsche showed 100 years later that the effort of enlightenment thinkers to sufficiently ground reason that it may be considered a philosophic foundation was folly. Reason can get you from point A to B, but it cannot be the beginning of thought. The only remaining argument against slavery, murder, rape is that we all have inalienable rights derived from a God. The Christian God suitably fits this mold.

Morgan sings a tired song complaining of hypocrisy and blind ideology, and he forgets that without a God and His followers there would be no reason or will to respect the rights of individuals. He says that religion destroys democracy. I know that religion created it.

Andrew Miller
Mechanical engineering senior

COMMENTARY

Leadership needed during war

At a recent frat party, a girl told me she was voting for Bush. So I asked her "Why Bush?" Her answer: "Because Kerry doesn't support the Iraq war and they attacked us on 9/11." Oy-Vey!

After informing this college student that Iraq had nothing to do with the Sept. 11 attacks, she inquired, "Then why are we there?" Oy-gevalt!

Unfortunately, many Americans believe Iraq attacked us, or that Saddam Hussein was in some way connected to 9/11 (especially if they watch FOX News).

In March 2003, a Knight Ridder poll showed 44 percent of Americans believed that either "most" or "some" of the 9/11 hijackers were Iraqi citizens. For those unaware, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission found no connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin-Laden. Also, fifteen of the nineteen hijackers were Saudi Arabian. There were NO Iraqi hijackers. (If you are learning these facts for the first time, practice this saying: "Hello ... and welcome to Wal-Mart.")

Some may ask, didn't we go to Iraq for weapons of mass destruction? Last week the CIA published a report stating Iraq had no WMDs and hasn't had the capability to produce WMDs for more than a decade. Even President Bush acknowledged these findings. This proves unequivocally one of the main rationales for invading Iraq is false.

What about other motivations?

President Bush and his neoconservative advisers predicted after "freeing" Iraq we would be greeted as "liberators." Richard Perle, one of the chief architects for the Bush foreign policy team, was quoted in the lead up to the war that it would be a "cakewalk," and he wouldn't be surprised if there was a "square" named after President Bush in Baghdad. I wonder why Richard Perle has been so quiet lately? Couldn't Bush take his father's advice who wrote in his book, "there was no viable exit strategy" for Iraq, and we would be seen as "occupiers in a bitterly hostile land"?

The fact remains, President Bush rushed us into this war without a serious plan to win the peace (a main criticism of Bush from Kerry).

Of course, John Kerry is not the only one criticizing this administration's handling of the war in Iraq. Last year, congress approved \$18.4 billion dollars for reconstruction in Iraq and only \$1.1 billion has been spent. Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel called this "beyond painful and embarrassing; it is now in the zone of dangerous."

The only reason I can see now for invading Iraq is the brutality of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. I'll concede that Hussein was a brutal dictator, but Bush has a huge inconsistency on his hands. Bush refuses to provide any reasons why Saddam was a larger threat than Iran or North Korea, countries that likely have nuclear capabilities. Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Syria are not moving any closer to "democracy" since Bush took office. Are we going to invade these countries anytime soon?

President Bush likes to point to his "consistent" and "unwavering" leadership. I'll agree with him ... he's "consistently" wrong!

Josh Kob is a political science senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.

The hardest part of debating the Iraq War with a liberal is knowing which one of John Kerry's positions they will defend.

They could be for the war as Kerry was early in the primaries. Or they could try the anti-war platform Kerry copied from Howard Dean to secure the Democratic nomination.

They could also argue that it was the right war being fought the wrong way, or that it is the wrong war but worth finishing the right way.

The good news is that Bush's position on Iraq is unwavering. He saw a dictator defying 11 United Nations resolutions and a madman who used weapons of mass destruction against his enemies and citizens alike. The president trusted the advice of the CIA, British, French and Russians and decided to confront the gathering threat.

People also forget two very important factors in the lead up to the war. They forget that the ball was in Hussein's court. Compliance to any of the U.N. resolutions would have undoubtedly halted any invasion. He had his chance for 12 years and blew it.

Secondly, they forget that both John Kerry and John Edwards voted for the war and claimed that Hussein was our most serious threat. On Jan. 23, 2003, John Kerry said: "Without question, we need to disarm Saddam Hussein. He is a brutal, murderous dictator; leading an oppressive regime ... So the threat of Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is real."

Since then, they have both switched their positions because they hope to exploit American deaths and political unrest. They also stand by their conflicting votes for the war but against body armor and bullets for the troops.

Regardless of which position John Kerry finally settles on, these are the undeniable facts:

- 1) Saddam Hussein is no longer terrorizing his neighbors or his citizens.
- 2) 25 million Iraqis are now preparing for democratic elections set to take place in January.
- 3) Women and minorities will finally have a voice and the ability to pursue happiness in Iraq.

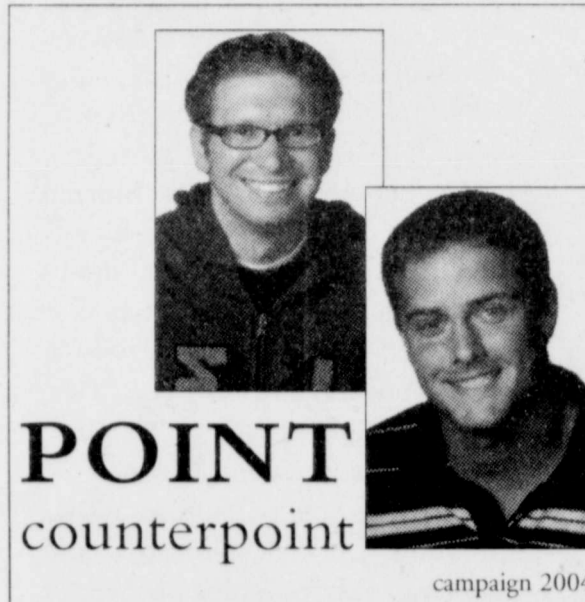
These facts are also obvious in Afghanistan, where another 25 million people just successfully held their first national election.

These 50 million people deserve our full support in spreading the benefits of liberty, democracy and freedom to the Arab world. There are also 300 million Muslims in neighboring countries focused on these budding democracies. We simply cannot set a failing example.

America fought Nazism and Fascism in WWII and look how freedom helped those countries reach their potential. Italy, Germany and Japan are now among the most prosperous countries in the modern world. Then the United States won the Cold War, ending the stranglehold of Communism. We are now fighting, not the religion of Islam, but an international movement of militant Muslim extremists determined to fight freedom.

America does not have time for John Kerry to explain his conflicting positions on Iraq. Freedom for 50 million people and security for the world is worth fighting for.

Matt Bushyuan is a civil engineering junior and a Mustang Daily columnist.



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Taxi driver takes elderly couple on 10-hour journey

Kindhearted cabbie chauffeured couple across Texas, without expecting the \$1,200 cost of the 500-mile-long drive.

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Taxi driver Ismael Baeza's back seat passengers didn't appear to have any money and didn't seem to know exactly

where they lived, but he didn't give up on getting them home. Baeza, 24, picked up an elderly couple Monday who wanted to go to their hometown in Bandera, west of San Antonio.

"About halfway through the trip, I found out that they didn't have the money to pay for the trip," Baeza said in a report in Wednesday's El Paso Times. "It was either drop them off at the next town or keep going. Something told me to just keep going. I couldn't leave them off in one of those little towns."

The trip took 10 hours and covered 500 miles from El Paso to Bandera and would have been a

\$1,200 fare for Baeza. Baeza's father, Sam, accompanied him and bought food and drinks for the couple along the way.

"I just took them all the way into town and thought, well, it's not about the money anymore," Baeza said Tuesday.

"It was either drop them off at the next town or keep going. Something told me to just keep going."

— ISMAEL BAEZA
Texas cabdriver

Bandera police believe the couple may have Alzheimer's disease and aren't sure how they ended up in

El Paso. Baeza said the couple told them they couldn't take a bus or plane home because of their parrot. Baeza said the parrot whistled all the way.

Once they were in Bandera, Baeza said he asked the man where his home was and the man said it was four hours away. That's when Baeza asked for police help. They identified the couple and handed them off to sheriff's deputies, who got them to their home in Bandera County.

Baeza said the couple gave him several hundred dollars in traveler's checks. Police later discovered the woman had about \$2,000 to \$3,000 in her wallet.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0909

ACROSS

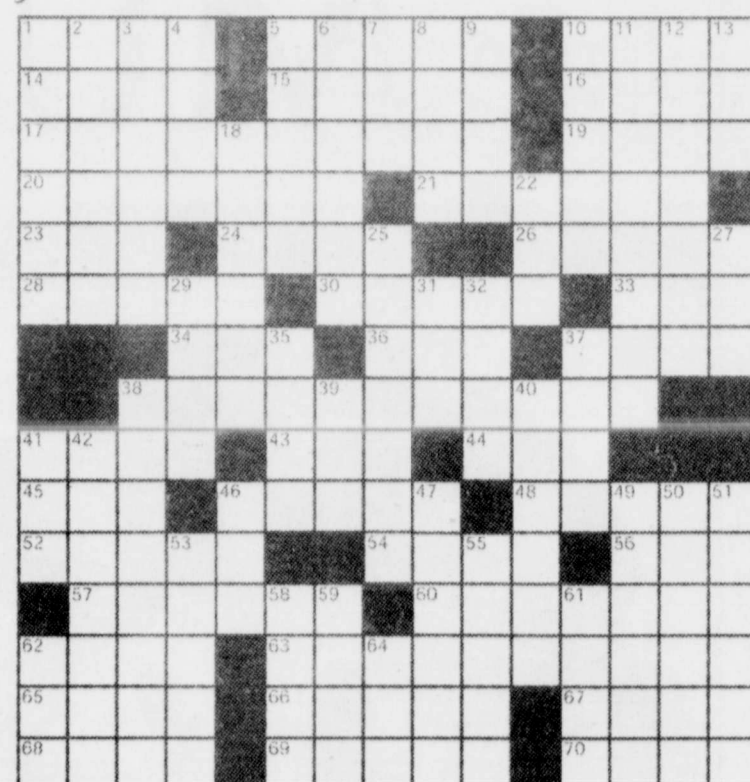
- 1 Smudge
- 5 Quiet times
- 10 Hole maker
- 14 Call's companion
- 15 One in search of a tin can
- 16 Parrot
- 17 Hesitation by actor William?
- 19 Fats Waller's "I'll Be Tired of You"
- 20 Peeved
- 21 Rustling sound
- 23 Peanut Butter Lovers Mo.
- 24 River of Hesse
- 26 Abed
- 28 Garden figure
- 30 Don't just stand there
- 33 Piz Bernina, e.g.
- 34 Suffix with modern

- 36 Reason for a citation: Abbr.
- 37 A large order
- 38 Contract term for a 1930's heavyweight champ?
- 41 1974 Gould/Sutherland spoof
- 43 Farm cry
- 44 Select, with "for"
- 45 Neither's partner
- 46 Handle clumsily
- 48 Crocheted item
- 52 Bit of nostalgia
- 54 Leaves home?
- 56 Key opener?
- 57 Vivacity
- 60 Straddling
- 62 Org. with eligibility rules
- 63 Actor Russell's Oscar win?
- 65 Is beneficial
- 66 Trade fair-goer

- 67 Greatness
- 68 Travel plans: Abbr.
- 69 Yello (soft drink)
- 70 Went down

DOWN

- 1 "The Thrill Is Gone" hitmaker, 1970
- 2 Use for support
- 3 Book specification
- 4 Ducats: Abbr.
- 5 One of a team of eight
- 6 Lessener
- 7 Cardinals great — Brock
- 8 It may be high in church
- 9 Do a slow boil
- 10 "Ditto"
- 11 Biography of a noted newspaper publisher?
- 12 Comic book hero since 1962
- 13 Babydoll
- 18 Cause for a blessing
- 22 Ft. Erie's home
- 25 Revolutionary War soldier
- 27 Later afterthought: Abbr.
- 29 G.I.'s not accounted for
- 31 Leather sticker
- 32 "Later!"
- 35 First name in humor



Puzzle by Peter Abide

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 37 Job precoder: Abbr. | 46 Apiece | 58 Long-range weapon, for short |
| 38 Famed admiral's concurrence? | 47 Mason's aid | 49 Attorney's filing |
| 39 Spread | 50 Introspective query | 59 Align |
| 40 Tournament shockers | 51 Stole | 61 Switch positions |
| 41 — Jet (winter vehicle) | 53 Bridge declaration | 62 Popular news source, briefly |
| 42 Skunk | 55 Summer time in Buenos Aires | 64 Olive — |

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A	L	I	T	G	A	R	R	S	M	O	T	E
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N	O	F	U	S		D	A	M	N	P	E	P
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SHOUT OUTS!

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Happy 200th Day You make me happy in God

Lauren B can dance for me anytime

Happy 18th Birthday Cheyna Love, Jaclyn

The Red Sox won

Happy Belated Birthday Rachel Wang! I LOVE YOU!

I love the ladies at le casa de howard.

Q: Fasten those pants for the lap dance

Yaaarr, there matie!!!

Watch out for the 50 yard fake out

"I am going to pee on you" Year Kelly

Happy Birthday Dustin Persek! Hopefully you'll be wearing your "birthday suit" for me tonight.

Shriek II

BRITTANY MURPHY!!

To Nick, Thanks for 8 great months! Happy Anniversary! Love, Amber

Lonely asian looking for asian companion Call Binh @ 408-250-6596

Golden

continued from page 16

Sierra Leone. They can certainly run faster.

The Mustangs version of MacArthur is Mark Conover, a former Olympic marathoner, a cancer survivor and a coach who has taught the Mustangs to run in packs so tight that his top seven racers routinely finish at most a minute apart collectively. To Conover, his troops are looking good.

"It looks like they'll have a season to remember for the rest of their lives," Conover said.

The Mustangs had been ranked 12th previously, after not racing for three weeks, but climbed six spots Tuesday in the Mondo Men's Cross Country Poll after a successful weekend. Besides storming Pre-Nationals, Conover also left behind a "B" team that won the Cal Poly Invitational on Saturday.

At the Invitational, where most Big West teams fielded regular squads, the Mustangs' five scorers were in the top 25 and finished within 31 seconds of each other. Also, the overall top three finishers in the race were two former Mustangs and a freshman redshirt, Troy Swier who ran unattached and took second.

Swier is one of many who would be in the top seven for the Mustangs if it were a normal year.

"Even last year and the year before they would have been in the top seven for sure," said senior Blake Swier, Troy's brother and a consistent top runner. "We just have this huge depth this year."

Depth is a good thing.

Like a Steven Spielberg film, the cross country team is well-stocked. They may not have one or

two Olympic-caliber athletes, but they'll certainly have 10 or 12 capable runners. Only seven athletes compete and five score in meets each week, but on good teams the reserves would make any one proud.

The new ranking is the Mustangs' highest ever (last season they finished 12th) and it places the team just below football, which is 6-0 and fifth in Division I-AA, as the highest-nationally-ranked Cal Poly squad.

"It's a good ranking, you know, whatever..." Conover said Wednesday. "The fun starts now, five weeks of fun."

Three meets remain, namely the Big West Championships on Oct. 30 in Riverside, NCAA Regionals on Nov. 13 in Fresno, and NCAA Nationals Nov. 22, to be held on the same course as Pre-Nationals.

Conover said the Mustangs will be challenged to crack the top four teams: No. 2 Stanford, the Mustangs' traditional nemesis; No. 3 Colorado, the only team in front of the Mustangs at Pre-Nationals; No. 4 Arkansas and No. 1 Wisconsin, which field Kenyan runners. The Mustangs are a mostly regional brigade.

Conover said there will need to be some front running if Cal Poly is to fare well against the top schools. Every Mustang will also need to be in good health, including junior Andy Coughlin who is still recovering from an injury and won't be able to run until Regionals.

Still, I think it's a good year to be a Mustang. MacArthur would be proud.

Graham Womack is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist. Email him at galexand@calpoly.edu.

ROUNDUP

W. soccer prepares for a conference comeback

Mustangs are in sixth place and must break the top four in the Big West Conference in order to make the tournament

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly (6-2-5 overall, 2-1-2 Big West), winless in its last three Big West Conference matches and in sixth place, will try to mount a comeback and rejoin the title chase this weekend with its final two home matches this season.

The Mustangs host first-place Cal State Northridge (11-3-1, 5-1-0) on Friday at 7 p.m. and fifth-place Pacific (6-4-5, 2-1-3) on Sunday at 1 p.m., both matches to be played in Mustang Stadium.

Coach Alex Crozier's Mustangs, unranked in last week's SoccerBuzz Magazine national and regional polls, battled UC Santa Barbara to a 0-0 double-overtime draw last Friday in its only match of the week. Cal Poly outshot the Gauchos 40-9, including the first 14 shots of the second half, but couldn't find the back of the net.

Cal Poly posted a 4-1-3 non-conference record before opening defense of its Big West title with wins over UC Irvine and Long Beach State.

But in the past two weeks, the Mustangs fell from first place into sixth place with a 1-1 tie against UC Riverside, a 1-0 loss to Cal State Fullerton and last week's scoreless tie with UC Santa Barbara.

Sharon Day, the Big West Conference Freshman of the Year

in 2003, leads the Mustangs in scoring with eight goals for 16 points. Heather Bryan, Becky Clark and Katie Collins each has two goals while three other Mustangs have one goal each.

Goalkeeper Liz Hill has a 0.66 goals-against average, No. 2 in the conference, and an .846 save percentage with five shutouts so far.

Cal State Northridge suffered its first conference loss Sunday, falling 3-2 in overtime to Cal State Fullerton. Kandace Wilson scored the game-winner just 16 seconds into the first overtime period, snapping a six-game Matador winning streak.

The Matadors, enjoying a huge rebound from last year's 4-12-3 campaign (2-7 for ninth place in the Big West), are led in scoring by Brianna Monka with six goals and three assists for 15 points. Rebecca Hidalgo has four goals and an assist for nine points while Casey Dodd has three goals and a pair of assists for eight points.

Goalkeeper Karen Comstock has an 0.78 goals-against average, .845 save percentage and seven shutouts to her credit this season. The Matadors, who have outscored their opponents 26-12, are coached by Terry Davila (first season, 11-3-1, Cal State Northridge).

Cal State Northridge has lost only to Western Kentucky, San Diego State and Cal State Fullerton. The tie was against Idaho State.

Pacific, one point ahead of Cal Poly in the Big West standings, lost

to Cal State Fullerton 3-1 and tied UC Riverside 1-1 last week. The Tigers were 4-1-2 in the first four weeks of the season before falling to Fresno State and Cal.

Top scorer for Pacific is Carmen Padilla with eight goals and six assists for 22 points, No. 2 in the conference behind UC Santa Barbara's Jennifer Borcich. Tiger goalkeeper Jaime Souza has a 1.27 goals-against average, .794 save percentage and three shutouts to her credit this season.

Pacific is coached by Keith Coleman, a 1991 Cal Poly graduate with a 100-86-20 record in 10-plus seasons with the Tigers.

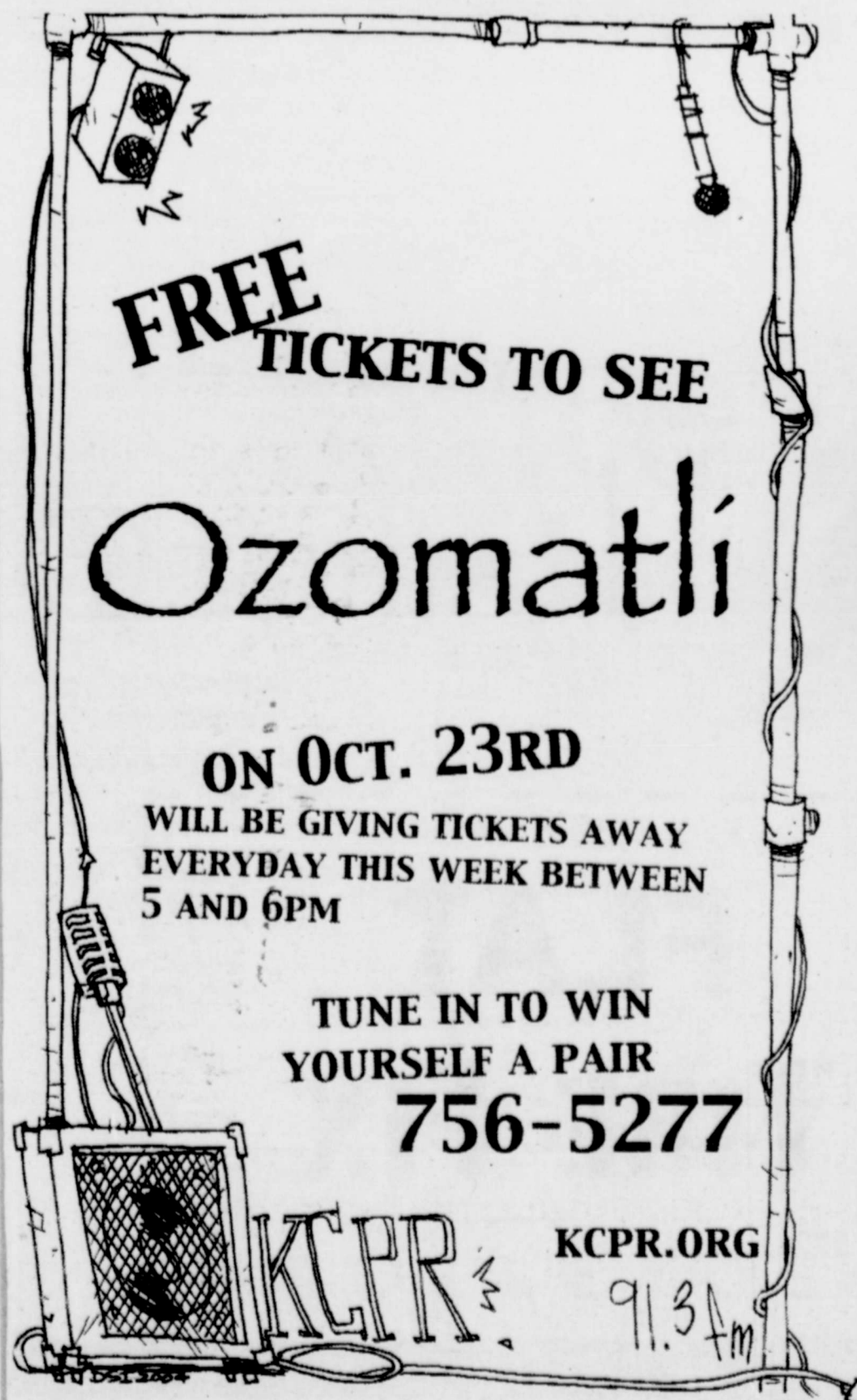
Cal Poly is 2-0-1 against Cal State Northridge and 9-2 against Pacific.

Cal Poly has won two straight Big West Conference women's soccer titles, four in the past five years and is coming off an 18-2-2 campaign in 2003. The Mustangs returned 22 letter winners — 10 starters — off a squad which broke several school records in 2003.

Cal Poly, which recorded 15 shutouts and opened the year with a nine-game winning streak, posted a 7-0-2 Big West record for its fifth title in eight years.

Next week Cal Poly will play its final two matches of the regular season on the road, visiting Utah State on Oct. 29, and Idaho on Oct. 31.

The Big West Conference Tournament will be held Nov. 5 and 7 at UC Irvine, with the top four teams in the regular-season standings qualifying for the event.



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Cross country has elites and strong reserves



Golden Graham

Where's World War II hero Gen. Douglas MacArthur? Well, he's dead, but if he were alive I'd urge him to meet the Cal Poly men's cross country team. It's not just the results — the Mustangs have sailed through this season, including Pre-Nationals on Saturday where they finished second. It's not just the ranking—the Mustangs are sixth in the nation.

It's the team philosophy. The Mustangs are less a cross country team than a cross country army. Heck, the Mustangs probably have more able bodies than the fighting forces of Ecuador, Estonia or

see Golden, page 15

Standout pitcher will be sticking around

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

Many athletes dream of one day playing their favorite sport professionally, yet very few actually realize their dreams.

For 21-year-old senior Jimmy Shull, his dream of playing professional baseball became a reality when he was drafted in the eighth round by the Arizona Diamondbacks last year.

However, rather than immediately jumping at this opportunity, Shull decided to reject the Diamondbacks' offer and return to Cal Poly for another year.

"It was a really exciting feeling to be drafted," Shull said. "But going into it I wasn't sure I was ready since I still have a lot to learn in my position."

Shull, a starting right-handed pitcher for the Mustangs, only began pitching two years ago in his sophomore season at Cerritos College in Southern California. His coaches saw talent in Shull, a former short stop, and decided to switch him to the mound.

"He is very athletic on the mound, very competitive and he continues to get better on a daily basis, making him one of the premiere pitchers on the West Coast," coach Larry Lee said.

Last season, Shull started 17 of

the 18 games he played in, and did not participate in the summer league.

A rigorous pitching schedule can take a toll on the shoulder and arm, so Shull took the summer off from pitching for strength training and to give his arm a rest.

"Being someone that's only pitched for two years, it's better to not be pitching all the time, but to work on getting stronger," Lee said.

The Diamondbacks offered Shull a \$100,000 starting salary to play for them in Arizona, but he decided to wait another year, hoping to get a better offer. Shull, a lifelong Dodger fan, is taking a risk by avoiding the draft, as there is a possibility he may not be drafted next year.

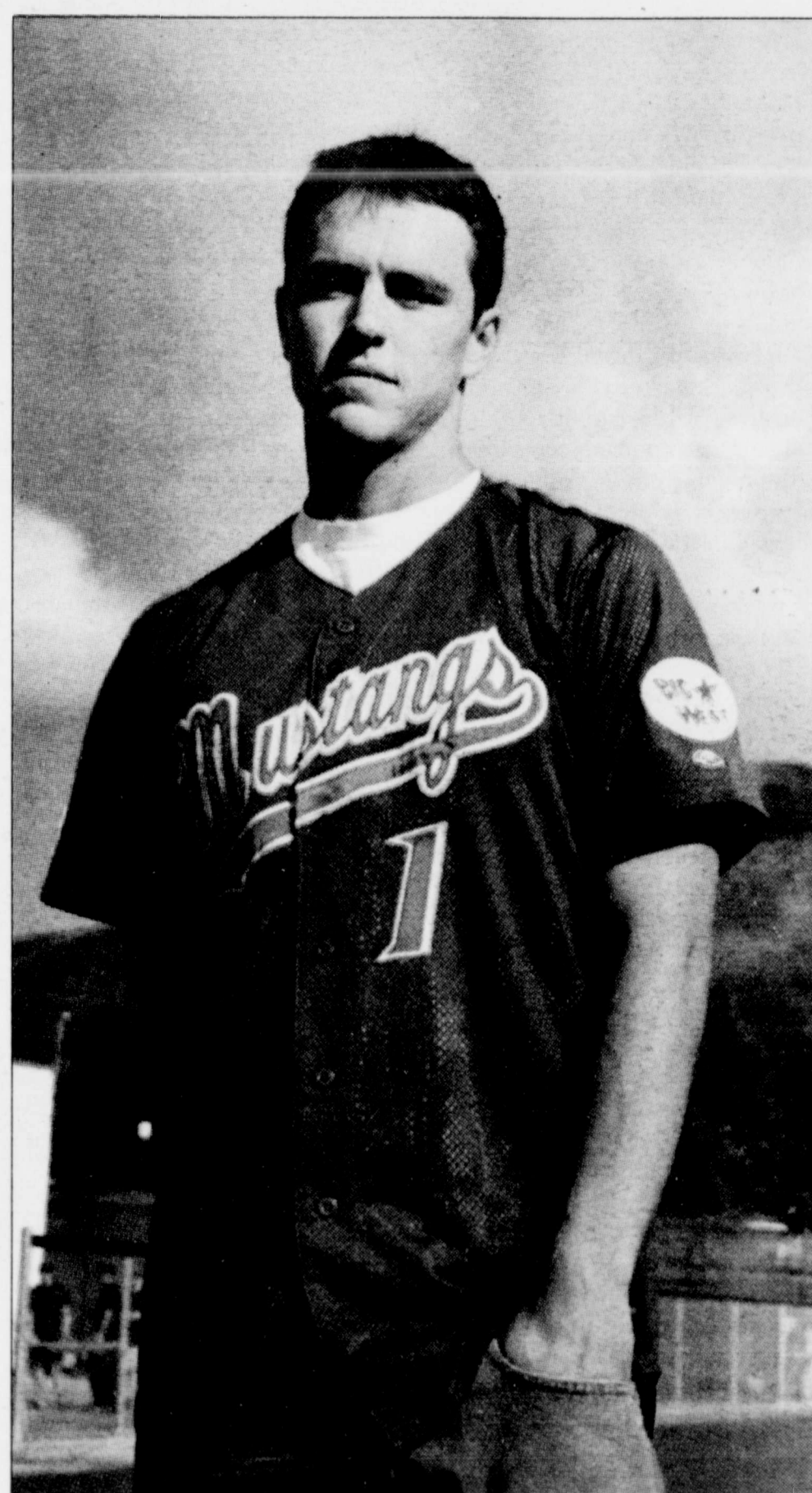
"I'm putting all my eggs in one basket by staying another year," Shull said. "As a senior, you have no more baseball left to play in college, but I had a gut feeling that I wasn't ready to go, that I have a whole lot of improvements I need to make first."

Our coaches are very good, very knowledgeable, and I can learn more staying here another year than if I were to go straight to the minor leagues."

A kinesiology major from Downey, Shull has four full quarters left to complete at Cal Poly, but he plans to finish no matter what happens within the next year.

"It was a tough decision to stay for senior year or go out and play professional baseball, but he decided that another year would serve him well," Lee said.

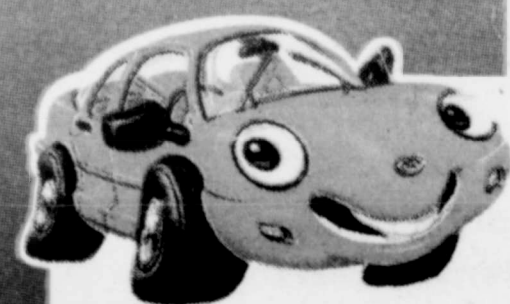
"His best days are ahead of him, and by staying back he will be able to work on his pitching craft."



SCOTT STEBNER MUSTANG DAILY

Jimmy Shull was offered six-figures to play for the Diamondbacks, but he rejected the offer to return to Cal Poly for another year.

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