

MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

Iraq rejects Sunni demands

Government brushes aside request to postpone January election; insurgents step up attacks on U.S. patrols

Robert H. Reid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi government Saturday brushed aside Sunni Muslim demands to delay the Jan. 30 election, and a spokesman for the majority Shiite community called the date "nonnegotiable." Insurgents stepped up attacks, blasting U.S. patrols in Baghdad and killing a U.S. soldier north of the capital.

Clashes also occurred north of Baghdad, where U.S. and Iraqi forces fought a three-hour gun battle with insurgents who overran a town hall and two police stations, local officials said.

Talk of delaying the election gained momentum after influential Sunni Muslim politicians urged the government to postpone the voting for six months to give authorities time to secure polling stations and to persuade Sunni clerics to abandon their call for an electoral boycott.

But the spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, said the government was sticking by the Jan. 30 date after receiving assurances from the Iraqi Electoral Commission that an election could take place even in Sunni areas wracked by the insurgency.

"The Iraqi government is determined ... to hold elections on time," spokesman Thair al-Naqeeb said. "The Iraqi government, led by the prime minister, is calling on all spectra of the Iraqi people to participate in the elections and to contribute in the elections to build a strong demo-

cratic country."

That position was strongly endorsed Saturday by politicians and clerics from the Shiite community, which comprises about 60 percent of Iraq's nearly 26 million people and which has been long clamoring for an election.

In the Shiite holy city of Najaf, Mohammed Hussein al-Hakim, son of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Said al-Hakim, said the Shiite leadership would not accept a delay and called this position "nonnegotiable."

He said elections were "the most legitimate way on the international level to express the will of the people," and "all parties have agreed on this date and we cannot take back this position for any reason."

In Baghdad, a major Shiite party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Republic in Iraq, or SCIRI, said 42 parties and individuals from the Shiite and Turkomen communities agreed on a statement affirming support for the Jan. 30 date.

SCIRI official Redha Jawad Taqi said the 42 included the other leading Shiite party, the Islamic Dawa, and the Iraqi National Congress of Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite once strongly supported by the Pentagon and Washington conservatives.

"The Shiite political council will support the elections," Chalabi said. "We will fight for the elections and will work to ensure that they are held peacefully on the specified date."

Iraq's two major Kurdish political parties said they were ready to take part in national elections on Jan. 30 as planned, but would not object if "other political powers" wanted to postpone the vote.

The Web site of the Patriotic see Iraq, page 2

IRAQ WEEK IN REVIEW

Election date holds

The Iraqi government Saturday brushed aside Sunni Muslim demands to delay the Jan. 30 election, and a spokesman for the majority Shiite community called the date "nonnegotiable."



Sunday — Iraq's first election since the fall of Saddam Hussein has been set for Jan. 30.

Monday — Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops raided a Baghdad mosque, killing three.

Tuesday — Some 5,000 U.S. Marines, British troops and Iraqi forces launched a new offensive across small towns south of Baghdad.

Wednesday — Abu Musab al-Zaqawi in a video lashed out at Sunni Muslim clerics for not speaking out against U.S. attacks.

Thursday — U.S. troops said they had uncovered the largest weapons cache to date in Fallujah.

Friday — A mortar attack in Baghdad's Green Zone killed four employees of a British security firm.

Saturday — A U.S. soldier was killed when a bomb exploded near a U.S. patrol north of Baghdad.

AP

Santa Claus needs assistance

Last year, the Toys for Tots drive gave 31,229 toys to 13,303 children; this year they hope to gather up to 45,000 toys

Erica Drummond
MUSTANG DAILY

Tens of thousands of toys are expected to be donated during the next two months for the annual Toys for Tots drive, which is already underway.

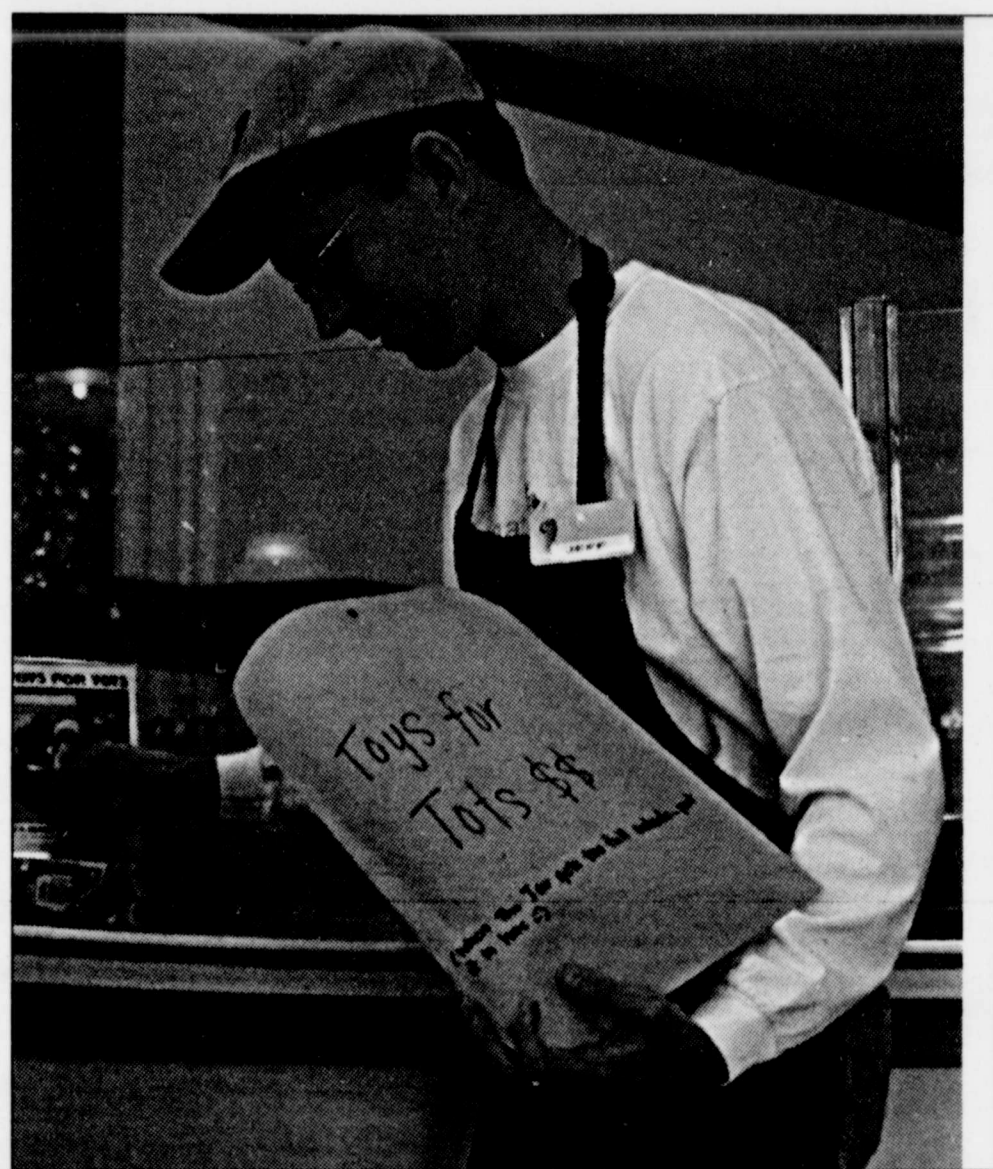
Donation boxes are spread throughout the county and as far south as Lompoc and north to San Ardo. The Marine-sponsored program is asking people to bring new, unwrapped toys or monetary gifts to one of the roughly 200 donation locations.

"In general people can get fatigued by facing the needs of sheltering and feeding people and hearing all year how much need there is in our community," said Bill Watt, Catholic Charities Head and handler of toy distribution. "But when it comes to the holiday season and toys, people identify with giving children something that they know will mean a lot to them."

Last year, 31,229 toys were given to 13,303 needy children; this year they hope to gather up to 45,000 toys, said assistant coordinator John DuMong.

"We've got so many events to try to bring out donations, from parades to baseball games," DuMong said. "Any way we can shake a toy out of anyone we'll do it."

The program began in 1947, when 5,000 toys were gathered in Los Angeles. Walt Disney even designed



SCOTT STEBNER MUSTANG DAILY

The Jamba Juice, in downtown SLO, is collecting for the Toys for Tots program. Employees are pooling their tip money to donate to the program.

the first poster and the familiar logo of getting bigger and bigger every year."

Watt said that San Luis Obispo is a generous town, but Cal Poly students seem to stand out from the rest of the community.

"Last year, at Cal Poly, the reaction see Toys, page 2

The ladies ball it up for charity

Natasha Toto
MUSTANG DAILY

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity held its 14th annual Powder-puff tournament to benefit the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Association.

The event took place Nov. 20 at Santa Rosa Park. Games began at 10 a.m. and ran through the afternoon.

Seven Cal Poly sororities participated in the double elimination flag football tournament to help raise money to search for a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Aerospace engineering sophomore Adrian Herrera said that Tau Kappa Epsilon raised \$2,000 Saturday.

"We were very pleased with the results," Herrera said. "After expenses were paid, we were able to donate \$1,500 to the Alzheimer's Association."

Herrera, also philanthropy chair for TKE and event organizer, said that the whole fraternity participated.

"About three to four active Teke members were assigned to each sorority team as coaches," Herrera said.

The newest initiated class was assigned to be in charge of the barbecue, and TKE's fall pledges refereed the tournament.

"The games were pretty intense," Herrera said.

After hours of sororities battling it out, Alpha Phi took first place.

General engineering senior Blake Morrow said the fraternity found companies to help sponsor the event. West Coast T-Shirt Company provided shirts for all participating sororities.

"Most of the money we raised came from the entrance fee that all

the sororities were required to pay," Morrow said.

Ronald Reagan is a TKE alumni, and the fraternity is committed to

see Football, page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

Melissa Phua and Trisha Ozawa came to the game to show their support.

INSIDE

'Finding Neverland' movie review

Johnny Depp as imaginative author J.M. Barrie
IN ARTS and CULTURE, page 5

Women's basketball off to a great start

Mustangs force 39 turnovers in win over Portland
IN SPORTS, page 8



WEATHER REPORT

TODAY		Surf forecast
Sunny	61°	Height: 2 ft.
		Direction: WNW
TUESDAY		Sunrise 6:51 a.m.
Sunny	61°	Sunset 4:51 p.m.

Toys

continued from page 1

was tremendous," he said. "The toys we get from the college are always the nicest toys we get. It's just so generous on the part of the students."

Watt said the program wants the average donated toy to be worth \$10, but Cal Poly students seem to go "way above that."

Wolcott explained how the organization's volunteers feel a similar sentiment.

"We just share a vision in a time of giving," she said. "We take time to work outside of ourselves to help those people we don't even know. It's amazing to be working with people who have the same motivation."

This motivation can be fueled from past experiences with the program, DuMong said.

"One year we were talking to this little girl in San Ardo," DuMong said. "We asked her, 'Are you excited for Christmas?' and she said, 'When we lived in Mexico we didn't have much at Christmas, but every year Santa

would bring me an apple.'"

DuMong went on to explain what an emotional experience the charity offers.

"Watching the eyes of kids that have never had toys in their lives, if you can stand around that and not get a lump in your throat then you're harder than me," he said with a laugh.

Toys for Tots will be accepting donations until Dec. 24. Locations on the Cal Poly campus are at the Administration building, the University Police Department, and the Education building.

Football

continued from page 1

helping raise money to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

Since its founding, the Cal Poly chapter has organized 14 tournaments and raised thousands of dollars for the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Association.

For more than 20 years, the

Association has awarded more than \$165 million to researchers seeking new methods in prevention, better treatments and eventually a cure for Alzheimer's.

Iraq

continued from page 1

Union of Kurdistan said Saturday that the party issued a joint statement with the Kurdistan Democratic Party expressing their "readiness to participate at the scheduled time."

Insurgent violence still grips the Sunni areas despite the U.S.-led assault this month on the main insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad. The attack was launched to try to curb the insurgency so elections could be held nationwide.

An American soldier from the 1st Infantry Division was killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. patrol about 40 miles north of

Baghdad, the military said.

Two U.S. military vehicles, including an armored shuttle bus, were damaged by a bomb Saturday on the road to Baghdad International Airport, which the State Department considers one of the most dangerous routes in

the country. An al-Qaida-affiliated group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Three civilians died and a dozen were injured in other bomb attacks against U.S. convoys in the Baghdad area, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

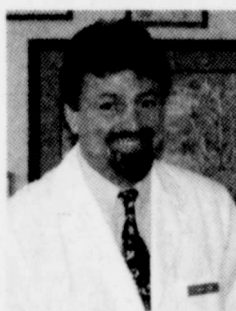
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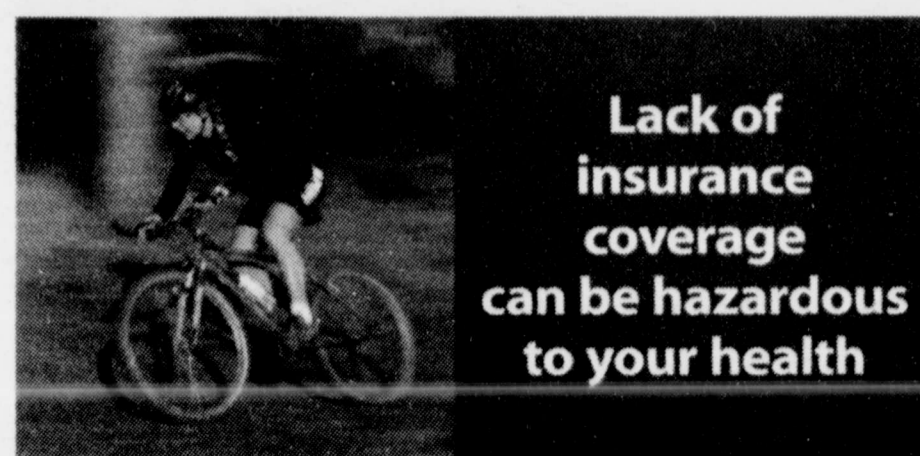
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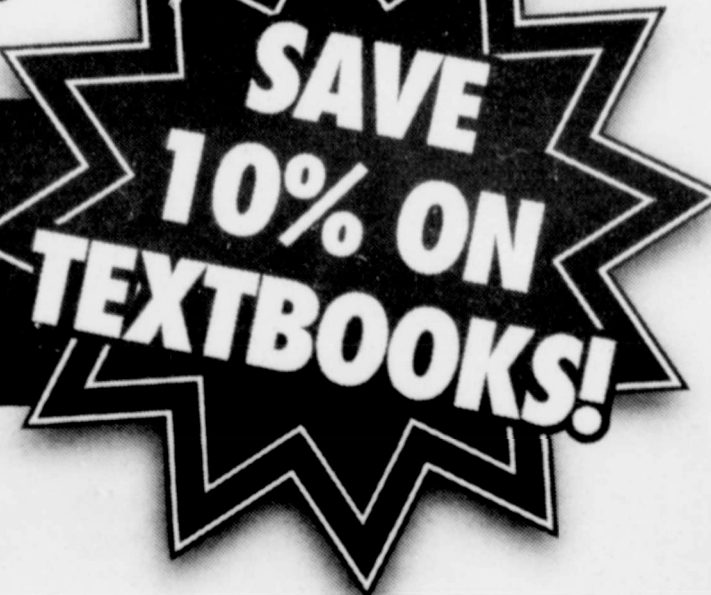
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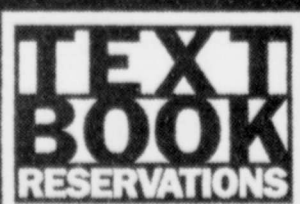
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STATE NEWS

LOS ANGELES — The illegitimate son of one of South Korea's wealthiest businessmen filed a lawsuit claiming he was denied his rightful inheritance after he was given up for adoption to a California family 18 years ago, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Peter Roach, 26, seeks \$5 million in a federal complaint accusing

five half-siblings, his father's company and others of misrepresentation, fraud, negligence and emotional distress, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Roach is the son of leading industrialist Won Man Lee, founder of Kolon Industries Inc., and a club hostess, Mee Yeon Lee, he met in 1977 and took as a mistress for several years, the newspaper said.

• • •

LOS ANGELES — It's a girl — and a boy — for actress Julia Roberts, 37, and her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder.

Roberts gave birth to twins Hazel Patricia Moder and Phinnaeus Walter Moder on Sunday morning at a Southern California hospital, publicist Marcy Engelman said Sunday.

• • •

PALO ALTO — Police contin-

ued to search for a man on a bicycle who riddled a car with bullets Friday evening, killing a passenger and injuring the driver.

The passenger was identified as Christopher Guillory, 42, of Palo Alto, a widower and father of two adult children. The driver, a pregnant woman, 32, also of Palo Alto, was transported to a local hospital after being shot in the neck, police said.

—Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

NEW YORK — The start of the holiday season was respectable but unimpressive for many of the nation's retailers, with consumers jamming stores Friday and pulling back as the weekend wore on.

Big chains including J.C. Penney Co. Inc. and Sears, Roebuck and Co. were pleased with their sales.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. was less fortunate — the industry leader said its sales in the seven days that ended Friday were disappointing, and the company lowered its sales forecasts for November.

• • •

MONTROSE, Colo. — A corporate jet taking off from near a ski area crashed through a fence and burst into flames Sunday, killing at least two of the six people on board

and seriously injuring three others. Sheriff's officials said two people were dead, but a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said three had died in the crash at Montrose Regional Airport, which serves the Telluride Ski Area.

• • •

WASHINGTON — The fate of an overhaul of U.S. intelligence agencies rests with President Bush, who must exert more pressure on holdout

Republicans if he wants compromise legislation to pass this year, a lead Senate negotiator said Sunday.

"If the president of the United States wants this bill, as commander in chief in the middle of a war, I cannot believe Republicans in the House are going to stop him from getting it," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., on ABC's "This Week."

—Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's most feared terror group claimed responsibility Sunday for slaughtering members of the Iraqi security forces in Mosul, where dozens of bodies have been found.

Meanwhile, insurgents attacked U.S. and Iraqi targets in Baghdad and in Sunni Arab areas.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Barham Saleh, said sticking to the Jan. 30 election timetable would be a challenge, but delaying it would bolster the insurgents' cause.

• • •

KIEV, Ukraine — The crisis over Ukraine's presidential election intensified Sunday, as a key eastern province called a referendum on autonomy and the opposition demanded the current president

fire his prime minister, the official winner of last week's vote that has bitterly divided this former Soviet republic.

The opposition warned President Leonid Kuchma it would block his movements unless he fired Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and fulfilled other demands within 24 hours.

• • •

BEIJING — A gas explosion

Sunday in a coal mine in central China has left 187 miners trapped, the government said.

The accident occurred at 7:20 a.m. in the state-owned Chenjiashan coal mine in Shaanxi province while more than 200 workers were underground, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It did not give an exact number of miners in the shaft.

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A gun-wielding robber swiped a red Salvation Army kettle from a collector in front of a supermarket, police said.

Volunteer Jerlene Howard said she was ringing her bell to solicit donations from shoppers Friday night when a man wearing a scarf over his face got out of a car and demanded the kettle. He "had a gun and he told me not to say anything," she said.

The man then got back into the car, which was driven by an accomplice, police said. Howard was not injured.

• • •

ST. LOUIS — Proving that diamonds indeed are forever, a widower got a gem of a keepsake made from his late wife's ashes this month: a 0.35-carat, round yellow diamond.

The synthetic stone, ordered by a man in his 40s shortly after his wife's death from heart disease in May, is the handiwork of LifeGems.

Three-year-old LifeGems estimates it has crafted nearly 1,000 of the diamonds — what it calls "the most unique memorial product ever invented" — for about 500 families.

—Associated Press

THIS WEEK

IN ASI EVENTS

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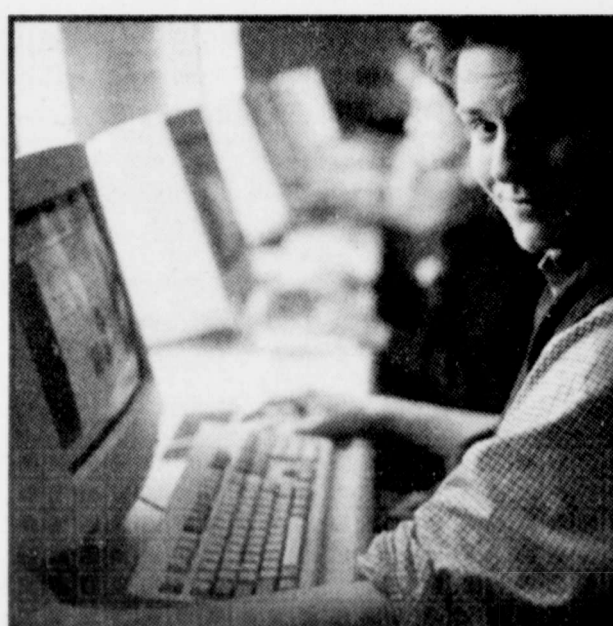
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The end is the beginning is the end

While thinking of what to write for my last column of the quarter, I contemplated the finality of occurrences in life. In the music business, bands inevitably break up and the finality reverberates through every fan. This week, I'm devoting my column to band break-ups that absolutely affected the music world and what happened since.

5. The Pixies. Final Show: April 25, 1992. I'm cheating by putting this band on the list for two reasons: The band broke up before I was old enough to appreciate their genius, and they recently had a reunion. But the break-up of the Pixies was truly a mark in musical history that led the way for many musicians. Not only did lead singer Black Francis and bassist Kim Deal go on to have successful careers, but also the variety of fans that turn up to reunion shows demonstrates just how influential the band was.

4. Sunny Day Real Estate. First break-up: March 1995; final break-up: 2001. Aside from the fact I believe Sunny Day Real Estate should have been the No. 1 band after their release of "How it feels to be something on" in 1998, its members have turned heads in many different bands since.

Bassist Nate Mendel and drummer William Goldsmith joined the Foo Fighters in 1995. Lead singer Jeremy Enigk created The Fire Theft and recorded a solo album entitled, "Return of the Frog Queen," a superb album.

3. Soundgarden. Break-up: April 9, 1997. As the grunge era suffered with the death of Kurt Cobain, Soundgarden stuck it out for nearly three years before calling it quits. Though lead singer Chris Cornell couldn't lead Soundgarden into the 21st century as his contemporary Eddie Vedder did with Pearl Jam, he did not deny his fans. After releasing a lackluster solo album in Sept. 1999, he joined the remaining members of Rage Against the Machine to form Audioslave.

2. Jeff Buckley: Drowned: May 29, 1997. Some

people say a rock star's death immediately catapults him into stardom. For Jeff Buckley, stardom came years later with a rash of b-sides, demos and live performances that are still being released. There is no doubt in my mind Buckley would have been one of the greatest musicians of my lifetime, had he only escaped tragedy. His phenomenal album, "Grace," continues to sell.

1. Smashing Pumpkins. Final Show: Dec. 2, 2000.

In 13 years, Smashing Pumpkins sold over 25 million records, released 160 songs and played more than 900 concerts in 30 countries. After the break up of such a celebrated band, the next few years were inevitably bleak. Though

three of the members are still active in the music industry, the Pumpkins' revolution is taking its last gasp and fans are hoping lead singer Billy Corgan's and drummer Jimmy Chamberlin's approaching solo albums will foster a musical breakthrough. Though bassist D'arcy Wretzky removed herself from the spotlight, guitarist James Iha is now a member of A Perfect Circle. For those who know the long and grueling story of the break-up, a reunion seems unlikely. But it doesn't hurt to dream.

Emily Logan is a journalism and music junior and a *Mustang Daily* columnist.



ROSE-COLORED noise

sounding off on the music scene

Top 10

"Songs to hear at a Bar"

Odds are you won't hear these songs at SLO Brew, but you'll hear 'em at everyone's favorite pee-smelling bar, Bulls Tavern. These songs make you want one more \$1.50 pint of "sweet yellow."

1. AC/DC — "You Shook Me All Night Long"
2. Guns 'N' Roses — "Paradise City"
3. Neil Diamond — "Sweet Caroline"
4. Don McLean — "American Pie"
5. Bon Jovi — "Livin' on a Prayer"
6. Garth Brooks — "Friends in Low Places"
7. Dexy's Midnight Runners — "Come On Eileen"
8. Jimmy Buffet — "Why Don't We Get Drunk (And Screw)"
9. Johnny Cash — "Ring of Fire"
10. Tom Petty — "Last Dance With Mary Jane"

Download of the day



Pearl Jam
"Baba O'Riley"

Pearl Jam does the best cover of this Who classic from their sold-out show at Madison Square Garden in 2003. Eddie Vedder passionately sings the lyrics of his childhood heroes in a must-have for fans of both bands.

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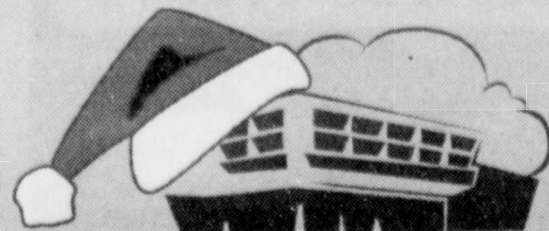


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A beautiful blend of history, fantasy

Christina Joslin
MUSTANG DAILY

Normally, when I think of Johnny Depp, I imagine Captain Jack Sparrow, Raoul Duke in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," Edward Scissorhands and other abnormal, bizarre characters. Yet, in "Finding Neverland," he plays the somewhat ordinary early 20th century playwright, J.M. Barrie.

In "Finding Neverland" (which was inspired by true events), Barrie is a struggling writer who spends his afternoons in Kensington Gardens with his dog, Porthos. He and his oversized Newfoundland stumble across the Davies family: four spirited, young brothers and their recently widowed mom, Sylvia (Kate Winslet).

Barrie provides the family with a variety of imaginative adventures in the park and out in his country cottage. In return, Peter Davies (Freddie Highmore) offers endless amounts of inspiration to Barrie through his intriguing conversations, and later the careworn author asks Peter to be a character in his upcoming play.

The movie is exceedingly entertaining and packs an enormous emotional punch. Watching every woman leave the theater with tear-filled eyes, Depp and Highmore leave the audience with a feeling of newfound appreciation for Neverland.

Like his role in "Pirates of the Caribbean," Depp gives another Oscar-worthy performance.



COURTESY PHOTO

Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet star in the new film, 'Finding Neverland.' Depp plays J.M. Barrie, author of the classic children's tale, 'Peter Pan.'

Believable as a Scottish playwright, Depp is subdued, yet utterly charming and simply illustrates his great range when contrasted with any of his previous roles.

The cute and highly talented Highmore captures the essence of Peter. The young actor gives off a perfect impression of the classic lost boy. It was easy to imagine him as an actual child well-before he finds Neverland and immortality. He easily matches Depp's virtuosity, stride for stride.

Despite the fact that the movie was wonderfully acted, directed and highly imaginative, there were a few historical details that were overlooked. After doing a bit of research,

I found the real story of Peter, and it was much more tragic than the movie depicts. Peter's mother and father died while he was a young child and two of his brothers died as young adults. In addition, Peter became distraught due to his unwanted popularity in accordance with his connection to the play and threw himself under a train when he was 60 years old. However, I agree that these bits of darkness in the story were better kept out of the movie.

Finding Neverland was intermixed with images of fantasy and reality that created a superb connection to Barrie's life as it begins to imitate his art and his talent.

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COMMENTARY

Dumbing down curriculum, students

Behold future students of Cal Poly, they shall call for your majors too. And when they get there, they shall shred them until the original intent of a university is altogether forgotten.

"When we start stripping our education, that's what screws us up in the end," computer science senior Alan Jaynes said. "The definition of a university is you come and learn about all topics. When we start stripping that, we no longer have a whole education."

The upcoming 2005-07 Cal Poly course catalog obliterates foreign language requirements for a bachelor's degree in journalism and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies.

We already lack cultural diversity at Cal Poly. Now we want to further push ourselves away from other cultures? Isn't this a step backward?

In the past, a bachelor's degree in journalism required 12 units of a foreign language. The new requirement vaporizes these units and strongly urges students to take language courses as elective units instead. Right. That will happen.

A journalism department curriculum committee made up of journalism professors decided to drop the foreign language requirement.

Journalism professor Patrick Munroe said three elements went into the decision to drop the requirements. First, the university mandated the college to reduce its units from 189 to 180 units. Second, the committee looked to see what courses they could combine and combined two classes into one. This deleted four units. Third, the committee asked journalism students if the requirement was useful to them. Most journalism students believed 12 units of a foreign language was not enough to learn how to speak a second language.

Let me get this straight. The committee needed to drop nine units. Got it. The Committee combined two classes into one. This cut four units and left five to go. So, with five units to go, the committee decided to drop all 12 units of the foreign language requirement. Why not just keep it at 185 units or combine two more classes? I'm lost. Bueller? Bueller?

For liberal studies, the new catalog deletes the past four-unit foreign language requirement and leaves no replacement.

"If there is a liberal studies major not learning a second language, how is that person going to really know English?" modern languages and literatures senior Nancy Jones said. "Learning other languages helps you understand English and learn the roots of words."

Liberal studies senior Meghan Knight's foreign language requirement inspired her to travel to Spain for a quarter.

"Without a foreign language requirement, liberal studies students will have no real drive to seek experiences in different cultures," Knight said.

Like Knight, I also saw the necessity of learning and understanding a second language and culture through studying abroad in Spain.

While there, I took classes with students from Japan, and I had a Spanish teacher who did not speak English. This made for some real trouble when a student in class did not understand something.

I remember one day in particular. My teacher, profesora Christina, taught the class a new concept that the Americans and I did not understand. Christina attempted to further explain the concept, but we still did not get it. Before long, the Japanese students could not take it anymore and explained the concept to us in English.

Let us take a moment to re-trace those steps. I am in Spain. I fail to understand something in Spanish. My Spanish teacher, unable to speak English, turns to the Japanese students in my class for help. The Japanese students understand the entire concept in Japanese, they understand it in Spanish, and they understand it in English well enough to explain it to me. Talk about a low point. But, do not worry, we can always find a person from Japan to translate for us.

Students all over the world speak English in addition to their first language while Cal Poly drops language classes from its curriculum just to get students a few units closer to graduating.

"From being abroad in Germany, I thought it was really cool how everyone I ran into knew English," civil engineering senior Matt Brunelle said. "They did not just know a few words, they knew the whole language because they learned it in school."

"It's time that Americans show respect and an interest in other cultures," social science senior Alissa Gordon said.

Tawny Grace is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Command 'Know Your Role' only hurts and offends

I think that a lot of people reacted to the "Know Your Role" display without stopping to consider what the artist was trying to say.

When I first saw the display, I was deeply offended that there were people on a college campus who believed that women (45 percent of this school) shouldn't be here. I was shocked that someone believes women should simply be housewives and beauty queens. Were they trying to spark a debate on women's roles? Was it a call for women to rid themselves of these tired standards of femininity? Or was it really someone trying to express what they believe women should be doing? With such a controversial display, the artists should make a statement about what the purpose of their art.

It would be great if they were trying to get the youth of today to look at what we accept as the norm for women in society. Perhaps that's what they were doing, and we should critically discuss what the artist was doing.

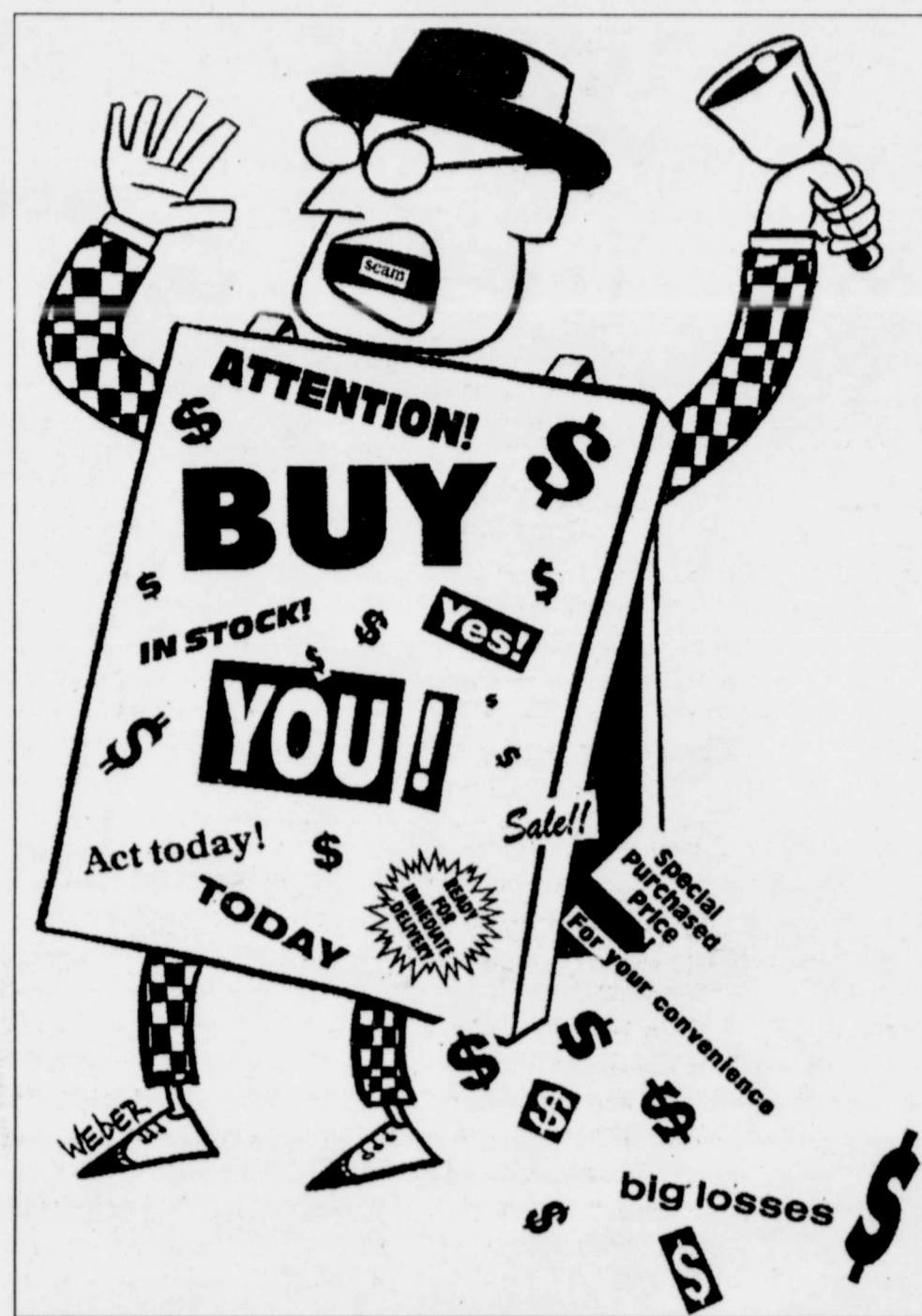
I looked at the piece again and realized why I was so pissed off. The banner that reads "Know Your Role" is not a question. It is a command. A statement coming from a position of believed superiority. It would be something for deep thought if it had read "What are your roles?" or "What should women's roles in society be?"

Those are open-ended questions that people can think about. A command only offends and hurts the women on this campus.

Elizabeth Lucas
Forestry sophomore

Math does a lot more to prove truth than the Bible

Math and the existence of God are completely unrelated. Saying that $2+2=4$ because of a miracle of



MARK WEBER NEWSART

God, or that in order to truly believe $2+2=4$ you must believe in God is ridiculous. All it takes to believe in $2+2=4$ is four wooden blocks.

"Okay little Jimmy. You have two blocks, and I give you two more. How many do you have now? Four. Good job Jimmy."

Today, let's leave creationism and evolution and all that fun stuff aside and talk about the Bible. The Bible is supposedly a book chronicling all of the "miracles of God."

There's only one problem with the Bible: Most of the "miracles of God" sound a whole lot like $2+2=5$. Water into wine, resurrecting the dead, parting the Red Sea and sticks turning into cobras — all of these are unexpected,

illogical and therefore "miracles."

Dictionaries define a miracle as something that is inexplicable by the laws of nature.

Those all sound pretty inexplicable to me. There's nothing miraculous about $2+2=4$. It takes no leap of faith — it just is. On the other hand, believing that $2+2=5$, or that Jesus walked on water, does take quite a big leap of faith.

I think that people have the right to believe in what they want, and that their faith is their choice. If you want to believe that $2+2=5$, more power to you. As for me and other "heretics," I don't need miracles of God, I just need four wood blocks.

Brian Lonn
Civil engineering sophomore

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to editor@mustangdaily.net.

LETTER POLICY

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Corner

continued from page 8
from any other sport.

Q. — Two of your runners, Blake and Troy Swier are brothers. Does that influence their running? Do they wear matching outfits?

A. — Heh, no. They do look a lot alike, but Blake is four years older. He's a senior and he's had an amazing year.

He was the model of consistency.

He didn't run a bad race all season. Troy looks up to him and he's a great runner right out of high school himself.

Troy looks at Blake and says to himself "If he did that well, why can't I too?" They feed off of each other in a really positive way.

Troy was a redshirt this year, but it looks like he will have a lot to give to the team next season.

Q. — What has the team done

this year that really impressed you?

A. — The season's been telling as far as (the Mustangs) ability to run together. They set goals this season and to achieve them they had to live the life. Running has to be your lifestyle. As a student they need to be good with time management. They found that balance where they can be good students and also do well athletically. They put in a lot of work and they deserve everything they've achieved.

Defense

continued from page 8

Portland. The Pilots were 20 of 45 from the floor for 44 percent.

Portland outrebounded* Cal Poly 38-33. Sarah Grieve had five boards for the Mustangs.

The Pilots were led by Jamie Medley with 14 points and Amy Bottom off the bench with 10. Ashlee Orndorff grabbed 10 rebounds for Portland.

Cal Poly went into the locker-room with a 30-25 halftime lead. The Pilots regrouped and jumped to a 34-30 lead on a 9-0 run early in the second half.

But the Mustangs went on a 9-0 run of their own at the nine-minute mark.

With 4:21 remaining, the Pilots tied the game at 45 on a coast-to-coast layup by Whitney Grant. Cal Poly led, 53-51 with 25 seconds remaining, but it was Portland's ball.

The Pilots turned the ball over and then immediately fouled Anderson, sending her to the foul line. Anderson sealed the deal, converting both free throws.

Volleyball

continued from page 8

the game at 4-4 with help from two UC Davis hitting errors but Kim Vincent's kill put the Aggies up for good.

This was the first season with a predominantly Division I schedule for UC Davis, which completes its second year of a four-year transition process to NCAA Division I. The Mustangs are members of the Big West Conference, of which the Aggies will become a full-fledged member in 2007-08.

On Friday, Carrie Nash recorded 20 kills to lead San Jose State to a 3-0 victory.

Nash made five errors in 41 attempts as the Spartans improved to 15-13 with the 30-23, 30-16, 30-7 victory.

Doris led Cal Poly offensively with seven kills in 38 attempts with seven errors. Mulder added six kills while Bertotti had five.

Jackson had 15 digs while Donoghue notched five blocks, one of them solo, to lead the Mustangs defensively.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1018

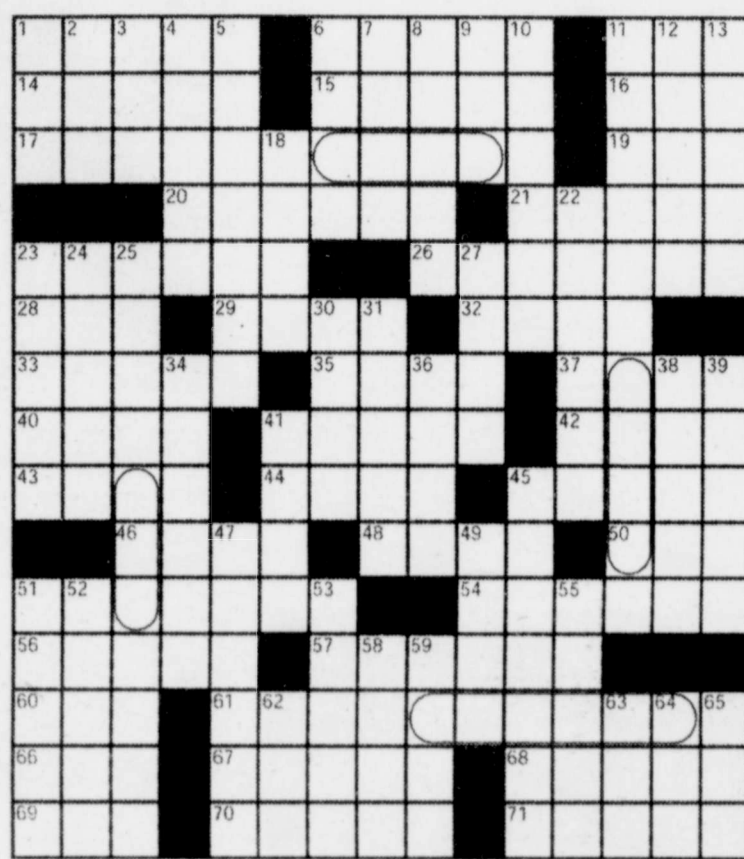
ACROSS

- 1 How ham may be served in a sandwich
6 Popular kitchen wrap
11 Tiny bit, as of hair cream
14 Oscar Mayer product
15 Skip to the altar
16 Bill Joel's "___ to Extremes"
17 The Bard
19 Judges administer it
20 Hammed it up
21 Thick urban air condition
23 City where "Ulysses" is set
26 Item carried by a dog walker
28 Columbus sch.
29 "Mona Lisa" features that "follow" the viewer
32 Years, to Cicero
33 Large bays
35 PIN points
37 Concept
40 Shopping ___
41 Theme of this puzzle
42 Shopping ___
43 ___ Romeo (Italian car)
44 G.M. car
45 Birth-related
46 Ancient South American
48 Meditative exercises
50 Spanish "that"
51 Lions and tigers and bears
54 Stage comments to the audience
56 Alternative
57 Safes
60 Turncoat
61 Very scary

- 66 Spanish cheer
67 Synthetic fiber
68 Continental money
69 Neither's partner
70 Mexican money
71 Gaucho's rope

DOWN

- 1 Delivery room docs, for short
2 "I don't think so"
3 Major TV brand
4 Bumpkin
5 Foes
6 Equinox mo.
7 Out of the wind, at sea
8 All of them lead to Rome, they say
9 Tax mo.
10 Liam of "Schindler's List"
11 Rundown
12 Staring
13 Shady garden spot
18 Major TV brand
22 One of the friends on "Friends"
23 Bedrock belief
24 Commonplace
25 Waver of a red cape
27 Throw, as dice
30 Count's counterpart
31 Pore over



Puzzle by Steve Kahn

- 34 Projecting rim on a pipe
36 Japanese soup
38 Wipe out
39 World book
41 Pillow filler
45 Not as nice
47 Drive-in restaurant server
49 Grand party
51 Element with the symbol B
52 Author Calvino
53 Lesser of two
55 It's debatable
58 Suffix with buck
59 Big coffee holders
62 With 64-Down, reply to "Am too!"
63 Tax adviser's recommendation, for short
64 See 62-Down
65 Fed. property overseer

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COACH'S CORNER

This week's spotlight once again on ...



Cross country coach
Mark Conover

Daniel Ely
MUSTANG DAILY

Cross country has had a heck of a season. Its goal of a top 10 finish has been met with a 10th place at the NCAA Championships in Indiana, a first in school history at Division I level. Mark Conover, coach of the cross country team sat down over a burrito to discuss his reactions to the team's success and where he plans to go from here.

Q. — What did you tell your players going in to the NCAA? Did you give them a big speech like in sports movies?

A. — No, but I told them the night before that no matter what happened I was proud of them. I knew that they were ready to go out there and run well. They've been running as a team, in every sense of the word.

Q. — Did you have a plan or strategy going in to the competition?

A. — Well, the goal is to have your top five finish as close together as they can. With the competition so wild and wooly and conditions on the course being so muddy, I knew we had to run a smart race. The plan was to conserve energy for the first 5K, and then find your teammate and pass as many people as possible in the last two. That's tough to do in the NCAA Championship because the field is so talented. But the plan went well and as a result they came out of it with a top ten finish.

Q. — Are you making any changes based on what you saw this season? Are you going to do anything differently?

A. — Our program is building toward consistency. We were in the top 15 for two years and then top 10. We want to keep that kind of consistency and improve it if possible.

Q. — What was it like to take the team to Indiana?

A. — It's a great experience for the team. Anytime you're getting on the airplane it means you've done something important. This is something they'll always remember and it bonds them as friends and as a team.

Q. — What was the competition like, competing against 31 other teams?

A. — One of the most awesome sights in sports is the start of the NCAA Championship race. There are 255 people all lined up at one big starting line getting ready to run through gravel and mud — it's a very dramatic event. It's different

see Corner, page 7

Big turnover for women's basketball

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Offenses have found Cal Poly's defense to be downright nasty three games into the season.

Cal Poly women's basketball has spurred out to a 3-0 record forcing a combined 106 turnovers.

The Mustangs won two games recently using both a balanced offense and tough defense beating Portland 55-51 on Friday and Portland State 66-43 on Sunday.

Beating Portland State, Cal Poly forced 37 turnovers and scored 30 points off those turnovers. The Mustangs made 24 turnovers themselves, but built a big lead early in the game and never appeared threatened by PSU.

Senior Katy Paterson led a balanced Cal Poly offense with game-highs of 15 points and eight rebounds. No Mustang played more than 23 minutes in the game.

On Friday, no Mustang scored in double figures, but once again, they fought out a win.

The Cal Poly women's basketball team unforced 39 turnovers as it

defeated Portland 55-51 in a non-conference game at the Chiles Center.

For the second game in a row, Cal Poly didn't have a standout on the offensive side of the ball, but did plenty on the defensive end to win.

Cal Poly won its opening road game, in sharp contrast to last season when the Mustangs didn't win a game on the road until Jan. 31 at UC Riverside — a stretch of 10 games away from Mott Gym.

In the season-opening win over Navy last Friday, 11 Mustangs scored, with seven players tallying between seven and 11 points, and Cal Poly forced the Midshipmen to commit 30 turnovers.

The numbers were similar against Portland as 11 Mustangs scored — none in double figures. Sparkle Anderson and Heidi Wittstrom each scored seven points and Jessica Eggleston added six.

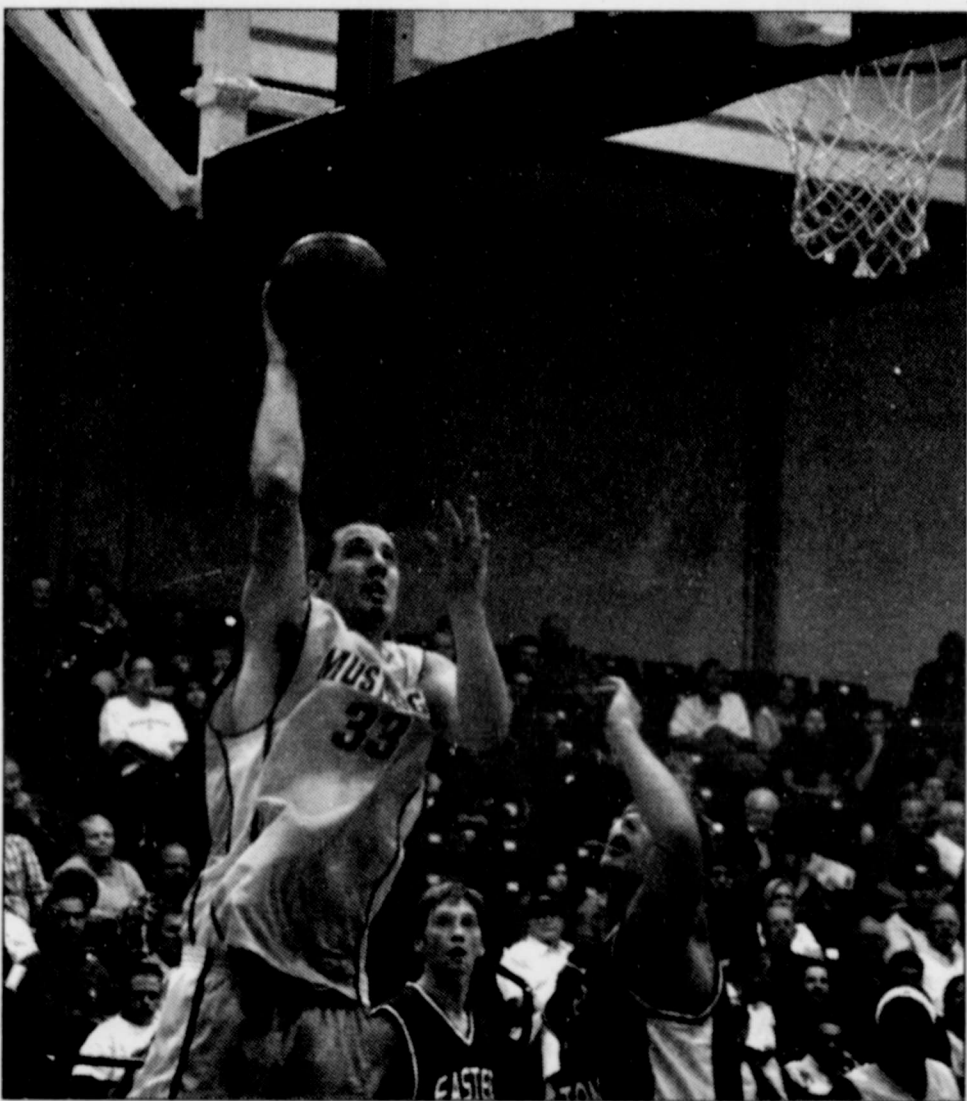
The Mustangs made just 21 of 67 floor shots for 31 percent, but attempted 22 more field goals than

see Defense, page 7



FILE PHOTO

The Mustangs shot just 31 percent but used a stingy defense to force 39 turnovers in their win over Portland. Jessica Eggleston contributed six points in the Mustangs win on Friday.



MATT WECHTER MUSTANG DAILY

Phil Johnson goes up for a shot against an Eastern Washington player in the Mustangs first loss of the season.

M. basketball still missing the shooting touch in loss

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly men's basketball hasn't exactly shot the lights out lately, and it cost the team another game Saturday.

Portland State put the clamps on Cal Poly as the Mustangs shot just 35 percent and the Vikings won their home opener, 80-63, at the Stott Center.

Until Saturday, PSU had struggled to guard its opponents surrendering 58 percent shooting in its first two games of the season, both losses.

Using an effective zone defense, PSU scored 22 points off 17 Cal Poly turnovers.

Cal Poly dropped to 0-2 on the season.

One of the keys for PSU was the superb play of point guard Will Funn. He made a career-high six steals — the most by a Viking in five years — to go with 18 points and six assists.

The game was close early, with the lead changing hands three times. But a pair of Tyler Hollist three-pointers

with just over two minutes left in the first half staked the Vikings to a 31-27 lead they would never relinquish. A steal and layup at the end of the half by Funn pushed the lead to 10 points.

Cal Poly never got closer than eight points in the second half as foul trouble proved costly. The Mustangs sent PSU to the foul line 40 times and the Vikings made 30. In the closing three minutes of the game, Portland State buried 14 of 17 free throws.

Senior forward Seamus Boxley scored 17 points with 10 rebounds, three assists and two blocked shots. Jake Schroeder and Blake Walker each had 11 points for the Vikings who shot 44 percent from the field and 75 percent at the line. PSU also outrebounded the Mustangs, 38-34.

Vladimir Lisinac had 19 points for Cal Poly with 15 coming in the second half. Glenn Jones scored 12 for the Mustangs. Derek Stockalper and Andrew Haskins each pulled down six rebounds for Cal Poly.

Volleyball season ends on dismal note

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

A trying season ended with two more losses as volleyball lost to San Jose State on Friday and UC Davis on Saturday.

Aggie senior Mary McClelland recorded a school-record 36 digs while sophomore Nicole Read had 18 kills and a career-high 27 digs to lead UC Davis to a 30-24, 16-30, 30-23, 26-30, 15-11 win over Cal Poly on Saturday.

The Aggies finish the season at 3-21. The Mustangs end their year with a 5-24 overall mark.

Kate Wilton posted a double-double, tallying 25 kills to go with 13 digs for UC Davis. Freshman setter Katelyn Astruc added 18

digs and a career-high 64 assists, while sophomore Rachel Keener had 11 kills and a .360 hitting average.

For Cal Poly, sophomore outside hitter Emily Doris had 19 kills and 17 digs. Junior middle blocker Nicole Bertotti provided 16 kills and a robust .455 success rate offensively. Freshman libero Kristin Jackson led the Mustangs with 30 digs.

Rachel Keener had five kills in the early going of Game 1 to help UC Davis take a 17-9 lead to start the match.

The Mustangs recovered to dominate Game 2, hitting .462 in the frame. Mulder had five kills in seven attempts while setter Arleen

Paperny was perfect on three hitting attempts. Erin Senozan served up six straight points to give Cal Poly a boost to a 19-10 read and the team never looked back en route to a second-game victory.

UC Davis opened the third game on a 6-0 run as Read opened action with a kill and service ace. Wilton added another kill after a Mustang timeout to make the lead 7-0. The Aggies never trailed and Cal Poly never approached by closer than five points in the third game. Wilton had eight kills while Read put up 10 digs in the frame, as UC Davis moved ahead two games to one.

Cal Poly took early control of Game 4, opening with a 6-1 run

behind a kill and ace by Bertotti. UC Davis tied the game at 10-10 on a service ace by Nuss, one of six ties in the game. After junior Jill McPheeters' kill and block assist reknotted the game at 15-15, the Mustangs began to pull away. Keener's kill put UC Davis as close as a 20-19 deficit, then Bertotti and Paperny combined for a block to highlight a 7-1 Cal Poly run, putting their team ahead by 27-20. Wilton had three kills down the final stretch to allow the Aggies to approach to within 28-26, but a Kayla Mulder kill and a UC Davis hitting error closed out Game 4 with a 2-2 tie in games.

The Mustangs managed to tie see Volleyball, page 7