

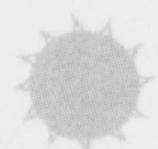
MUSTANG DAILY

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Today's weather



Sunny

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Poly men's basketball team hopes for historic weekend

IN SPORTS, 16

Cal Poly's winter play an intense experience for the mind

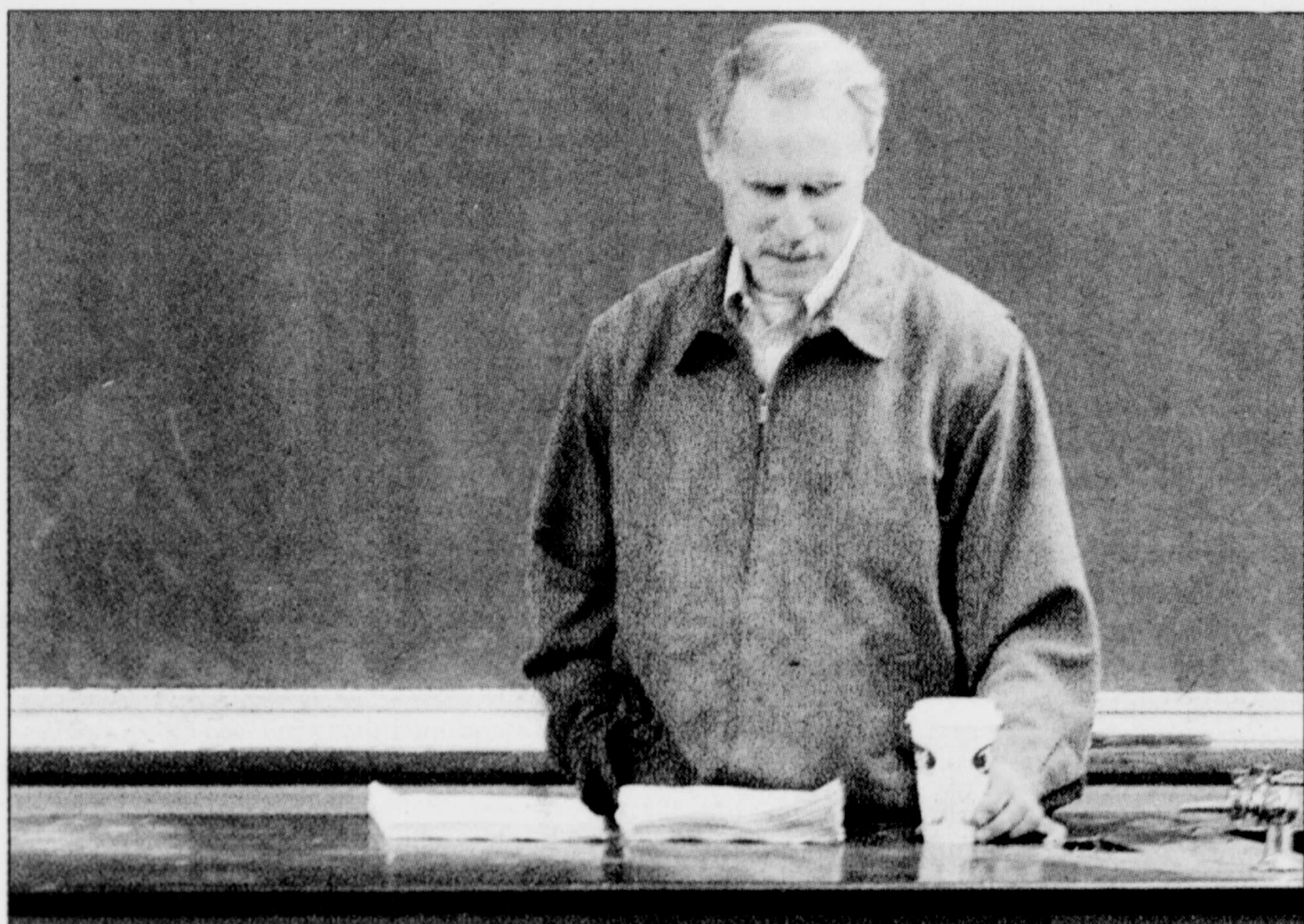
IN SPOTLIGHT, 8



Volume LXX, Number 102

Thursday, March 8, 2007

www.mustangdaily.com



PATRICK TRAUTFIELD MUSTANG DAILY

Though he hasn't been able to see since he was 12 years old, chemistry and physics professor Dennis Fantin teaches by means of advanced technology and with the help of an assistant.

More than meets the eye

Jackie Pugh
MUSTANG DAILY

"Meet my talking computer," professor Dennis Fantin said upon walking into his office early last week. For this blind professor at Cal Poly, life is a little different, and it was in an air of light-heartedness that he shared his story.

As a lecturer for introductory chemistry and physics, Fantin has been teaching at Cal Poly for the past four years.

Although he has also been involved with the adult degree program in the past, this year he is currently teaching CHEM 110, World of Chemistry, and an experimental class, SCM X335, Nuclear Science in Society.

Yet, with the modern advances in technology,

the fact that Fantin is a blind professor seems to blur the line between his unique circumstance and normalcy.

"I went blind when I was about 12 years old," Fantin said as he described how he had poor vision as a child. "I've retained a lot of visual memories; it gives me a kind of context so that I can relate to others now."

And while Fantin has been blind for the majority of his life, he seemed to manage around his office with ease. He listens to e-mails via a computer with audio screen reading technology and has a collection of textbooks and professional articles on CD.

"Typically, a large chemistry book fits on two CDs, but in the past I'd have to manage 40 cas-

see Professor, page 2

Speaker to focus on immigration issues

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's Provocative Perspective series continued with the 2006-07 theme of California by hosting a discussion by author and University of California, Berkeley ethnic studies professor Ron Takaki entitled "The Current Dialog and Crisis in Immigration: Its Effect on Education." Takaki explored a variety of topics dealing with racial diversity in America during a breakfast on campus Thursday morning.

Each year the Provocative Perspective series takes on a different theme to present various points of view from experts on a similar subject. This year's California theme was chosen by Cornel Morton, vice president of Student Affairs, who also serves as the sponsor.

Takaki, the grandson of a Japanese immigrant, has written 11 books, including "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America," a comparative history of diverse Americans that asks the question how can education reflect all voices in our history? The professor has given speeches on diversity all over the world and helped former President Bill Clinton write a major speech on race in 1997.

see Speaker, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

UC Berkeley professor Ron Takaki spoke on the effect of immigration on education this morning.

Long-awaited surfboard class returns to Craft Center

Amanda Retzer
MUSTANG DAILY

The surfboard shaping class is welcoming back the waves this quarter with a revamped work area and loads of new equipment.

"We haven't offered it the past couple of quarters and now the room is going to be a lot bigger because we are using the leftover space where

Mustang Express used to be," said, Matthew Burch, a Craft Center student manager and industrial engineering junior. The Craft Center was allowed to use the space after approval from the University Union Advisory Board and the Associated Students Inc. Directors Board.

As one of the many hands-on classes from the Craft Center, the

see Surfboards, page 3

Unions, SoCal grocery stores extend contract negotiation talks

Peter Prengaman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — With labor contracts covering about 65,000 grocery employees about to expire, the unions and store chains agreed Monday to extend by two weeks negotiations on a new deal.

United Food and Commercial Workers locals and several grocery store chains will extend their current contract and negotiations through March 19, said John Arnold, spokesman for U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

In all, contracts covering workers at hundreds of Albertsons, Ralphs and

Vons stores from San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield south to San Diego would have expired at midnight Tuesday.

Unions are pushing to reverse a concession they agreed to after a debilitating strike in 2003: a two-tier system they argue has kept most new workers from getting health care benefits.

Both the unions and the stores have been tightlipped about negotiations, but so far there has been no talk of a strike.

"We have settled hundreds of labor contracts with this union across the country and are confident we can also do it in Southern California," said

Adenia Tessler, spokeswoman for Ralphs, Albertsons, and Vons.

Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, said the extension was not surprising.

"Both sides are very wary about a repeat of the last negotiations and would like to avoid the kind of acrimonious dispute that occurred three years ago," Wong said.

Ralphs locked out employees on Oct. 11, 2003, after Southern California grocery workers voted to strike against Vons and Pavilions. Ralphs brought in replacement work-

see Supermarkets, page 2



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharlette Villacorta, a member of UFCW Local 770 of Los Angeles, stands next to the "Worker Squeezed Out" a contraption meant to portray how Southern California's supermarket chains are putting the "squeeze" on employee pay and benefits, outside an Albertsons grocery store in Los Angeles on Monday.

Professor

continued from page 1

ettes," Fantin said.

Today, Fantin can navigate through chapters, whole pages, line by line, or even word by word using his computer.

In the classroom, however, some of these technologies can't follow him.

"Since I'm totally blind, I typically don't write on the black board," Fantin said.

He has assistants who accompany him to class to write up any formulas, diagrams, tables, graphs and notes that they have previously discussed to be on the agenda for that day. Currently, Fantin is working with biochemistry senior Carly Kleiman.

"It's just a completely different experience," Kleiman said. "Any other teacher wouldn't need a student there writing notes on the board, and as far as communication, I read a lot of things to him from the books."

This peculiar relationship between the professor's voice and the translation to the assistant's notes makes for an unusual atmosphere for the students of introductory chemistry.

"When I found out from a student that had the class before that he was blind, I was kind of nervous," said agribusiness freshman Kristin Noga. "I was like how is this going to work? Is he going to talk to us and we take notes?"

Noga was relieved when she found out he had an assistant that wrote notes on the board, and mentioned that Fantin did not seem any different than her other teachers.

"I know he knows the whole periodic table because he has to memorize the information," Noga said. "He's doing it straight out of his head without looking at notes, and I think he's a better teacher for it."

Fantin, a native of Berkeley, is a biophysicist who received his undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. In college, Fantin had to teach himself how to type on a typewriter in order to take exams, but mostly functioned as a normal student.

Even within the area, he managed to find other outdoor interests like river rafting and rock climbing.

"The way I engaged in this was I had a good friend who

I know he knows the whole periodic table because he has to memorize the information. He's doing it straight out of his head without looking at notes and I think he's a better teacher for it.

—Kristin Noga
Agribusiness freshman

had polio and only had one good arm and one good leg," Fantin said. "We became a river rafting team; I controlled the oars and he called the orders."

But that wasn't the only challenging activity Fantin enjoyed. For 10 years of his life, he spent his summers rock climbing and always finding ways to get into nature.

Currently, Fantin lives in Cayucos where he'll take strolls from his home to Morro Bay and walks along the coast, keeping the Pacific Ocean at his side for a guide.

Among his other interests, Fantin loves to read and listen to music, and his true passion lies in Russian history.

Fantin has started two programs in Russia with funding from the government. One is a disability resource center at Novosibirsk State University in Siberia, and the other is a teaching program to help the blind learn how to travel independently.

The disability resource center, established in 1999, is working to advance the lives of students with disabilities. The teacher program is only in its third year and Fantin said that it has been a struggle to make the population understand that it's a wise and safe situation.

"There's resistance to the idea of blind people traveling independently," Fantin said.

Having been to Russia three times, he realizes the environment is different with the snow, the non-rectilinear

streets and the un-sensitized drivers. "It's going to take quite some time and training for the public," he added.

And as if it wasn't enough to be a professor at Cal Poly and have two ongoing programs halfway across the world, Fantin is also working on numerous research projects. The main one has Fantin working alongside the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I'm collaborating with a hospital center in Washington, D.C., relating human health and climate," he said.

With the hospital's sophisticated computerized systems, the team is looking for reasons people are admitted into the emergency room and if it is connected to weather patterns such as heat waves in urban areas, hurricanes, floods and extreme cold.

"The fun part will be after to look at the statistical correlations to see what we can find as far as weather patterns and public disease," Fantin said.

While Fantin is a part-time lecturer for the university and doing part-time research, he's also attempting to set up a summer workshop for blind high school students in the San Luis Obispo area.

At Cal Poly, six students will be paired with sighted students to learn laboratory chemistry since, typically, high school science labs are not accessible to the blind.

"Those teams will be help Cal Poly chemistry students to do an eight-day workshop," Fantin said.

The students will have the opportunity to work with pH probes and lab balances that have digital outputs sent to a computer, which gives readings in audio form.

"Now you can do weighing and determine mass," Fantin said. "Computerized devices make for a richer environment for blind students."

Yet, the blind population in the area is very small compared to the more urban Bay Area, Fantin said.

"When I am in a place like Berkeley, my presence is completely un-noteworthy. So it's somewhat more interesting because there isn't quite the same level of normal acceptance here," Fantin said.

While Fantin mentioned that many see his disability as an interesting curiosity, the accomplishments he has made in his life make it a remarkable, perhaps unbelievable, story. Although he's lost his sight, he certainly does not lack vision.

Supermarkets

continued from page 1

ers to keep its stores running.

The strike cost store owners more than \$2 billion by some estimates and resulted in the loss of many customers. It also made it difficult for many workers to make ends meet.

The union and the grocery chains agreed on a settlement that split employees into separate wage and benefit classes.

"Workers had been out long enough and had to come back," said Sharlette Villacorta, 35, a 13-year Albertsons employee in Los Angeles who recently took a leave to help the union with negotiations.

"But the two-tier system created a lot of anger for new workers, and most don't stay long," she said.

Under the agreement, veteran employees qualified for health care after four months and didn't have to pay any health premiums.


New hires have to wait 12 months or more to qualify for health coverage — longer for their dependents — and have been asked to pay premiums for health care.

A study released in January by the University of California, Berkeley, Center for Labor Research and Education found only 7 percent of Southern California grocery workers hired since the 2003-04 strike and lockout were receiving benefits as of September.

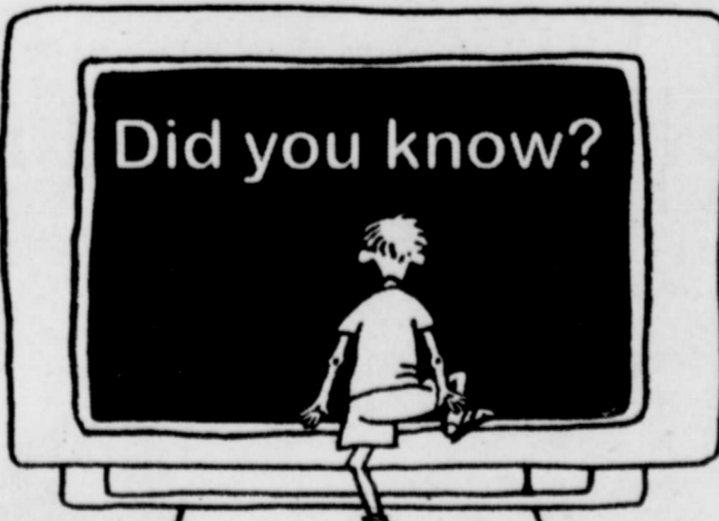
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Gas tops \$3 mark again in Calif.

Jordan Robertson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Gasoline prices have jumped above \$3 a gallon in some parts of California and Hawaii, and may hit that level in other parts of the country when the busy summer driving season approaches.

"It kills me," said Gloria Nunez, 53, as she filled her Ford Explorer SUV at a San Jose gas station. Nunez, a clerk for a communications company, has started working a couple hours of overtime each week to help soften the blow.

"All of a sudden you kind of have to watch your pennies," she said.

Analysts say drivers should brace for more increases in the coming weeks. Crude oil, which makes up about half the price of gasoline, is trading above \$60 a barrel. Higher demand, refinery maintenance and fears about springtime shortages are also driving up prices, particularly on the West Coast.

"The West Coast will certainly be the wild, wild West this year," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst for the Oil Price Information Service. Extensive maintenance work at West Coast refineries has curtailed supplies and exacerbated the typical "preseason rally" spurred by jitters about tight supplies.

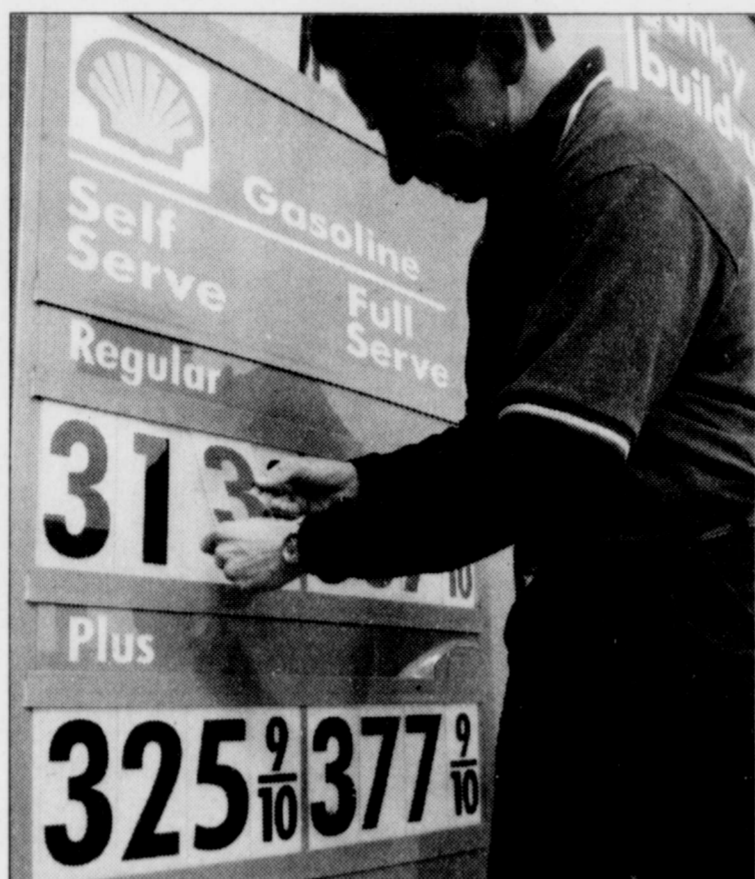
"In the rest of the country it's just petro-noia. They're worried that they won't have enough gasoline," Kloza said. "But on the West Coast the concern might be warranted."

However, analysts said it's unlikely other parts of the country would see \$3 gasoline before summer without a major disruption in supply.

Average fuel prices are still below their historical highs — most of which were set in 2006 — but are inching higher weeks earlier than usual.

Wailuku, on the Hawaiian island of Maui, currently has the highest average price for a gallon of regular unleaded at about \$3.20.

On the mainland, the title goes to San Francisco, where a gallon averages \$3.10, a jump of about 34 cents from a



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gas station owner Dan Bajada changes gas station prices at Menlo Atherton Shell gas station in Menlo Park, Calif.

month ago but still off the high of \$3.36 set in May 2006, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report for Wednesday.

The California cities of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Oakland are also all above \$3 a gallon. Most other areas of the state are just a few cents away from cracking that milestone, and motorists say they're cutting back to save money.

"I take the bus," said Hector Esqueda, an 18-year-old justice administration student from Los Angeles who has stopped driving his gas-guzzling, older-model Lincoln Continental to save money. "Other people are doing the same thing. The bus is packed."

Speaker

continued from page 1

"California is a racially diverse state; we have 10 million unauthorized Mexican immigrants. Congress is currently wrestling with a comprehensive immigration bill, but what would that be? My speech will address the issue why is this happening," Takaki said. "It is not just a question of what to do when they get here, but why are they coming by the millions."

Takaki's research has dealt extensively with the subject of the Mexican migration into the U.S., linking some of the immigration increases to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the deployment of the National Guard to the borders.

After NAFTA became official in 1994, a majority of the Mexican corn farmers could not compete with the low prices of the U.S., became bankrupt and traveled north to find work.

"We chose Ron Takaki because

he is well-renowned for his expertise in Asian American history and diversity. He brings a unique contribution to our series," said Joy Pedersen, program coordinator of Cal Poly Community Center.

Takaki's research also analyzes the militarization of the border and its effects on the number of Mexican immigrants.

"Before Bush ordered the National Guard down to protect the border 50 percent of illegal Mexican people went back across into Mexico, now with the all the protection in place only 25 percent return home. More people are staying in the U.S. because it is too dangerous for them to cross again," Takaki said.

The professor's visit to Cal Poly will also include a meeting with some of the administration to discuss making Cal Poly a more diverse campus. Takaki was the first teacher of African American Studies at University of California, Los Angeles, and helped found its centers for African American, Asian

American, Mexican American and Native American studies.

Takaki's next personal project will be to update his book "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America" to include chapters on illegal immigrants with recent debates, and a chapter on Muslim Americans and the changes this group of people has experienced since Sept. 11, 2001.

"In a college education it's critical to know the history of American diversity. A college education today requires a person to know about their society," Takaki said.

Takaki is the fourth speaker for the series this year; the next speaker will be David Hayes-Bautista, director for the Center and the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles. Hayes-Bautista's lecture will be entitled "La Nueva California: Latinos in the Golden State."

Hayes-Bautista will make his speech on April 12.

Surfboards

continued from page 1

surfboard shaping class will allow more students to work on their boards at the same time, as well as more equipment so that each person can have their own tools to use.

"It used to be really crowded in there. Only six people could shape at a time and some people would have to wait on the side," said Tim Sleeper, Craft Center class instructor and industrial engineering junior. "And there weren't enough tools, so people would have to share them."

With all of the extra room from the old Mustang Express area, as well as \$1,600 worth of new equipment, the class has received a fresh facelift. New vacuums, planers and hand tools have been purchased and placed, as well as new tables and light fixtures, just in time for spring quarter enrollment.

"It's going to be a big hit, and it's one of our main priorities right now," Burch said. "We will offer five classes, with eight people in each class."

Registration starts at 11 a.m. on March 14 at the Craft Center, and is only available for students the first two days. Burch and Sleeper anticipate that the class will fill up within those first couple of days.

"It's a pretty popular class and it's first come, first serve. There will definitely be a line on the

14th," Sleeper said.

If it doesn't fill up right away, then enrollment will continue on March 15 for the general public. The fees are \$150 for students and \$190 for non-students. This covers the price of the blank board and the instructions to shape it.

Students will also be taught how to decorate their boards, which is considered a type of homework to work on outside of class, if desired. For the final touches on the boards, students are then referred to different glassing companies, based on price, convenience and how long it takes to finish.

Sleeper will be teaching the class in the same way that he has in the past, except now with a little more freedom since there is more room and more equipment.

"The first week is an overview and we figure out the width of your board. Then we do the thickness, and then the rails," Sleeper said. "In the fourth week we finish the rails and in the fifth week we put on the finishing touches."

More details about the class outline, registration and procedures can be found on the Craft Center's Web site through www.asi.calpoly.edu/uu/craftcenter or by calling (805) 756-1266.

The Craft Center also offers classes such as skateboard making, ceramics, stained glass, bike repair and more.

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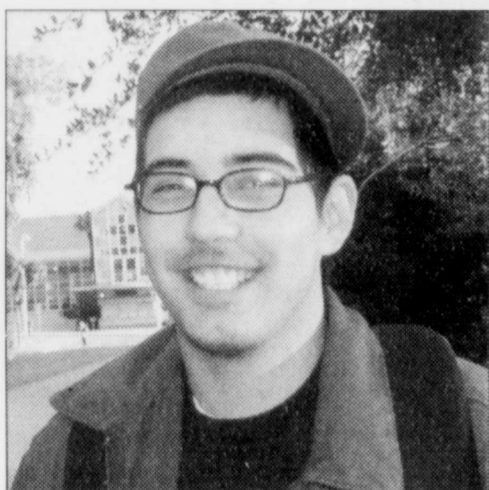
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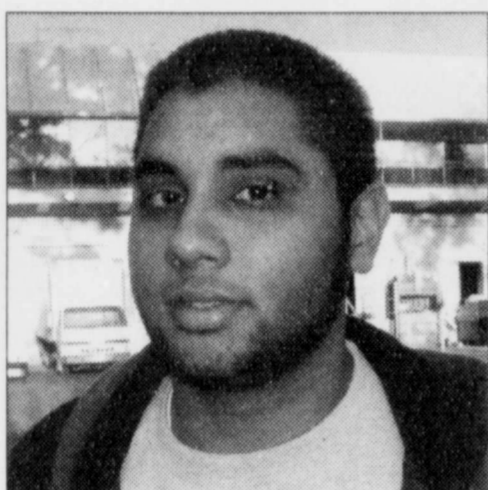
Question of the day:

Should there be a question of the day next quarter?



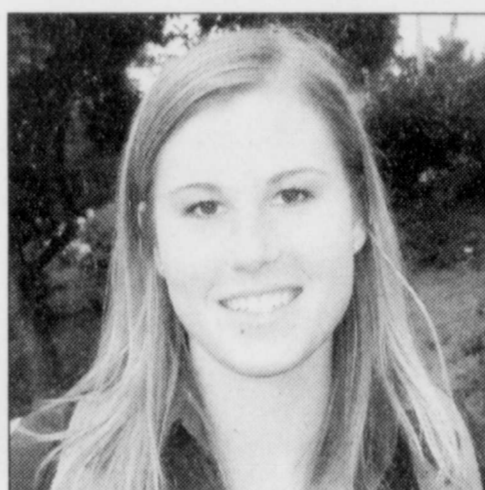
"I think it's interesting, maybe if there were better topics."

-Jon Reimers
graphic communications
senior



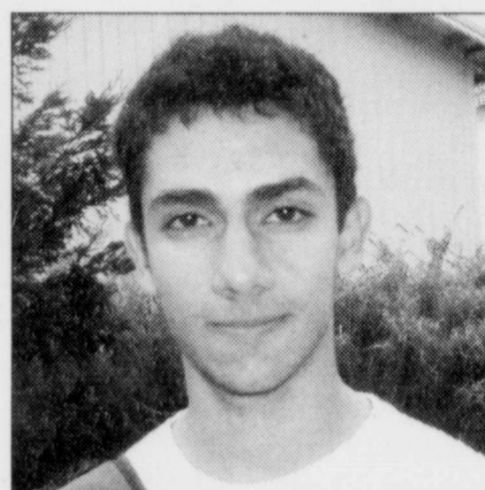
"Sure. It brings out the opinions of all the students, so there's no harm to it."

-Parag Patel
electrical engineering
sophomore



"I like it when I read it, but I wouldn't be crushed if it were replaced."

-Nicole Lyshorn
social science
senior



"Maybe there could be like polls or a census so more than a few students are asked."

-Justin Rovin
computer engineering
freshman



"Definitely, I think it makes the paper interesting; something to look forward to."

-Stephanie Maimoni
education
graduate student

Indonesian jet crash-lands, bursts into flames; 21 dead

Irwan Firdaus
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia — A packed jetliner crash-landed and erupted in flames Wednesday, killing at least 21 people trapped inside the burning wreckage. More than 115 others escaped through emergency exits as black smoke billowed behind them, officials and witnesses said.

Survivors said the Boeing 737-400 operated by the national carrier, Garuda, shook violently as it approached Yogyakarta airport too fast in clear weather. It shot off the runway, bouncing three times before plowing through a fence and coming to a halt in a rice field.

"Suddenly there was smoke inside the fuselage; it hit the runway and

then it landed in a rice field," local Islamic leader Dien Syamsudin told El-Shinta radio station. "I saw a foreigner. His clothes were on fire and I jumped from the emergency exit. Thank God I survived."

An Italian survivor said the plane appeared to be going too fast on final approach.

"The plane landed at a crazy speed. It was going into a dive and I was certain we would crash on the ground," Alessandro Bertellotti, a journalist with Italian broadcaster Rai, told the ANSA news agency. "I was sitting behind the wing. ... I saw that the pilot was trying to stop it, but it was too fast. It literally bounced on the strip."

The government ordered an investigation into the crash, the third

involving a commercial jetliner in the country in as many months. On New Year's Day, a jet plummeted into the sea, killing all 102 people on board. Weeks later, a plane broke apart on landing, though there were no casualties.

The recent incidents have cast doubt on the safety of the country's airline industry. The government has said it would ban commercial airlines from operating planes more than 10 years old, but most experts say maintenance must be improved and the number of flights per day limited to reduce the amount of stress on planes.

Some have called for Transportation Minister Hatta Radjasa to resign.

"He should not be allowed to

wash his hands of this," Burhanuddin Napitulu, senior lawmaker from Indonesia's ruling party. "The public has lost all trust. They are too scared to take planes, trains or ferries any more because the disasters are never-ending."

Dozens of airlines have emerged since Indonesia started deregulating the industry in the late 1990s, and the rapid expansion has raised concerns that growth has outpaced the supply of trained aviation professionals, regulatory oversight, parts and ground infrastructure.

Although Garuda has had nine plane crashes in the past 30 years, killing 330, the airline has made strides recently on improving its safety regulations and training pilots. It had not had a major crash in a

decade.

About 19 foreigners were aboard Wednesday's flight from Jakarta, nine of them Australians. Indonesian officials said at least two Australians were among the dead. One was a financial reporter and the other a spokeswoman for the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, said the journalist's assistant and the state news agency Antara.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said at least five of the nine Australians survived with injuries, and information was urgently being sought on the others.

The Australians on board were diplomatic staff, journalists and security officials who had been visiting Indonesia for an anti-terrorism conference.

"It is a terrible tragedy," Australian Prime Minister John Howard told a nationally televised news conference. "Many lives have been lost, and our love and sympathy and condolences go to those who are suffering distress and grief."

Wayan Sukarda, a cameraman for Australia's Seven Network who was aboard, managed to scramble off the plane. He shot dramatic video of passengers fleeing the plane as black smoke, then orange flames, poured from the fuselage.

Sukarda even called the network as the plane was crashing, a colleague told The West Australian newspaper. "He was screaming, 'The plane's crashing.' I thought he must have seen another plane crash. I didn't know it was the one he was on. You could hear all the alarms and sirens going off, people screaming," said Channel Seven's Danny Sim.

An explosion and fireball ripped through the air, apparently as the fire reached a fuel tank, according to the video. It showed dazed and burned victims, including Indonesians and Westerners, sitting on the floor or lying on gurneys in the airport terminal.



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Briefs

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — County officials may require food-service workers in thousands of eateries across Los Angeles to get vaccinated for hepatitis A after a series of outbreaks.

County supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to look into the costs and benefits of such a vaccination, which would be a massive undertaking involving more than 100,000 workers. The requirement could affect 25,000 eateries, 300 catering companies and 270 wholesale producers.

"We need to ensure that those who are involved in the handling of food are safe and healthy," County Supervisor Mike Antonovich said.

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — After marking their votes on bilingual English-Farsi ballots, residents of this tiny Los Angeles suburb awaited the final tally in a tight City Council race that highlighted the growing clout of Persian immigrants here.

City council incumbent Jimmy Delshad was seeking to become the city's first Iranian-born mayor. The 66-year-old was one of three candidates of Iranian descent running for two open council seats. The top two finishers will get seats on the council.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorneys for convicted former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby began working on a request for a new trial Wednesday as the Bush White House steadfastly refused to talk about a possible pardon in the CIA leak case.

Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, was found guilty of perjury and obstruction in the investigation into the 2003 leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. He is the highest-ranking White House official convicted in a government scandal since the Iran-Contra scandal two decades ago.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — There are just two winning tickets in the record \$370 million Mega Millions jackpot — one sold in New Jersey and the other in Georgia, lottery officials announced Wednesday.

No one had come forward to claim their share of the prize at midday, but lottery officials in both states were expecting to hear from the winners soon.

One winning ticket was traced back to Campark Liquors in Woodbine, N.J., on the state's southern end. The other was sold at Favorite Market in Dalton, Ga., lottery representatives in the two states said.

International

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers voted Wednesday to radically overhaul Parliament's unelected House of Lords, approving a proposal to evict all remaining hereditary peers and to elect at least 80 percent of members.

After a series of House of Commons votes, legislators came out 305 to 267 in favor of developing laws to install a mix of 20 percent appointed and 80 percent elected members in Britain's second chamber.

Votes were continuing on other options; it will require legislation for the changes to take effect.

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Mumbai residents had a message for newlyweds Elizabeth Hurley and Arun Nayar — get off our beach. City hall agreed, demolishing a wooden deck that had been built for a party to honor the couple.

The 41-year-old British actress-model and Nayar, 42, were married Friday in a private civil ceremony at Sudeley Castle in Winchcombe, 125 miles west of London.

Workers cleared away the makeshift platform that extended from a beach-front home onto the popular Juhu beach just before the party late Tuesday, said Civic Councilor Adolf D'souza.

Obama says he didn't know he invested in companies supported by political backers

Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Wednesday that he was not aware that he had invested in two companies backed by some of his top donors and did nothing to aid their business before the government.

The Illinois senator faced questions about more than \$50,000 in investments he made right after taking office in 2005 in two speculative companies, AVI Biopharma and Skyterra Communications. Obama said his broker bought the stocks as part of a quasi-blind trust.

"At no point did I know what stocks were held, and at no point did I direct how those stocks were invested," Obama told reporters at the end of a press conference called to tout an unrelated immigration bill.

"What I wanted to make sure is that I didn't want to invest in companies that potentially would create conflicts with my work here," said Obama, who has campaigned on the need for stronger congressional ethics rules. "Obviously, the thing didn't work the way I wanted it to."

Obama purchased \$5,000 in shares for AVI, which was developing a drug to treat avian flu. Two weeks after buying the stock, Obama pushed for more federal funding to fight the disease, but he said he did not discuss the matter with any company officials.

Obama also had more than \$50,000 in shares of Skyterra, a company that had just received federal permission to create a nationwide wireless network that combined satellite and land-based communications systems.

Among the company's top investors were donors who raised more than \$150,000 for Obama's political committees, the New York Times reported Wednesday. The stock holdings were first examined Monday by the financial Web site, TheStreet.com.

The reports found no evidence that any of his actions ended up benefiting either company during the roughly eight months he owned the stocks. Obama lost about \$15,000 on Skyterra and earned a profit of about \$2,000 on AVI.

Obama said he wanted to invest in stocks after signing a \$1.9 million deal for his second book, "The Audacity of Hope." He said after buying a home and putting money in the bank and mutual funds, he asked a friend and political donor, investor George Haywood, to recommend a broker so he could invest a portion more aggressively.

"I thought about going to (billionaire investor) Warren Buffett, and I decided it would be embarrassing that I only had \$100,000 to invest," Obama said.

Haywood, who was a major backer of both AVI and Skyterra, recommended a broker at USB who also bought stock for Obama in those companies.

Obama said at some point in fall 2005 he got a stockholder letter. He said he believes it was from AVI or Skyterra, but he couldn't remember which company. But he decided to liquidate the quasi-blind trust and put his money in mutual funds and money market accounts that wouldn't raise such questions.

"It's at that point that I became concerned that I might not be able to insulate myself from knowledge of my holdings, that this trust instrument might not be working the way I wanted it to," Obama said.

Producer Timbaland on Britney Spears: 'I want her to be in my camp, to be around Justin'

NEW YORK (AP) — Timbaland, who's crafted hits for Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado, wants to help Britney Spears reclaim her once-stellar career.

"I feel her pain, it really bothers me," the 34-year-old rapper-producer says in an interview in Entertainment Weekly magazine's March 16 issue. "I'm the type of person who tries to save the world. I just want to take her away, go overseas, and work (it) out."

Timbaland says he invited Timberlake, his "best friend" and Spears' ex-boyfriend, to be part of that plan.

"I asked Justin, 'How would you

feel about me working with Britney?' I had to ask him that," Timbaland is quoted as saying. "I said, 'Would you do it with me?'"

The 26-year-old "SexyBack" singer said he would, according to Timbaland, who notes: "She's just gotta be serious."

Timberlake's spokeswoman, Sonia Muckle, referred inquiries to Timbaland's spokeswoman, Monique Idlett, who didn't immediately respond to a phone call Wednesday from The Associated Press. Gina Orr, a publicist at Jive

Records, Spears' label, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail message.

Last month, Spears, 25, checked into Promises Malibu drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in California, capping a week of bizarre behavior in which she entered and exited rehab twice, shaved her head bald and went out clubbing with friends.

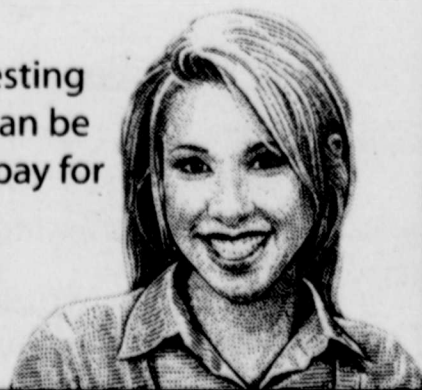
"I just want to hold her hand," Timbaland says. "I want her to be in my camp, to be around Justin. I need Justin to talk to her. Help her, please!"

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Leader of polygamous sect in Utah indicted

Jennifer Dobner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A federal grand jury indicted the leader of a polygamous sect Wednesday, accusing him of fleeing to avoid prosecution on Utah sex charges during a manhunt that ended with his arrest near Las Vegas.

The one-count indictment covers a five-month period in 2006, although Warren Jeffs was believed to be on the run for a longer stretch.

Separately, he faces trial in southern Utah in April on charges of rape as an accomplice for his alleged role in the ceremonial marriage of a teenage girl to an older cousin.

Jeffs is president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, whose members practice polygamy and live on the Utah-Arizona border.

While on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List, he was arrested Aug. 28 during a traffic stop near Las Vegas.

Jeffs disappeared from public life in 2004 after lawsuits filed against him and his church alleged abuses of some members. Criminal charges in Arizona and Utah followed in 2005 and 2006.

To help in the search for Jeffs, federal prosecutors filed an arrest warrant against him on April 5, 2006, the same day that Washington County prosecutors charged him with two felony counts of rape as an accomplice.

Federal charges tied to such warrants typically are dropped once a suspect is caught and transferred to state authorities.

But with Jeffs, "we felt like if there were ever a time to pursue a defendant ... this was it," said Melodie Rydall, spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Brett Tolman.

She said prosecutors based their decision on several factors, including the time and resources expended by state, local and federal authorities in trying to find Jeffs.

Jeffs is being held in the Washington County jail. A telephone message left for his attorney, Wally Bugden, was not immediately returned.

The federal charges carries a maximum punishment of five years in federal prison.

Jeffs also faces felony sex charges in Mohave County, Ariz. for his alleged role in arranging underage marriages for some of his followers. That case will be pursued after the Utah state case.

Angelina Jolie's adoption of Vietnamese boy should move swiftly, official says

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Angelina Jolie plans to adopt a young Vietnamese boy and he probably will be moving to the United States in no more than three months, Vietnam's top adoption official said Wednesday.

Jolie chose the boy, who is between 3 and 4 years old, during a recent visit to the Tam Binh orphanage on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, said Vu Duc Long, the head of the justice ministry's international adoption department in Hanoi.

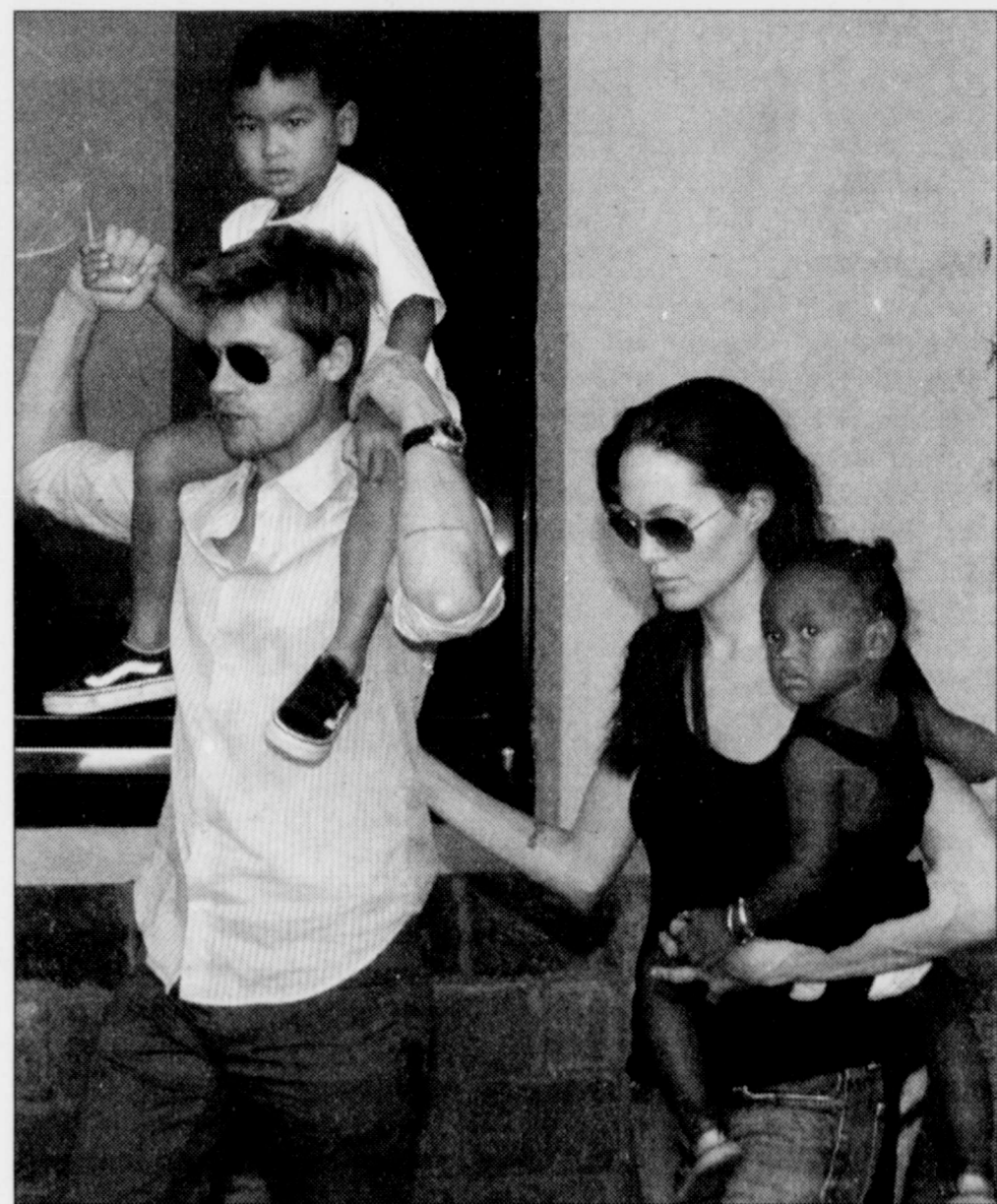
Under ordinary circumstances, it takes about four months to process an adoption after the forms arrive, Long said. If the prospective parent already has chosen a child, the adoption can be completed in just three months.

"Three months would be the longest," Long said, adding that Jolie's case could be processed faster than that.

Long confirmed last week that Jolie had filed adoption papers, but did not provide any details about the child or how long the process would take.

Jolie initiated the adoption process in the United States, but her application only arrived at Long's office last week. His department has approved the application and sent it to officials in Ho Chi Minh City, who also must review it.

Jolie and her partner, Brad Pitt, have three children: 5-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angelina Jolie, right, with her daughter Zahara, and Brad Pitt, left, with Jolie's son Maddox, walk near the Gateway of India, unseen, in Mumbai, India, on Nov. 12, 2006.

Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May.

The pair made a surprise visit to the Tam Binh orphanage at Thanksgiving, when they were spotted cruising around Ho Chi Minh City on a motorbike.

Reality TV star Jason Wahler gets 2 months in jail, AA for beatings

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jason Wahler was sentenced to two months in jail for punching a city worker and tow truck driver during an altercation last year.

Wahler, 20, star of MTV's "The Hills" and "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County," was also ordered to attend a one-day program at the Museum of Tolerance for uttering racial slurs during the September incident, authorities said.

Wahler is white. The two victims are black, authorities said.

According to prosecutors, Wahler was traveling in a car with friends when their vehicle was blocked by a tow truck attempting to move an illegally parked car.

Wahler jumped out of his vehicle and began yelling at the city worker and one of two tow truck drivers. Wahler, whose blood alcohol level was .22 percent at the time, then punched one tow operator, as well as the city worker, authorities said.

One of Wahler's companions also kicked the tow operator and spit in

his face, the City Attorney's office said Tuesday.

Wahler pleaded no contest to one count of battery. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, and was ordered to attend anger management classes and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Wahler was arrested late Friday in Greenville, N.C., for underage drinking and resisting a public officer during a raid against a local nightclub. He was released on \$1,000 bond several hours later.

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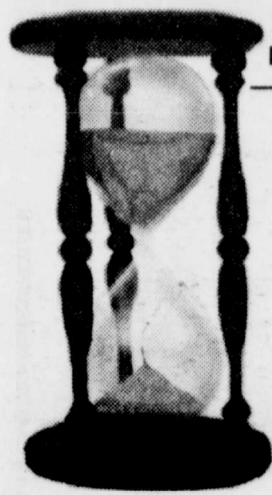
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Mustang Daily TIME CAPSULE

March 8

- 1817 The New York Stock Exchange is founded.
- 1911 International Women's Day is celebrated for the first time.
- 1978 The first-ever radio episode of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," by Douglas Adams, is transmitted on BBC Radio 4.
- 2004 A new constitution is signed by Iraq's Governing Council.

Sony to launch virtual worlds to push its 'Game 3.0'

Rachel Konrad
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capitalizing on the popularity of social networks and online worlds, Sony will launch its own virtual universe and another 3-D game built almost entirely by players.

"Home" is a real-time, networked world for the PlayStation 3 in which players create human-looking characters called avatars. They can buy clothing, furniture and videos to play on a virtual flat-screen television in their virtual apartments.

The concept is strikingly similar to Linden Lab's "Second Life," a Web-based phenomenon with nearly 4.5 million residents. But Sony's world will feature heavy doses of video games for avatars to play, as well as virtual arcades, music, movies and other Sony-approved media downloads.

Sony will launch a beta version in April and officially debut in the fall as a free download on the PlayStation online store.

Sony's second virtual world for PlayStation users is called "LittleBigPlanet" and allows players to build obstacle courses, puzzles and other games for avatars that resemble beanbags — characters Sony dubs "sack boys."

The game, which requires a combination of cooperation and competition, will debut early next year. A sample version will be available in the fall.

Sony Computer Entertainment America has not released pricing for "LittleBigPlanet." Executives would not discuss how much virtual T-shirts, sofas, televisions or media downloads would cost in "Home."

The games are part of a company-wide push that Tokyo-based Sony calls "Game 3.0." Executives who introduced the games Wednesday* at the Game Developer Conference in San Francisco called it an evolution in the video game industry, which began in the 1970s with disconnected consoles and "static" games.

"We're putting power back into the hands of users — the players themselves," said Phil Harrison, president of worldwide studios for Sony Computer Entertainment.

Poly welcomes schools to Wind Band Fest '07

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

This year the College of Liberal Arts and the music department will host The California Wind Band Festival, a series of concerts featuring wind ensemble bands from all over the country.

The four-part concert series is taking place in San Luis Obispo in

conjunction with the 73rd annual convention of The American Bandmasters Association.

Bands will be featured each night from March 7 to 10 in Harman Hall at the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohen Center at 8 p.m. Eight hundred people will be in town this week for the events, including band members from seven different band organizations and the members of The American Bandmasters Association.

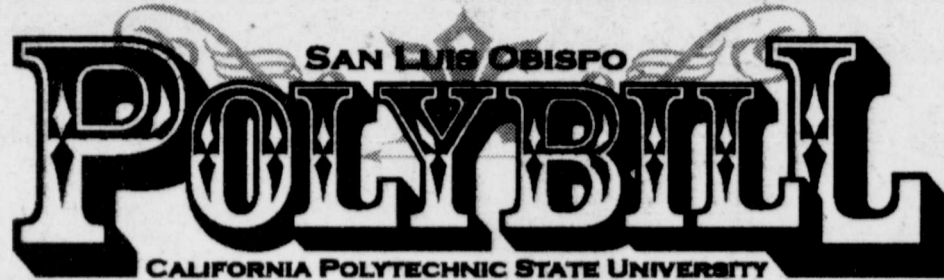
"This is such a wonderful thing because it features seven of the finest wind bands in America and Cal Poly has the opportunity to start it off with the first concert on Wednesday," said Bill Johnson, Cal Poly wind ensemble director and Professor.

Johnson has been a member of The American Bandmasters since 1984. The highly-selective group does not have an open membership, members must first be elected and recognized by the associa-

This show is going to be a once in a lifetime happening. Not all groups or bands can play this type of advanced material.

—Andrea Sisk
Math senior
Baritone saxophone player

see Wind Fest, page 9



Check out what's going on in SLO County this week. Whether it's art, film, music, theater or culture, POLYBILL posts the latest events.

OPEN AUDITIONS

The theatre and dance department will hold open auditions for its spring quarter production, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane." A contemporary dark comedy by award-winning Irish playwright Martin McDonagh, the play has roles for two men and two women. Auditions will be Tuesday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Davidson Music Center, Room 212. Review scripts are available in room 104. Rehearsals begin April 2. The production will run from May 16 to 21. For further information, please contact the director, Pamela Malkin at 756-6071 or pmalkin@calpoly.edu.

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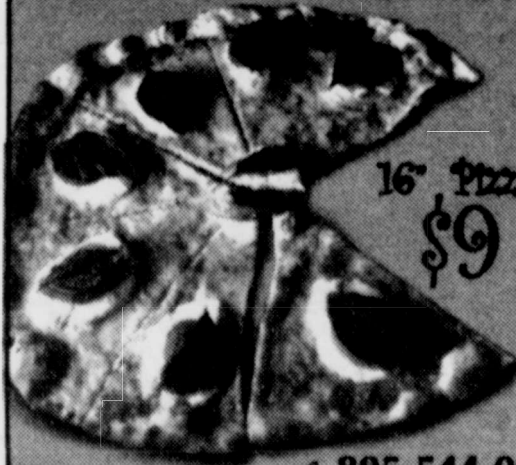
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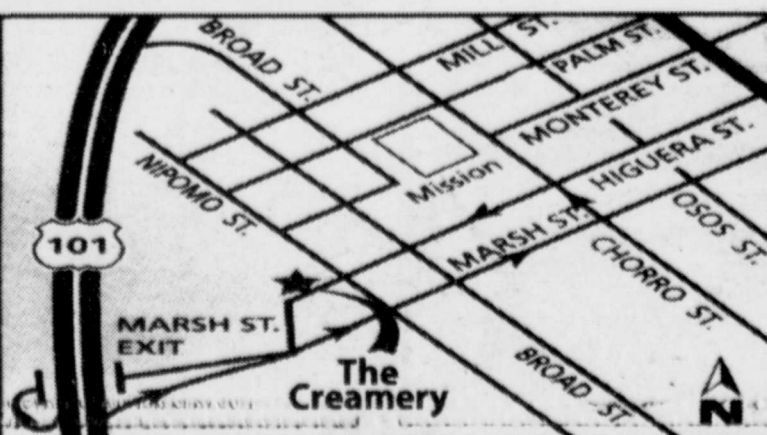
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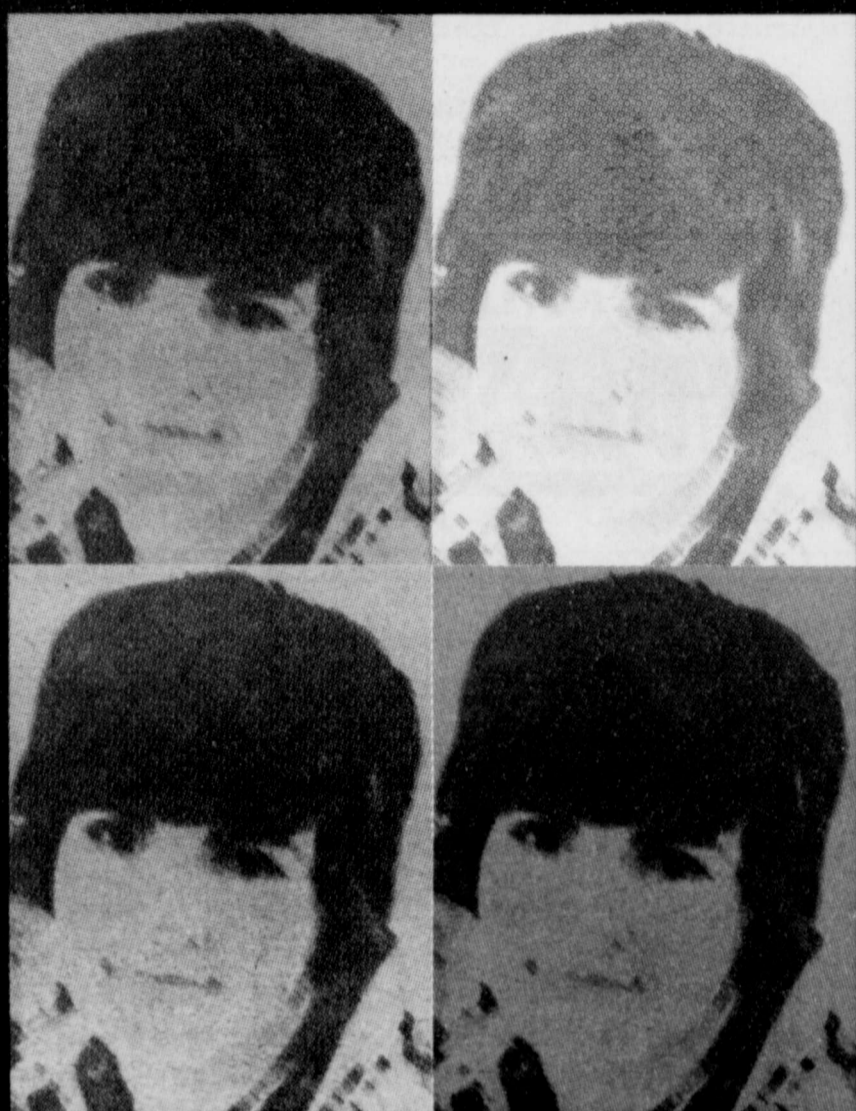
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'Cease Fire' a tasty Persian export



pop tart

by Alexandra Bezdikian

As I lethargically paced the confines of my rather stale abode this past weekend, I felt the first wave of cabin fever rush over me like a hot flash on a muggy day.

Pulsating through the canals of my fleshy innards, this unsettled indolence was silently awaiting, and I knew that if I didn't leave my room quickly, I would basically act out an elaborate montage of scenes from the Evil Dead series, i.e. flesh possessed demons running hysterically about.

Not wanting to become one of the living dead however, I made the executive

decision to get out of the house and venture into the real world of downtown San Luis Obispo.

For all you Curious George types out there wondering what

this small Central Coast town could possibly throw at my insatiable appetite for excitement, let me sum it up in three glorious words: international film festival. Or at least, that's where I thought I was headed.

As it happened, I didn't quite make it to the international film festival that I had anticipated attending per se, but instead stumbled upon a film that was being screened just down the street from the Palm Theatre, at the San Luis Obispo Public Library.

What I soon discovered to be a refreshingly romantic and surprisingly candid Persian film called "Cease Fire" quickly became one of my favorite Persian exports since...well, Persian rugs and tah-digh. Look up the latter because it's so worth it.

In my opinion, a brilliantly smart comedy from one of Iran's leading female director's, "Cease Fire" is to a Persian audience what "Notting Hill" was to an American audience, back in the day. Brought to us by Hope Dance Films, Tahmineh Milani's hugely comedic portrayal of married life in modern Iran, depicts the good, the bad, and the ugly of newlywed trials and tribulations.

Largely based on the self-help manuals of a local Cambria therapist, Lucia Capacchione, "Cease Fire" examines the struggling marriage of Sayeh and Yousef, an educated and strong-willed couple that are forced to deal with the childish pranks each plays on the other. Fed up and tired of such juvenile antics, Sayeh attempts to find a divorce lawyer, but mistakenly walks into a therapist's office (Attila Pesyani) who happens to specialize in silencing one's obnoxious "inner child."

With cheeky dialogue and unapologetic themes, "Cease Fire" is a hilarious film that obviously slipped through the cracks of the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. But not to worry, even though this relatively obscure movie is not exactly high profile as of now, it does boast the title of being the highest grossing film in Iranian history. And that right there, says it all.

So, the next time you find yourself losing your mind, or see one of your friends going crazy from not having enough to do one gloomy Saturday evening, be sure to hit up Palm Street, because you never know what international marvels you may stumble upon at the movies.

They may end up saving your life you know, or at least your sanity.

Alexandra Bezdikian is a journalism senior with a minor in religious studies.

E-mail any questions, comments or recommendations to albezikian@gmail.com.

Cal Poly clubs to celebrate Women's Awareness Month

The Cal Poly Women's Program incorporates music, dance and film into its commemorative events.

Jackie Pugh
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly Women's Programs and services is hosting events this week to celebrate Women's Awareness Month. Events include International Women's Day today in the University Union from 11 a.m. to noon and a national traveling film festival called Luna Fest on Saturday, March 10, in the business silo from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Events like International Women's Day are trying to focus on women from all over the world and bring knowledge about their cultures to the campus.

"International Women's Day started in the textile industry in Europe," said Samantha Hunt, psychology junior and coordinator of education for the Women's Programs. "It was a movement to reform the conditions of the textile industry, and then it moved more toward women's suffrage."

While this is Cal Poly's first time having the International Women's Day event, countries like Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine and Vietnam are just a few where the day is recognized as an official holiday.

"We think of America as being so far ahead in the women's liberation movement, but these other countries are so much farther," Hunt said. "Now it's more important to celebrate women's achievements and that was our goal for International Women's Day."

Groups will gather today with their own topics for the event which will include issues more relevant to American women like HPV vaccine that is now available in the states.

Other clubs involved Raise the Respect, that will present the issue of slave trafficking, and the Society of Women Engineers.

"We let people choose what they wanted to present and we think we are going to get a wide variety of information," Hunt added.

In total there will be about 12 clubs and groups at the event. The Indian Student Association will have a booth, a group of women from women's studies will have information on female genital mutilation, and the club Students United by Hip-Hop Culture will be playing hip-hop music by women artists throughout the hour.

Saturday's event, Luna Fest, will feature films from the top festivals across the nation including Tribeca, the Los Angeles Short Film Festival, and London International Film Festival.

"It addresses issues that women face internationally and celebrates the strength of women, not only from all over the world, but the average woman too," said Ruthie Osorio, English senior and outreach coordinator for the Cal Poly Women's Programs.

Nine films will be shown during the two-hour event, including "Mann Ke Manjeeré" about the journey of a courageous domestic violence survivor and "Plum Flower" about a time when female infanticide was a normal occurrence for rural communities in China.

Other film topics include a new mother who gets diagnosed with breast cancer and an animated piece where a concerned cow finds the beauty in ignorance.

"They aren't all downers, it has a huge diversity of films that are all so different and from different countries," said Vanessa Pateman, graphic communications sophomore and publicity coordinator for Luna Fest. "We are also encouraging both women and men to come."

The film festival will be held in the business building, room 213 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are available at the door, \$6 for students and \$10 for the general public. All proceeds will go the Breast Cancer Society and Cal Poly Women's Programs and Services.

For more information and to find out about upcoming events check out the Women's Programs Web site at <http://studentlife.calpoly.edu> or call Ruthie Osorio at 756-2600.

—Samantha Hunt

Psychology junior, Women's Programs Program Education Coordinator

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We think of America as being so far ahead in the women's liberation movement, but these other countries are so much farther.

Poly's biting winter play makes 'heads' or tails of Brechtian drama

Alexandra Bezdikian
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

This year's most recent addition to the eclectic repertoire of Cal Poly's theatre and dance program, Bertolt Brecht's luminously incisive play, "Round Heads and Pointed Heads," is politically edgy, socially reflective and painfully raw.

With a plot based on the nefarious ideologies of 20th century Nazi Germany, this drama reeks of obscure perversity and begs social criticism to the "nth" degree. Never before has the status quo been canonized in quite a ferocious and grotesque display, as it is in this dramatic work about Hitler's "master race" policy during World War II.

In true Brechtian fashion, this play cascades through the fantasy-like world of expressionism, taking the audience on an emotional journey through the psychological reality of a disturbed and misguided people. Unfortunately, we the audience are oftentimes left wondering, "Where is our guidebook, because I'm completely lost myself."

In this fictitious land, where a

fictitious people strangely resemble the social stratification of our modern 21st century society, civil unrest breeds rampant amongst the disenfranchised. No surprise there. We know this story because we've seen it play out before; a la fascist Europe in the early 20th century.

Wherever sex is used as a means, religion means nothing, and the rich prance around like puppets on strings, corruption beckons. And that's exactly what plagues the land of Yahoo.

This is the chaotic world of Zaks and Ziks, two races of people with one startling difference: Zaks have round heads, Ziks have pointed heads. Hence the play's title. The Ziks belong to the upper-class of powerful, peasant-owning bourgeoisie; the Zaks are the peasants the Ziks own. Obviously, these two groups of people are ripe for revolution, as a power struggle is sure to be had between classes.

The play opens exactly thus, with the Zaks unifying under the labor banner of the Sickie and in the midst of leading a rebellion against their rich lords. The government, fearing the power of the emerging labor class, enlists the aid

of a racist figurehead to quell the growing cries of revolution and squash mounting sentiments of civil unrest. A shocking move on the government's part, to be sure!

As far as production value goes, this play weighs heavy. With good writing, carefully constructed dialogue, and entertaining musical interludes, "Round Heads and Pointed Heads" is not short on hardheaded material. As far as set, costume, and prop design goes however, this production projects a very dark, urban-like, skeletal image that in some ways translates as being very cold and isolating to the audience.

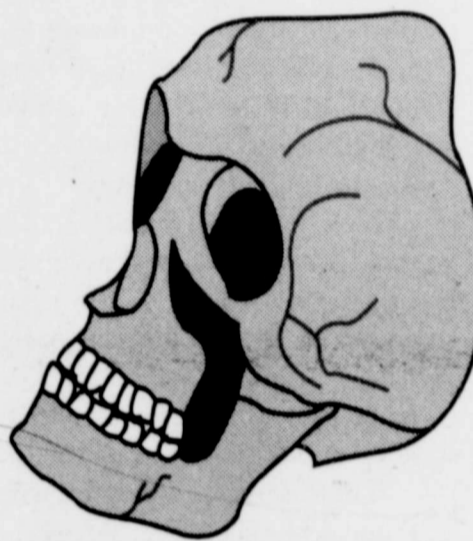
But then again, this is a Brecht drama after all.

Overall, this adaptation of Brecht's socially reflective play is a very intellectual attempt at tackling some of the most intense issues of our relatively recent past. Staying true to the Brechtian model of cerebral theater, this play does exactly what it set out to do: get the audience to think. I would urge anyone who enjoys live theater to go see this play and ask yourself, "What would I sacrifice to maintain the status quo?"



BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY

"Round Heads and Pointed Heads" is an early 20th century Nazi Germany drama that has obscure perversity and social criticism.



Wind Fest

continued from page 7

tion. Johnson has been a part of the preparation for these events for the last three years and will lead Cal Poly in the first performance opening night.

San Luis Obispo was chosen to host the event because of the beauty of the area, the performing arts facility and the excellence of the Cal Poly wind ensemble.

"We have been preparing for this concert since before winter break," said Andrea Sisk, mathematics senior and baritone saxophone player in the Cal Poly wind ensemble. "We just played a concert in Santa Maria this last weekend with the same music and format to get all of our pre-concert jitters out."

The Cal Poly Wind Ensemble will perform works by Nixon, Newman, Grantham,



Melillo and Gregson when they take the stage on Wednesday night along with University of Oregon.

St. Cloud State University of Minnesota

COURTESY PHOTO
Army Band, "Pershing's Own" from Washington, D.C., will close out the four nights of musical achievement with a free show. The band is renowned as one of the

and Arizona State University will follow on Thursday night, and Ohlone College Wind Orchestra from Fremont and San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra will continue the series in Friday night's show.

On Saturday night, The United States

nation's premiere professional wind bands and will end their performance with the famous march, John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Tickets for the other shows will range from \$8 to \$19.

"This show is going to be a once in a lifetime happening. Not all groups or bands can play this type of advanced material," said Sisk.

While the concerts take place each night The American Bandmasters Association will be hosting conferences and meetings at the Embassy Suites Hotel in town as part of their convention.

"If I were a Cal Poly student, I would want to take advantage of the finest bands in America being on campus," said Johnson. "This is an annual event but it will probably be the first and last time that it ever makes it to Cal Poly."

Spring Short Story Contest!

The Mustang Daily is looking for a few good fiction writers to compete in a short story contest spring quarter!

Guidelines:

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- no inappropriate material please! (i.e. gratuitous sex, violence, or drugs)

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corrections

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notices

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March 8, 2007
Volume LXX, No. 102 ©2007
Mustang Daily

"This is not Phil Collins. This is, like, my neighbor!"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Editor in chief: Emily Rancer
Managing editor: Jennifer Hall

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10

DATING COLUMN

Relax, savor what's left of college life

Where did the quarter go? My sense of time got lost somewhere amidst hundreds of pages of reading and an armful of essays and midterms. All of a sudden we've landed in week nine, locked in a stare-down with final exams.

"Time flies when you're having fun." Correction: time flies whether you're having fun or not, especially if you're a college student.

College initiates us as productive citizens of this "fast-paced society." We haul through schoolwork, jobs, financial matters, roommate issues, and social events to learn how to cope with an endless influx of obligations, looming deadlines, conflicting interests and more.

Also, we tend to forget that, in this generation's technologically-explosive world, information comes at us at a dizzying rate. We have to process and digest all this material, constantly adapting to keep up and filter out all the spam. Time seems to be transpiring faster now that we're older. Senior year of high school feels so recent; and my dorm-adventure memories are still fresh in my mind. I've even heard 23- and 24-year-olds lamenting about how much they miss being 21.

And we can't slow down! Many a college student will tell you that it all comes down to staying on top of the game. Our very entrance into Cal Poly was predicated on competition and drive; the way things operate in the "real world" isn't much different.

Some of us have learned to step back and relax; but as soon as that break is over, we jump back in and rush to get that last paper written to pass that last class we need to graduate and get into that grad school whose application is due by 5 p.m.

So, if we've gotten used to moving this fast ... does that mean we're rushing into our relationships, too?

Perhaps you and a special someone hit it off (on more than the level of ordering the same drink at the bar). Before you know it, a few weeks could turn into a few months or a few years. But it doesn't take more than a glimmer of a second to wonder whether this could be your special someone for the long-term.

Does it mean you're impulsive if that long-term thought enters your mind so early in a relationship?

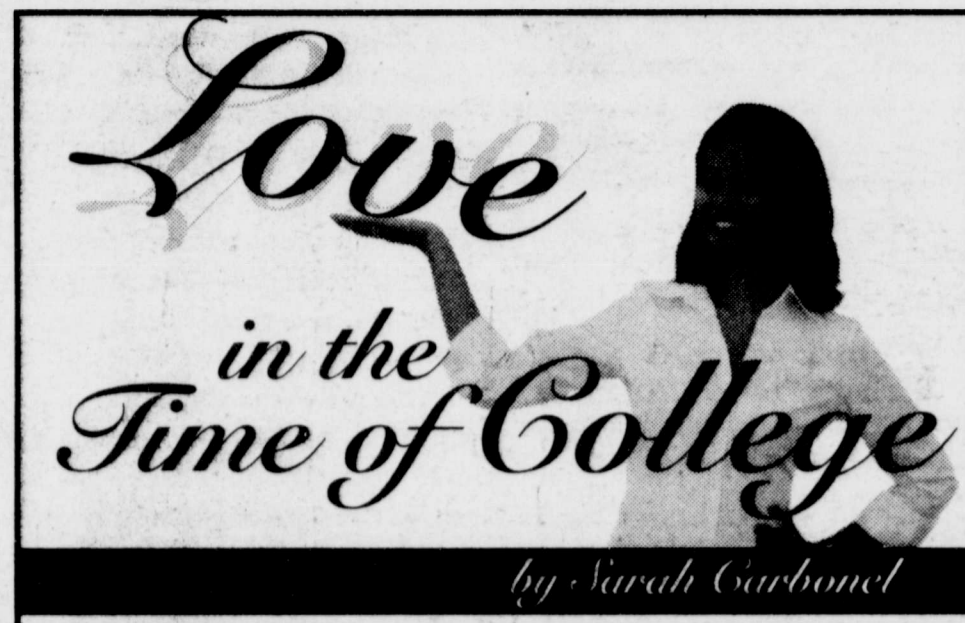
Not necessarily! It just means we're approaching a point in our psychological development in which we are starting to have a better idea of what we want in a partner.

We've heard the statistics over and over again: the marriage age is rising, due to longer life expectancy, extended adolescence (that is, young adults take longer to become financially independent), changing

**In relationships and in life,
whatever decision you
come to, just remember:
there's no rush.**

social expectations for couples to have children, etc.

But I know my fair share of fellow students (between the ages of 20 and 25) who are married or engaged-to-be, having been in their relationships for three years or less. And surely there's a sizeable percentage of couples who have been together for less than a year and have seriously discussed engagement.



To put it frankly: this can freak out some people.

As observers of these relationships, three years or less may seem too brief to make such a big decision. How mature are you really, at 21 or 22 years old? How can you possibly know at this age what you want for the rest of your life?

Believe it or not, some of these couples didn't impulsively tie the knot in a Vegas chapel the month before they turned legal. They actually thought it through — and with brains not ailing from lovesickness.

Just like when we all went through puberty at different times, we psychologically mature at different rates. In college, you learn what you can and can't stand by living with roommates; you learn what size workload you can handle; you learn what you want in a partner by interacting with friends, classmates, and obviously, significant others.

Through these experiences, some people will continue to change and develop in leaps and bounds. Others may reach a state of identity stability sooner than others, and may not significantly change from that point

on in terms of personality or interests.

The point is, some people are ready to get to that next phase in a relationship, because they've (hopefully) both reached that stage of readiness in psychological maturity, regardless of actual age.

In contrast, some people really aren't ready; and when someone who isn't ready jumps into a relationship with the expectation that it will last long-term, there's a greater risk that they'll realize too late that they needed more time.

Really, there's no way we as outsiders can know what someone else wants for the rest of his or her life, even if we're convinced that our outsider-judgments are fabulously objective and sound.

It's coming, but there's only one person who can tell you whether you're ready or not. If you're feeling the pressure, stop for a while; take a moment to ask yourself what it is you really want; be confident that you know yourself in a way no one else can.

In relationships and in life, whatever decision you come to, just remember: there's no rush.

Sarah Carbonel is an English and psychology junior and Mustang Daily dating columnist.



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All published letters must include author's name, year and major, and are subject to editing for grammar, style and spelling.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Austin's column omits facts

I must start off by saying how much I appreciate the "All that's Left" column for being such an expert on this apparent subject of cronyism. I especially appreciated the lack of citation of a SINGLE source in an opinion article which claimed many, many things as fact, and virtually nothing as opinion. Cronyism is defined by Wikipedia as, "...partiality to long-standing friends, especially by appointing them to public office without regard for their qualifications. In political terms, the word 'cronyism' is almost always used derogatorily."

Now somehow this phrase cronyism conjures up memories of another phrase used by House Democrats during the 2006 midterm elections: "Cleaning up the swamp." The highly touted first ever female speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said that she would do just that of the "swamp" that the GOP created in the Congress.

Whether it be John Conyers' slap on the wrist for ethics violations (chair of the Judiciary committee), or Alcee Hastings' impeachment for taking bribes (chair of the Intelligence committee), the swamp does seem to be clearing up now, doesn't it. This doesn't even take into account Pelosi's own conflict of interest when it comes to the federal minimum wage increase, as it relates to American Samoa (see Washington Times). Or how about William "I stashed 90 grand in a freezer" Jefferson who has now been appointed to the homeland security

panel. Before you go on and on about the Bush administration's handling of appointments without providing any real facts, only hearsay, why don't you make sure to clean your own house first.

Michael Minasian

Electrical engineering sophomore

Citing biblical text doesn't count as hate speech

In response to a letter to the editor published Monday ("Hate speech is not protected"), how is citing verses from the Quran hate speech? It is possible that the Quran has hateful messages in it, and that quoting those verses is hate speech, but then you'd be calling the most holy book in the religion of Islam hateful.

Also, some readers might find this interesting to note, but hate speech is protected. This is what has separated us from other countries. In other countries they have "hate speech" codes, whilst the United States does not. That is why the Nazi Party does exist in the U.S., even though it preaches hate.

If Kayvan Chinichian would like to post fliers that defame Jews, then by all means, go for it — just realize that everyone will lose respect for you.

Taylor Scott

International business senior

You rocked ASI's e-Vote

Thank you to everyone who participated in ASI's Rock the e-Vote last week! We really appreciate all the comments and concerns you shared with us. Please feel free to e-mail me with any additional questions or concerns you have: asielctions@asi.calpoly.edu. We want your feedback before we make any decisions.

Mia White

Nutrition senior, ASI elections chair

Arab culture sometimes hides the bad

Recently, Cal Poly celebrated the Arab Awareness Week with movies, a speaker and a culture night. We were also invited to change the status quo of the Middle East in a workshop on Saturday and learn even more about the Israel/Palestine issue on Sunday.

I agree, we should be aware of the Arab culture. It's a culture where Sunnis and Shiias kill each other by the hundreds in Iraq; Sudanese Arabs kill Darfurian blacks by the hundreds of thousands and rape their women to make more Arabs; al-Qaida Arabs kill Algerian police and Afghans and Somalis; and Sunnis kill Iranian revolutionary guards, all during the same week.

We should be aware of the culture that supports Hezbollah attacking Israel unprovoked, and when Israel responds, that culture demonizes Israel for defending its citizens, even though 4,000 Katyusha rockets, filled with ball bearings and nails, are launched from the civilian houses in Lebanon into civilian populations of Israel, and their speaker still blames Israel.

We should be aware of a culture where Israel leaves Gaza for the Palestinians, and in turn they launch hundreds of Qassam rockets into its cities, where Fatah and Hamas freely kill each other. We should be aware of the culture that teaches a person to wear a bomb and go into a bakery and kill others with him. Just read any newspaper and you will be more aware.

The real Arab culture is great. Let's see that — not bloodshed, destruction and wiping another country off the map. Let's stop demonizing and blaming the United States and Israel.

Sam Goodly

San Luis Obispo resident

God isn't a Democrat or Republican

Tuesday's political display on Dexter Lawn left me with mixed emotions. I certainly agree with the designers of the display that Jesus has been hijacked by the Republican Party. The lawn posters made an accurate assessment about how many Republican leaders are unbiblical in their ideas about the poor, the environment, and war and peace.

However, the display's prophetic voice was quickly overwhelmed by its partisan message. I think the clearly Democratic designers of the display make the same mistake as Republicans when it comes to claiming Jesus for their political party.

The truth is, Jesus would have been neither a Republican nor a Democrat. I wish the designers of the display would have illuminated the inconsistencies in the politics of the Religious Right and left it at that. In his recent New York Times bestseller, *God's Politics*, Jim Wallis courageously seeks to persuade Christians from all political backgrounds that neither of America's most popular parties has it right. He argues for Christians to be issues-based voters rather than party-based voters.

Partisan politics is dangerous because it plays the "us versus them" game and leverages club membership for arrogant and divisive purposes. Instead, Wallis encourages Christians to customize their political platform based on the issues, not based on personalities, power, or popularity.

As he would say, God is not a Republican or a Democrat!

Kevin Woodward

Civil engineering senior

STAFF COMMENTARY

Why Dr. Phil is destroying America

Orah Winfrey: philanthropist, talk-show host and overall world-saver. Winfrey's story is truly unforgettable, coming from a rough childhood to becoming one of the most powerful women with a tremendous influence on popular culture.

Despite these amazing attributes I have one large beef with this woman (no, it's not the meat industry) that I need to put to rest here and now. Winfrey is solely responsible for creating one of the worst public figures of our era: Dr. Phil McGraw.

Winfrey brought Dr. Phil, if that is his real name, on her show from 1998 to 2002 as a "relationship and life strategy expert." His appearances on Winfrey's show became increasingly frequent until she finally set him free with "The Dr. Phil Show" in spring 2002 and he has been contaminating our airwaves ever since. Now gaining momentum in its fifth season, with a prime afternoon time slot and a relatively large viewing audience, "The Dr. Phil Show" has the means and capabilities to destroy more lives than just my own.

The general layout of the show is as follows: Dr. Phil has his crew put together a tape of the psychological case at hand for each episode. This tape usually consists of a problematic couple or a person's destructive behavior in their home setting, in order to give the audience background on how a specific problem is ruining their life. After the black and white reel-tape comes to an emotional close, Dr. Phil has the guests come to the studio audience "to get real" and work it out.

Dr. Phil proceeds to go back and forth asking the most simplistic, plainly obvious questions, to evoke similar and even worse responses from his

My only hope is these guests are just seeking their 15 minutes of fame and not taking anything seriously, or else we are all in big trouble.

patients. Through over simplifying every problem to what he calls "the bare bones" Dr. Phil can then easily use one of his 10 scripted answers to attend to the person in need.

Call me a cynic but I'm not really sure how a one-hour show, with commercial breaks, in front of a live-audience qualifies as therapy, or creates anything remotely "life changing." It was both easy and painful to browse "The Dr. Phil Show" archives to find one that exemplifies a ridiculous situation and even more ridiculous advice. One featured a newly engaged couple in which the future husband, Bill, cannot seem to grow up and accept adult situations and conflicts in a mature manner. Fiancée Angee is having a hard time dealing with Bill's emotional shortcomings. This particular couple was part of a string of episodes eloquently titled "Get My Groom to Grow Up."

As with all Dr. Phil counseling sessions, regardless of the problem at hand, he is continually telling his guests to "better communicate with one another." Instead of telling these guests you probably should not marry a person that you have significant, irreconcilable problems with, Dr. Phil, the core-getter, comes up with "solutions" because

telling someone to break off an engagement does not end with a feel-good experience and a ratings boost.

I often analyze why anyone would take advice from this bald man with such a vacant expression. My only hope is these guests are just seeking their 15 minutes of fame and not taking anything seriously, or else we are all in big trouble.

What sends the Dr. Phil fiasco over the top, is not the fact that he is also somehow a published author, but that his wife Robin McGraw, with no psychological training whatsoever, has jumped onto the bandwagon to give out her endless supply of useless tidbits.

On Web sites and through her new book, she discusses her enlightened perspective on marriage and motherhood, something that only half of the world population has also experienced and would be equally as credible to discuss.

The afternoon show ropes in viewers by getting them to believe that not only is he saving the guest from a lifelong struggle with inner demons, but that viewers have the same problems and will lead a destructive life without his guidance.

I believe it is the housewives watching the show at 3 p.m. weekdays who are the true victims, taking the full brunt of the brainwashing, to which the extent of the damage may never fully be known.

So the next time you come across hard times and feel like you may need to get some tough love and work it out with the big guy, turn off the TV. Americans have problems, but one of our biggest may very well be Dr. Phil himself.

Cassie Gaeto is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Columnist Lineup

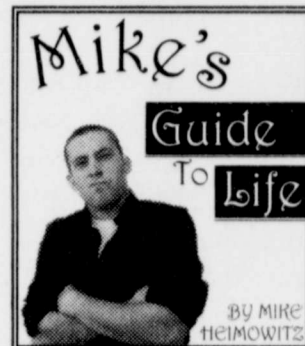
MONDAY

Liberal-Zach Austin



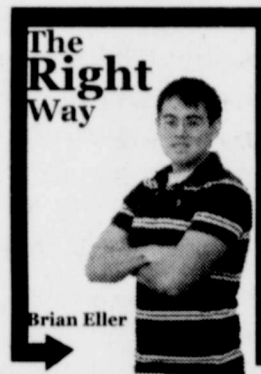
TUESDAY

Humor-Mike Heimowitz



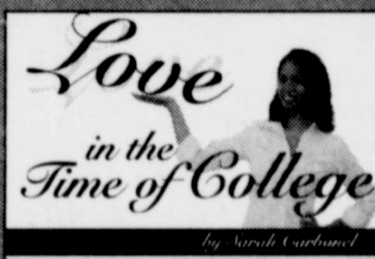
WEDNESDAY

Conservative-Brian Eller



TODAY

Dating-Sarah Carbonel



FRIDAY



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The Green Spot

by Jesse Churchill

TUESDAY-HUMOR

The Bunion

by Daniel Gingras

WEDNESDAY

Book Reviews

THURSDAY-MOVIE REVIEWS

The Word on the Screen

by Ryan Chartrand

FRIDAY

How to Survive

by Daniella Orihuela-Gruber

Republican lawmakers could face new ethics probes

Larry Margasak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Republicans could face ethics investigations for contacting U.S. attorneys about pending cases, a jarring political development only four months after ethical lapses helped cost the GOP control of Congress.

Two veteran Republican lawmakers and a top GOP leadership aide contacted prosecutors who later were fired. All three denied wrongdoing.

Democratic-run committees in both the House and Senate are investigating the firings of eight U.S. attorneys. Six of those prosecutors told Congress on Tuesday they felt pressured by the interventions.

The Senate ethics committee already is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the call by Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., to a prosecutor in his state. The action was required once the committee received a complaint against Domenici from a congressional watchdog group.

The House's ethics panel has more discretion on starting an initial inquiry. But Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said there should be one. Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., contacted the same prosecutor as Domenici.

Edward Cassidy, a top aide to House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio and a former ethics committee staff member,

contacted a prosecutor in Washington state.

The Senate's ethics manual says Senate offices should refrain from intervening in pending court actions "until the matter has reached a resolution in the courts." The House's version has similar warnings.

Cassidy's case presents a potential conflict for the senior Republican on the House ethics committee, Rep. Doc Hastings of Washington state. Cassidy was his top aide in his personal office and on the committee.

Hastings normally would play a crucial role in the evenly divided committee, in deciding whether to begin an initial investigation and appointing an investigative subcommittee. He would not comment Tuesday on whether he planned to remove himself from any committee decisions.

Hoyer, a key architect of the Democrats' takeover of the House, expressed no reluctance to jump on the new Republican dilemma.

"When issues are raised in the public sphere, I think the committee has a responsibility on its own, and I would hope they would do that," Hoyer told reporters.

Democrats made GOP ethical misdeeds a major issue in the fall campaign. They singled out former GOP Majority Leader Tom DeLay, the subject of several ethics probes, and were handed a pre-election scandal when it was disclosed that former Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., made advances to former male

reverse that provision.

The fired prosecutor from New Mexico, David Iglesias, told senators he had a brief telephone conversation with Domenici in late October 2006 that ended when Domenici abruptly hung up. Iglesias said he had just told the senator that indictments in a corruption case against Democrats would not be handed down before the November elections.

Iglesias also said he received a call from Wilson before the election, in which she asked him about sealed indictments — a topic prosecutors cannot discuss. Wilson's question "raised red flags in my head," Iglesias said.

John McKay, the fired U.S. attorney in Seattle, said he stopped Cassidy — the Hastings assistant — from asking him detailed questions about an investigation into the disputed election of Washington state's Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire in 2004.

Domenici had a much different recollection than Iglesias about his call to the prosecutor.

He said in a statement that Iglesias "confirmed that our conversation was brief and that my words did not threaten him, nor did I direct him to take any course of

action. While I recall, as I stated previously, that I asked Mr. Iglesias about timing of the investigation, neither I nor those who overheard my side of the brief conversation recall my mentioning the November election to him."

Wilson said she called the prosecutor after a constituent "with knowledge of ongoing investigations" told her that Iglesias was intentionally delaying corruption prosecutions.

"I called Mr. Iglesias and told him the allegation, though not the source," she said. "Mr. Iglesias denied delaying prosecutions. He said he had very few people to handle corruption cases. I told him that I would take him at his word, and I did."

She added, "If the purpose of my call has somehow been misperceived, I am sorry for any confusion."

Hastings defended his former aide, saying Cassidy's call was "a simple inquiry and nothing more" about Washington state's close gubernatorial election.

Cassidy called his call to McKay "a routine effort to determine whether allegations of voter fraud in the 2004 gubernatorial election were, or were not, being investigated by federal authorities."

"As the top aide to the chairman of the House ethics committee, I understood the permissible limits on any such conversation," Cassidy said.

Democratic-run committees in both the House and Senate are investigating the firings of eight U.S. attorneys. Six of those prosecutors told Congress on Tuesday they felt pressured by the interventions.

teenage pages.

The firing of eight U.S. attorneys has raised questions about how they are appointed and the circumstances under which they may be dismissed. Last year's renewal of the USA Patriot Act, the Bush administration's prime anti-terror law, contained a provision that abolished limits on how long interim prosecutors may serve.

Democrats have accused the Justice Department of seeking to use the provision to bypass the Senate confirmation process. Legislation has been introduced to

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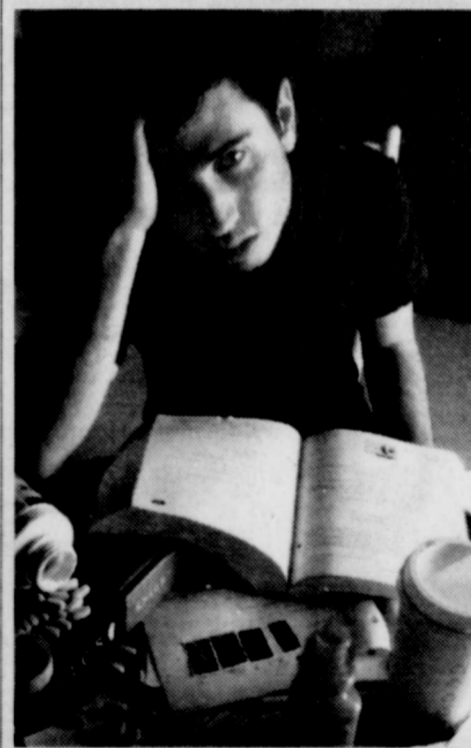
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RIAA urges downloaders to turn themselves in

Owen Praskievicz
THE DIAMONDBACK (U. MARYLAND)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The Recording Industry Association of America has an idea for university students who illegally download music: Sign a letter admitting their mistakes, make a plea-bargain with the multi-million dollar industry, then pay them an out-of-court settlement.

Then maybe — just maybe — the college student will be lucky enough to avoid a lawsuit.

In a new plan targeting college students, the RIAA said last week that lawyers had sent out 400 settlement offers to students through 13 universities across the country demanding settlement money for illegally downloaded copyright material. And although no students at this university were selected in the first wave of letters, the strategy signals an audacious and unprecedented

approach by the industry to crack down on college students that could soon envelop students at this university.

"There isn't a college student in America today who doesn't know that the online 'sharing' of copyrighted music is illegal," said RIAA President Cary Sherman in a recorded online news conference with college newspapers. "Yet, file-trafficking on college campuses remains extensive and disproportionately problematic."

Sherman said the letters don't target any specific universities — only students identified as prolific file-sharers. Ohio University appeared to get the worst of the RIAA's ire this time around — 50 students there were asked to visit RIAA website and pay thousands of dollars to settle threats of impending lawsuits.

RIAA lawyers targeted the top 13 universities who have received the most cease and desist warnings —

"nastygrams," as some critics call them — ordering universities to shut down file-sharing hubs and warn students to stop downloading copyright material, according to documents provided by the association.

With more than 300 warnings received here, this university ranked 26th in the country for most warnings sent, and could be targeted in a second wave of warnings. Typical copyright law provides for statutory damages ranging from \$750 to \$150,000 per work infringed, and RIAA General Counsel Steven Marks said the latest effort will likely rope in a record-high number of students.

"In the three years since we first filed suit against a university network user, we have sued about 1,000 students," Marks said. "Under this new program, we will initiate legal action against a similar number of students in just three months."

Sherman said the RIAA will only send the letters to the university, which it hopes will transfer the letters to the students. At this university, officials have already taken significant steps to placate the RIAA, including revising network guidelines that effectively shut down file-sharing hub Direct Connect last semester, commonly known as DC++, if only temporarily.

But Office of Information Technology officials said last semester they would not defend students sued by the RIAA because it would conflict with the university's policy against file sharing, which they said is consistent with the law. OIT officials did not return calls for comment on this story.

Marks warned that unlike lawsuits three years ago, the RIAA no longer targets only the most "egregious infringers" who store and share thousands of copyright files.

"Today we do not have any min-

imum amount of files in order to move forward with a lawsuit," Marks said. "Students should understand that they are not anonymous when they use P2P services."

Blogs and other student sites have blasted the RIAA's new policy, calling it extortion and saying it will trick some students from seeking out more viable alternatives to the settlement. The university's Student Legal Aid Office could not be reached for comment, but in the past it has said it can only refer students to an outside attorney.

"Frankly, we've found that students know that downloading from unauthorized P2P systems is illegal, but the chance of getting caught isn't great enough to discourage them from doing it," Sherman said. "By increasing the number of lawsuits, we're letting them know that the risk of getting caught is greater. That's also why we're bringing more lawsuits on a single college campus."

Kobe Bryant gets another suspension

Brian Mahoney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Kobe Bryant was suspended one game by the NBA on Wednesday for striking a player in the face, his second penalty for that action in a little more than a month.

And if he does it again, he could be looking at a more severe punishment.

"We considered suspending him for multiple games," NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson said on a conference call. "Certainly if this occurs again, most likely there would be multiple games."

The most recent incident came with 58 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 117-107 double-overtime loss to Minnesota on Tuesday night, when Bryant struck Timberwolves guard Marko Jaric after taking a shot.

The play was similar to one that drew Bryant a suspension late in January, when he hit San Antonio's Manu Ginobili in the face after taking a shot. Jackson determined that play to have been an unnatural basketball action and suspended Bryant from a game at New York.

There was no foul called on the first play, but Bryant was called for a foul Tuesday.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson was restrained in disagreeing with the suspension, but couldn't help letting some sarcasm drip through.

"In this league, everybody's got a pretty face, and we're going to try to keep it that way," Jackson said before the Lakers' game at Milwaukee.

Jackson acknowledged that the two plays Bryant was suspended for are similar, but made it clear that he didn't agree with the punishment.

"If they're going to make a call, even if they're wrong, they'll still be consistent," Jackson said.

Bryant, second in the NBA with 29.2 points per game, missed Wednesday night's game and forfeited about \$161,000 in salary.

Jackson said Bryant was simply using his normal follow-through in an attempt to draw a foul.

"I think I'm going to have to put about 50 clips of Kobe shooting his shot and his arms going out like that so the judge of this deed of Kobe's sees that he does this a lot," Jackson said. "It's not an unnatural basketball motion."

And Jackson said Bryant is hardly the only player who uses his arms to create space for shots or draw fouls, pointing to the Lakers' Dec. 17 overtime loss to Washington in which Gilbert Arenas shot 27 free throws.

"He was throwing his arms out there to create a foul situation, and got the calls that night," Jackson said. "So I know that it does work for some players on given nights."

Bucks coach Terry Stotts said he sees Bryant and other star players use their hands aggressively all the time.

"As far as extreme flailing into a face, I don't see that very often," Stotts said. "But I think star players throughout the years have found ways to get off them, too."

Stu Jackson acknowledged being surprised by having this incident come up from Bryant again, but did not want to comment on Bryant's intent. However, he made clear that "that movement is not an acceptable movement."

"I'm not in the business of reading players' minds, I'm simply evaluating the play as a basketball play," Stu Jackson said. "And when you

take a shot and follow through, followed by driving an arm back in an aggressive manner that strikes a defender in his face, that's what we evaluated to be a non-acceptable play."

Phil Jackson said he didn't believe Bryant was being singled out by league officials.

"They assure us that they wouldn't do that," Phil Jackson said. "They certainly wouldn't want a player of his quality not to be in a game, particularly when we only come to Milwaukee once a year."

Jackson said top league officials didn't contact Bryant directly to inform him of the suspension.

"They never talk individually to people," Phil Jackson said. "They send their henchmen out."

Jackson said he told Bryant to rest up.


"I told him, look at it this way: You're going to have a night off, back-to-backs, we have five games in eight days, this is the middle of that period," Jackson said. "You're going to be able to come back and be strong."

Los Angeles is already playing without injured starters Lamar Odom and Luke Walton.

"Let's give these guys an opportunity to play and see if we can make a game of it," Jackson said of his reserves. "That's the attitude to have, and there's nothing we can do about it now."

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It's sexier than you might think

Big West

continued from page 16

plenty of parity in the Big West, but the top four teams have set themselves apart from the rest of the conference.

Note: As of press time Wednesday night, UC Irvine held off UC Riverside 53-52 to advance to play UC Santa Barbara in a semifinal game at 8:30 tonight; Cal State Northridge and Pacific were yet to tip off.

No. 1 Long Beach State (22-7, 12-2 Big West)

Leading scorers: Aaron Nixon 20.4 ppg, Kejuan Johnson 18.1 ppg

The skinny: The 49ers can flat-out score the basketball. During Big West play, they averaged 86.4 points per game. Two big reasons for the 49ers' success are Nixon and Johnson, who both like to feast off perimeter scoring. The tandem combines for roughly six 3s per game. Nixon is the best clutch shooter in the conference. He hit a game-winner with less than one second to play at UC Santa Barbara earlier this season and connected on a 3-pointer from deep in the corner to beat UC Irvine in the conference tournament semifinals last year.

Odds to win it all: 2-1

No. 2 Cal Poly (18-10, 9-5)

Leading scorer: Derek Stockalper 14.1 ppg

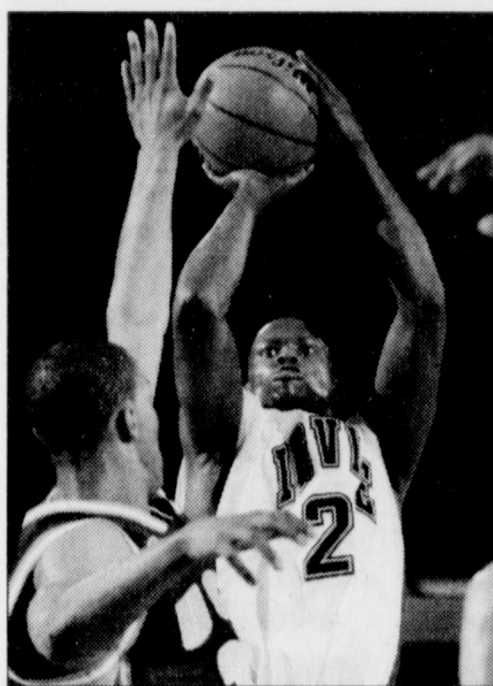
The skinny: Cal Poly is the hottest team in the Big West entering the tournament. The Mustangs have won 12 of their last 14 and seven straight. Much of the turnaround can be attributed to phenomenal shooting from beyond the arc. The Mustangs are ninth in Division I in 3-pointers per game (9.4). Any team that is capable of dropping 15 3s on a given night is dangerous. The Mustangs are also about the deepest team in the field.

Odds to win it all: 5-1

No. 3 Cal State Fullerton (19-9, 9-5)

Leading scorer: Bobby Brown 20.6 ppg, Scott Cutley 15.3 ppg

The skinny: Cal State Fullerton's success clearly rests on the performance of its NBA-bound point guard, Bobby Brown. Brown was second in the Big West in scoring and led the conference in assists per game (5.9). The downside is his carelessness with the ball. Despite leading the conference in assists, he had an assist-to-turnover ratio of 1.73. He turns the ball over three times a game, a scary statistic for any field general. Nonetheless, Brown is the biggest offensive threat in the conference and



MARK AVERY ASSOCIATED PRESS

UC Irvine guard Marcus McIntosh (2) shoots over UC Riverside guard Larry Cunningham on Wednesday night. UC Irvine won 53-52.

will be tough to stop.

Odds to win it all: 7-1

No. 4 UC Santa Barbara (18-10, 9-5)

Leading scorer: Alex Harris 20.9 ppg, Chris Devine 12.8 ppg

The skinny: The big question for the Gauchos is which team will show up — the team that lost to Long

Beach State 101-65 or the team that nearly took the 49ers into overtime. The Gauchos have seen many ups and downs this season. From losing to UC Davis to topping No. 25 UNLV, the Gauchos have been a very hit or miss team. The Gauchos actually played better on the road (10-4) than at home (8-6) this season, so maybe a trip to Anaheim for the tournament will help UC Santa Barbara find its "A" game.

Odds to win it all: 12-1

No. 5 UC Irvine (13-17, 6-8)

Leading scorer: Patrick Sanders 11.9 ppg

The skinny: The Anteaters are second in the Big West in scoring defense (69.6) and will need to call upon a tremendous effort on the defensive side of the ball in order to make a run in this tournament. Control the tempo and keep games in the 50s or 60s and the Anteaters might have a shot to win a few.

Odds to win it all: 25-1

No. 6 Cal State Northridge (14-16, 5-9)

Leading scorer: Jonathan Heard 12.5 ppg

The skinny: Northridge relies on turnovers to win games. The Matadors are athletic and can cause

havoc with their variety of trapping defenses. With 7.64 per game, the Matadors lead the Big West in steals per game. Unfortunately their biggest strength is also a gaping weakness on the other side of the ball — the Matadors turn it over 16.5 times per game.

Odds to win it all: 35-1

No. 7 Pacific (11-18, 5-9)

Leading scorer: Anthony Brown 13.1 ppg

The skinny: After heading to the NCAA Tournament for three straight years, the Tigers' reign has finally ended, or so it seems. Short of a miracle, a Pacific run in the tournament seems unlikely. Sophomore forward Anthony Brown (6-foot-7) shows promise as a big-time player in the future, but he doesn't have much support around him.

Odds to win it all: 50-1

No. 8 UC Riverside (7-23, 1-13)

Leading scorer: Larry Cunningham 14.7 ppg

The skinny: The Highlanders' only conference win was an anomaly against Cal State Fullerton. But hey, they did beat UC Davis twice — a feat that several other Big West teams can't claim.

Odds to win it all: 99.9-1

Johnny

continued from page 16

we look at sports altogether.

Since it's just about that time, we'll start with March Madness. This tournament has 64 teams all trying to play for one championship. That's just not fair; 64 teams can't all win.

How about instead of playing out the actual tournament, we give everyone a trophy and they all go back to school winners?

Just think about all the teams that don't get invited to the big dance and

think how left out they feel. I mean, think about 2-28 Iona, which tried so hard this season, but just fell short in 28 of its 30 games.

I mean, a couple breaks here and there, they would be a six-win team. They need something! So I propose the tournament of 336. That way every team in Division I basketball can feel special.

And they should only play basketball games on one hoop, because if we can't share, then what's the point?

I started thinking about other sports that just aren't fair. The first

thing that came to mind was golf. Why should Tiger Woods always win? There's got to be a way to make everything fair and keep everyone happy. Woods can just play every player's ball. This way they all win, and they don't ever have to play against him. Everyone will win and form a conga line listening to songs after the tournament. Yay!

Everything can be fair. Everyone can win, and no one ever deserves to be booed. Then I started to think, if everyone is winning, there must be a lot of cheering going on.

Cheering is going to have to be

banned too. I mean, if you can't boo, you can't cheer.

Wait a second, didn't somebody try this already? Oh yeah, now I remember, they called it the USSR. How did that turn out anyway?

The state of Washington wants a friendly and welcome environment for the kids. Well, that's cute and all, but at some point, kids have to learn to deal with adversity. Chances are, they'll face it at some point.

Now, booing at youth leagues is clearly inappropriate. The most important things are the juice box and orange slices. And I'm certainly

not suggesting that booing a toddler each time he falls during tricycle training is a good move either. But, booing is part of life — you don't always get the gold star.

For those who have played sports competitively, chances are you *relished* the opportunity to play in front of a hostile crowd. Igniting the crowd is great, but shutting one up is even better.

So today, I boo Washington state, and if they don't like, it they can just sing:

Kumbaya my lord, Kumbaya!

Basketball

continued from page 16

Regardless of who reaches the title game, it will be televised at 8 p.m. Saturday on ESPN2.

Cal Poly leaves for the Anaheim Convention Center Arena today. While the bottom six teams beat each other up Wednesday and today, the Mustangs have been practicing in the cozy confines of Mott Gym.

"My focus was on getting second place in league so we could get that extra bye, which was huge for us," Cal Poly senior forward Derek Stockalper said of last Saturday's 82-70 Senior Day win over Pacific. "It's not the last game of my career. I plan on having a few more."

In the game, one of Stockalper's teeth went through his lower lip during the second half. He then left the game momentarily before coming

back in with the split lip surrounded by gauze and a makeshift strap to throw down a game-clinching, one-handed slam dunk on a fast break that sent the sellout crowd of 3,032 into a frenzy.

"After the game, I just went over to the emergency room and got stitched up," Stockalper said. "... Chaz (Thomas) got that steal. I wasn't going to dunk it, but I jumped and realized I was way higher than I normally jump. I figured, 'you know what, I might as well try (to dunk). It happened so fast. The reaction afterward was awesome. I couldn't even hear myself think. It was good fun.'"

Cal Poly hopes that kind of environment — loud, face-painted Mustang Maniacs and all — translates to Anaheim.

It doesn't hurt that the Mustangs this season returned seven of their eight players who played in last year's Big West tourney semifinal loss to Pacific.

"I think (last year) was a good experience for all the guys involved, for freshmen and now sophomores this year," Stockalper said. "They know what the atmosphere's like."

Like last season, Cal Poly looks to use one of its best offensive strengths — 3-point shooting — to its advantage in Anaheim.


The Mustangs were 16 for 43 from 3-point range in last year's tournament and shot a clip of .397 this regular season.

"I think a lot of it is just knowing where your shots are going to come in the offense and having confidence to make them," McGinn said of the team's hot 3-point shooting. "Once people start seeing others do it, they want to get in on the fun. It snowballs from there. We shoot well in practice and that's carrying over into games, obviously."

Among players with at least 25 attempts from beyond the arc, Cal Poly has six shooting .327 or better, including Stockalper (.500) and McGinn (.436).

At the end of the day, the Mustangs are not concerned as much with who they will play in the semifinal round as how they themselves play.

"Play to your strengths, not your opponent's weaknesses," Bromley said.




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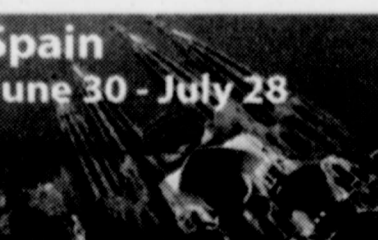
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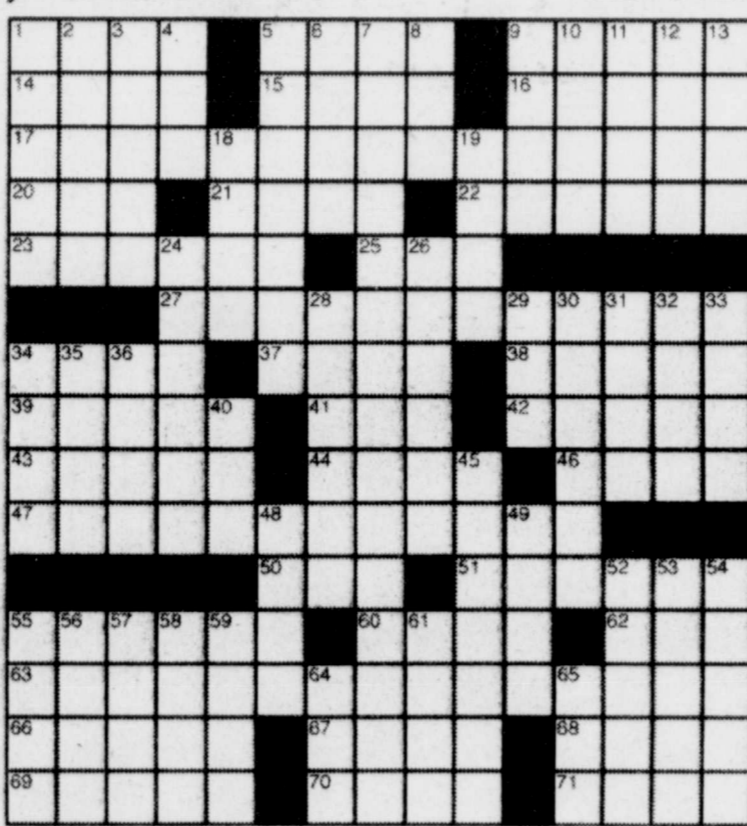
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0125

- ACROSS**
- 1 Weight
 - 5 All in favor
 - 9 Where some bolts fit
 - 14 Like some locks
 - 15 Torn
 - 16 Abhorrence
 - 17 50% likelihood
 - 20 Born, in Bordeaux
 - 21 "Not very likely!"
 - 22 With sound enhanced
 - 23 Saint Clare of
 - 25 Functioned as
 - 27 Of no value
 - 34 of color
 - 37 Himalayan hoax
 - 38 Restraints
 - 39 Jingle creator
 - 41 Codgers' queries
 - 42 Hint
 - 43 Change, chemically
 - 44 Alternative to Meth. or Luth.
 - 46 Newspaper feature
 - 47 Critical stage in a space shuttle's flight
 - 50 "the long roll of the ages end" (start of an old Irish song)
 - 51 Chinese thought
 - 55 Openly sworn
 - 60 German honey
 - 62 Letter from the Corinthians
 - 63 Bill Moyers speech on income inequality in America, with "The"
 - 66 Measure out
 - 67 As required

- DOWN**
- 1 Howler
 - 2 They have a roof above them
 - 3 Runs off
 - 4 X
 - 5 Uprightness
 - 6 Artist Magritte
 - 7 Start of a march chant ... or a hint to 17-, 27-, 47- and 63-Across
 - 8 Major mess
 - 9 Head
 - 10 Leading man?
 - 11 Pint-size
 - 12 Go against
 - 13 Hook hand
 - 18 Soy-based soup
 - 19 Amount to
 - 24 All together
 - 26 Up
 - 28 Niobe, e.g.
 - 29 Best seller
 - 30 Steep-sided gulch
 - 31 Wet bar?
 - 32 Years ago
 - 33 Worn
 - 34 Pink, say
 - 35 Fantasy
 - 36 "Rubáiyát" poet



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

- 40** Degree in math?
- 45** Title locale in a classic Bing Crosby film
- 48** Make over
- 49** One of the Castros
- 52** Monte of Cooperstown
- 53** Find at the beach
- 54** Take a stroll
- 55** Miles away
- 56** Nasty
- 57** Eyeball
- 58** Microscopic Dr. Seuss characters
- 59** Feminine name ending
- 61** Imperative
- 64** Org. that gives approvals
- 65** Skater Midori

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IRREG ONCE SUNK
PIETRAYNOR HIFI
HUIT REG TEN
SPARED UNTAMED
NAPOLEONSOLO
AST DCC OSCAR
CHEESECAKEPHOTO
KARLA NAY MOO
BROWNIEPOINT
FLAGDAY FENCES
GOO EEL MUTE
ACTS TRIFLEWITH
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Minus suspended Kobe, Lakers lose by 20 at Bucks

Kobe Bryant was suspended for one game Wednesday for smacking Minnesota guard Marko Jaric in the face.

Chris Jenkins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE — Charlie Villanueva scored a season-high 26 points Wednesday night to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 110-90 victory over the undermanned Los Angeles Lakers, who were without the suspended Kobe Bryant.

Charlie Bell added 20 points for Milwaukee, 13 in the decisive third quarter, and Andrew Bogut scored 22 as the Bucks shot a season-best 59.5 percent from the floor.

Bryant was suspended by the NBA earlier Wednesday for striking Minnesota Timberwolves guard Marko Jaric in the face during the Lakers' double-overtime loss on Tuesday night.

It was the second suspension in just over a month for Bryant, who also was suspended one game after he hit San Antonio's Manu Ginobili in the face after taking a shot during a game in late January. Bryant's suspension compounded existing injury problems for the Lakers, who dressed only nine players.

Starting forwards Lamar Odom (torn labrum) and Luke Walton (right ankle sprain) and backup forward Vladimir Radmanovic (separated right shoulder) already were out because of injuries, and backup forward Ronny Turiaf also sat out with back spasms.

Maurice Evans scored 22 and Brian Cook added 20 for Los Angeles, which lost its fourth straight. The Lakers have lost 10 of their last 13 games.

Milwaukee was 44 for 74 from the floor, outshooting its previous season high of 56.8 against San Antonio on Dec. 27.

The Bucks used a 19-6 run to take control of the game in the third quarter.

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9	2	4	7	3	8	5	6	1

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COMMENTARY

Long Beach State enters as favorite, but Poly is close behind

Frank Stranzl
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Missed the regular season? Haven't the slightest clue who's who heading into the men's basketball Big West Conference Tournament? Here's a quick rundown for the uninformed reader. First, here's some basics you need to know:

The Favorite: Long Beach State
Hottest Team on the Block: Cal Poly

The Darkhorse: Any team not seeded in the top four — there's see Big West, page 14

LBSU to be Poly women's quarterfinal foe

The third-seeded Mustangs will face No. 6 seed Long Beach State at noon today.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly women's basketball team finally found out its opponent for today's noon quarterfinal game at the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena — Long Beach State.

Sixth-seeded Long Beach State eliminated No. 7 seed UC Irvine 76-64 Wednesday to advance. The 49ers outscored the Anteaters 48-28 in the first half.

Long Beach State enters today's game against Cal Poly with an 8-22 record after going 4-10 in Big West play.

The Mustangs (14-13, 9-5 Big West) are one win away from clinching their first winning season since 1991-92. They have one Big West Tournament win since the 2001-02 season.

Earlier in the first round of the Big West tourney Wednesday, fifth-seeded Cal State Fullerton (15-15) took care of business against No. 8 seed Pacific (8-22), winning 69-58.

Editor's note: A complete preview of today's women's quarterfinal game ran in the Mustang Daily on Wednesday.

It can still be viewed at www.mustangdaily.com.

Mustang men head to Anaheim 2 wins away from NCAA tourney

If Cal Poly wins its semifinal game at 9 p.m. Friday on ESPN2, it will play for the Big West Conference Tournament title at 8 p.m. Saturday on ESPN2.

Tristan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

For the Cal Poly men's basketball team, it all comes down to this weekend — win two games in a row and reach the NCAA Tournament.

And although the Mustangs are not looking ahead to a potential appearance in Saturday night's Big West Conference Tournament title game, the thought of reaching March Madness for the first time since moving to the Division I level in 1994-95 is tantalizing.

"We definitely talk about it," Cal Poly senior forward Tyler McGinn said. "We'd be silly not to talk about it. Everyone wants to do it. It's everyone's goal. It comes up here and there, but we also know that we're still two games away and we have to win both those games to get there, so we know what we have to do."

"It's a very exciting feeling. I think about it on a daily basis, to be honest."

BY THE NUMBERS

5-1

Cal Poly's record in its last six road games, where it is 5-7 overall

9

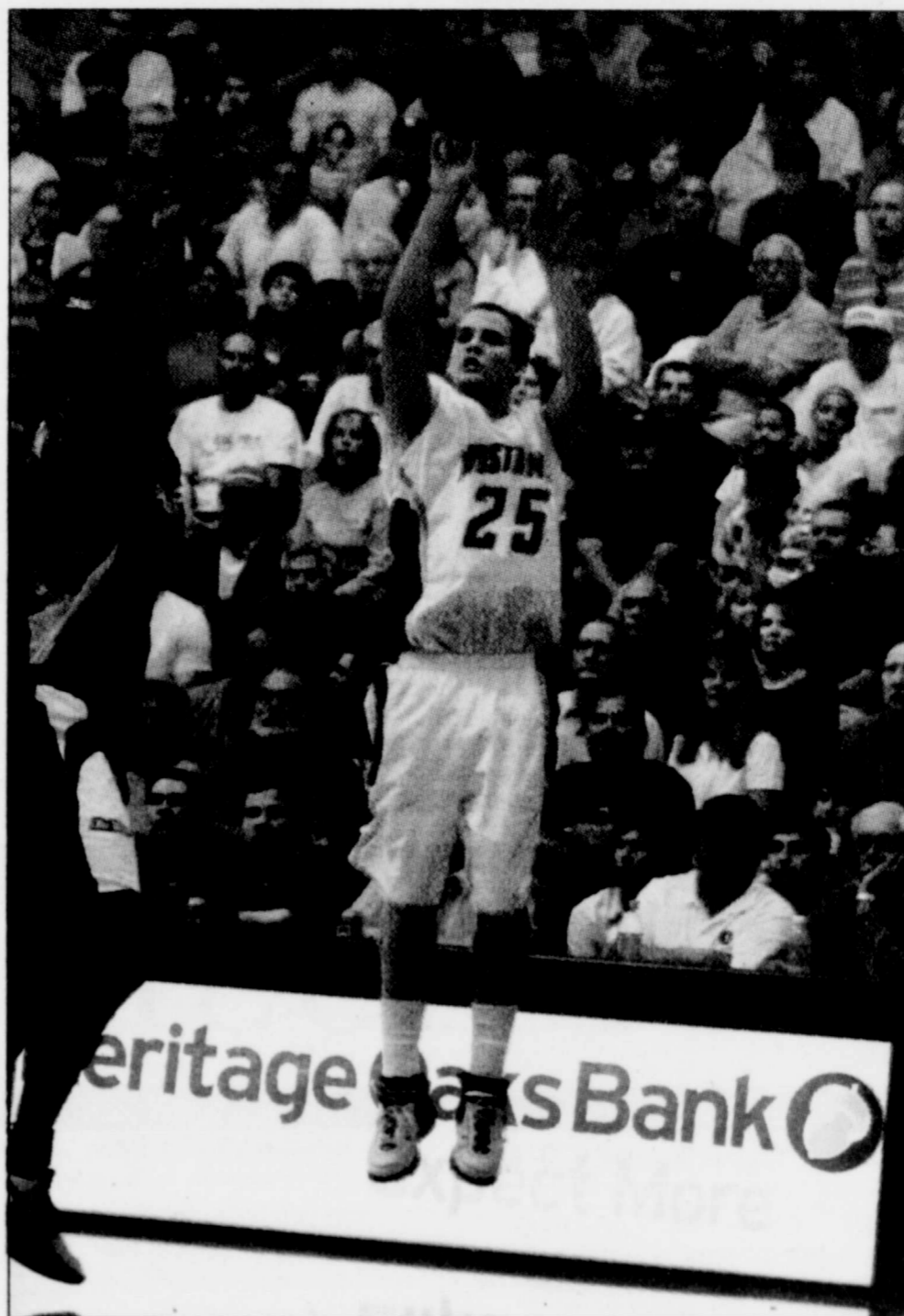
The Mustangs' national Division I ranking in 3-pointers made per game (9.4)

210-165

Cal Poly's assist-to-turnover ratio in its last 14 games, a 12-2 stretch

This is my last chance. There's not going to be another chance in my life to do something like this, as player, at least, and I've definitely been thinking about it a lot and wanted to do it since I was little. It would be great for the program and the community. Everybody in the town would remember it for a long time."

Cal Poly has already had a season to remember.



NICK CAMACHO FILE PHOTO

Cal Poly senior swingman Derek Stockalper (right) shoots over the extended left arm of Pacific sophomore forward Anthony Brown in the Mustangs' 82-70 Senior Day win in Mott Gym last Saturday.

The Mustangs (18-10, 9-5 Big West) have secured a Division I record for wins in a season, clinched a winning season for the first time since 2002-03, have their best Big West winning percentage ever and their best record since going 19-8 at the Division II level in 1991-92.

And they enter the postseason winning seven straight — their longest such stretch since opening the 1991-92 season 7-0 — and 12 of their last 14 games.

But Cal Poly knows all those numbers will be diminished if this weekend ends in disappointment.

"You get tired of middle-of-the-road stuff," Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said. "We've got to get to the (NCAA) Tournament."

To get there, the Mustangs will have to beat one of the teams seeded Nos. 3-7 in the semifinal round at 9 p.m. Friday on ESPN2. That team is likely to be third-seeded Cal State Fullerton — which Cal Poly split with during the regular season — and also could be fourth-seeded UC Santa Barbara, No. 5 UC Irvine, No. 6 Cal State Northridge or No. 7 Pacific.

see Basketball, page 14

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

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Johnny in the Box



Everyone can be a winner

John Middlekauff
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

What if Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis made it mandatory for all Raiders fans in the Black Hole to wear tie-dyed T-shirts and sing "Kumbaya" all game long?

Just imagine if he changed his long-standing Raider motto of Commitment to Excellence to We Love Everyone.

Every fan would yell things like "We don't care if Randy Moss tries or not, we know he's special on the inside," or "It doesn't matter if we win, just as long as every player on the team gets some playing time."

These comments are about as likely as Ron Artest going to the next march for peace in downtown Sacramento. Don't worry, I'm going somewhere with this one.

What if I said that you weren't allowed to boo at sporting events? The state of Washington's Activities Association that regulates high school athletics is actually contemplating making it illegal to boo at sporting events.

At first I thought this was one of the stupidest things I had ever heard. I thought the term 'politically correct' was taking on an entirely new meaning. I mean, sports are not fair; people are booed all the time. Some fans even boo their own teams when they don't perform.

They say Philadelphia fans boo more than they cheer. They once booed Santa Clause at an Eagles game. Booing in Philly is like breathing.

But as I sat and pondered this no-booing thing, I started to realize some positives. I think I'm actually beginning to see the light. Why stop at banning booing, why not winning?

Why not competing all together? Why should we even keep score?

I think we can really build on this one, the possibilities are just endless. I think my ideas may be revolutionary; maybe they'll change the way

see Johnny, page 14

BIG WEST
CONFERENCE

For up-to-the-minute results from the Big West Conference Tournaments in Anaheim, visit www.mustangdaily.com

