

INSIDE

NEWS



Oh, rats: scientists want to wipe out these creatures on an Alaskan island and bring the birds back.

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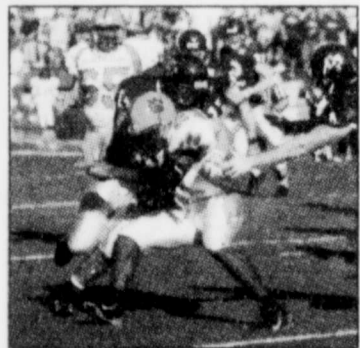
ARTS



The Appetite for Construction tour brings Switchfoot and Relient K to the Cal Poly campus.

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SPORTS



Former Cal Poly linebacker to ink deal with Philadelphia Eagles this morning.

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ONLINE



Switchfoot drummer Chad Butler talks about the band's connections to the San Diego wildfires.

mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny
High 73°/Low 37°

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Santa Claus is coming to town



SAYRA REYES MUSTANG DAILY

Santa Claus posed for photos with students Tuesday in the University Union for a fee of \$2 to benefit the Open House Committee. Santa is also scheduled to appear Nov. 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shown on the right are the students' polaroid photos as they developed.



Little changes can make big differences in global warming

Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

This summer, many people who were once a part of the overpopulated beach crowd eventually took to indoor activities, ones with cooling refreshments and blasting air conditioners.

This might sound like a scene out of a horror movie from the '70s, but in reality it describes what is happening to the planet.

This is global warming and this is only the beginning.

Scientists all around the world expect that global warming is coming at a fast pace and there may be more at stake than previously thought.

"There won't be a way to halt the global climate change for decades to come, but we can try to dramatically reduce future impacts on our future generations," said Maria Markoudakis, Association of Environmental Professionals president and environmental management and protection senior.

"The world needs to realize we need to change our most basic methods of life into sustainable methods and there is hope."

If preventative tactics don't start soon, the world could begin to see the extinction of certain plants and animals due to the fact that they are incapable of moving to new homes.

There will be extreme storms and floods, the sea level will rise so high that people will be forced

to move away from the coasts and other areas will become too dry to help support farming.

So what can the average person do to help save the planet from this destruction? The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) suggests people give their habits and lifestyles a complete makeover. The adoption of this more responsible lifestyle can start with small, everyday tasks.

Transportation

Every rusty pick-up truck putting along the highway is far more dangerous than it seems. Harmful chemicals from exhaust fumes will eventually make their way up into the atmosphere, where they will remain eternally.

According to the Environmental Defense Organization, 239 million cars and light trucks are on American roadways today. Even so, 2.7 trillion miles were traveled in the United States in 2006 alone.

StopGlobalWarming.org encourages people to reduce the number of miles they drive by walking, biking, carpooling or even taking mass transit wherever possible. Avoiding just 10 miles of driving every week would eliminate about 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

Chrysler, General Motors and Ford are the Big Three Companies that have joined United States

Climate Action Partnership, a coalition calling for a U.S. national cap on global warming emissions. The companies have all become dedicated to creating vehicles that are more environmentally aware and "healthier" for the Earth.

"Investing in a hybrid will not only give you four times the gas mileage in the city more than your regular car can give you, but it is also protecting the environment," said Robert Kelly from the Future Ford Dealership in Roseville, Calif.

According to the Environmental Defense Organization, one person who switches to a car that gets three miles more to the gallon could prevent 3,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from escaping into the atmosphere every year.

For those without the ability to indulge in a costly hybrid car, there are still many ways to get active and leave the gas-guzzlers behind.

Everyday tips

If every household in America exchanged three standard light bulbs with three energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), it would be the equivalent of taking 3.5 million cars off the road.

The ACEEE also recommends installing a programmable thermostat to automatically lower the heat or air conditioning at night

see Warming, page 2

Lack of storm season worries officials

Jessica Gresko
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite alarming predictions, the U.S. came through its second straight hurricane season virtually unscathed, raising fears among emergency planners that they will be fighting public apathy and overconfidence when warning people next year.

Friday marks the official close of the Atlantic season, so unless a storm forms in the next few days, only one hurricane — a minor one — will have hit the U.S. during the June-to-November period. Mexico and Central America, however, were struck by a record two top-scale Category 5 storms.

The preliminary total for the season: 14 named storms, five of them hurricanes, two of them major.

That was less activity than the government predicted before the season started, standing in stark contrast to 2004 and 2005, when the U.S. was hit by one devastating storm after another, including Hurricane Katrina.

However, forecasters and emergency managers warned that one result of the good year may be increased skepticism when they urge people to stock up on food and draw up their hurricane evacuation plans for next year.

"Now that we've gone a couple of years without major hurricanes, will the public be more apathetic before the next hurricane season? The answer is absolutely," said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. "The further we get away from these types of events ... the more complacent people become, and that's the challenge we have to continue to fight."

Warming

continued from page 1

and raise them again in the morning. These thermostats can save \$100 a year on energy bills.

Almost half of the energy used in homes goes to heating and cooling. About 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide could be saved per year by moving thermostats down two degrees in the winter and up two degrees in the summer.

Even tiny chores such as cleaning or replacing filters on furnaces and air conditioners can be enough

to make a change. Cleaning dirty air filters can save 350 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Another way to help, according to StopGlobalWarming.org, is by going out and planting a tree. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Shade provided by trees can also reduce air conditioning bills by 10 to 15 percent.

"If we can reduce deforestation and the conversion of farmlands, we will help the global climate change," Markoudakis said. "Also buying organic food products from local growers, thus reducing

transportation, packing and more dependence on fossil fuels."

The average meal in the United States travels 1,200 miles from the farm to the plate. Buying locally will save fuel and keep money in the community. Taking the time to grow one's own food isn't a bad idea, either.

To review, here are the little things with the potential to make big differences, especially as a student: buy from local growers, ride a bike, walk or take the bus to school, avoid printing excess amounts of paper, become an avid recycler or simply just volunteer within the community.

"I've noticed a lot of progress and people have taken notice and are doing what they can," Markoudakis said. "For the most part, people are blinded to the fact that they have the potential to do little things to help, which can end up influencing those around them."

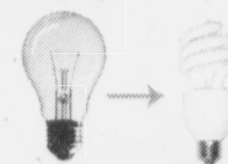
The big picture

America was ranked as the top global warming polluter in the world by the Environmental Defense Organization. An 80 percent decrease in U.S. pollution is required by 2050 to prevent the worst consequences of global warming.

However, despite the 358 United States mayors who have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement pledging to meet or beat Kyoto goals in their communities, no federal bills have been passed to help cap America's global

What can you do?

- 1 Replace your standard bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- 2 Clean furnace and AC filters regularly
- 3 Be aware of your thermostat settings; a few degrees can make a big difference
- 4 Recycle
- 5 Try to cut back on printing paper, making copies, etc.
- 6 Use a car with good gas mileage
- 7 Use alternate forms of transportation (walking, biking, carpooling, transit)
- 8 Plant a tree or garden



LAUREN RABAINO MUSTANG DAILY



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Briefs

State

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Orange County Indian tribe has been denied federal recognition 25 years after first petitioning for the status.

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Carl Artman said the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians didn't meet four of the seven criteria required for federal recognition. Artman's finding was preliminary and the tribe can object before a final determination is made.

...

OROVILLE (AP) — A third defendant in a Butte County child sex case has accepted a plea deal for her role in abusing three girls.

Doreen Ruth Rogers, 48, of Magalia pleaded guilty in Butte County Superior Court to two felony counts of continuous sexual abuse of a minor and committing a lewd act with a minor. She was sentenced to 34 years in prison.

Prosecutors say she and Charles Richard Palmer, 34, molested the girls starting in 2001. Some were as young as 9.

...

FULLERTON (AP) — Vandalism at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is being called a hate crime by Fullerton police detectives.

Nazi and Satanic symbols were scrawled on walls and across religious paintings in classrooms at the North Euclid Street church.

Police Capt. John Petropoulos says damage was estimated at \$40,000.

National

NEW YORK (AP) — Plagued by turmoil at the top, the American Red Cross ousted its president, Mark Everson, on Tuesday for engaging in a "personal relationship" with one of his subordinates. He took the challenging job just six months ago.

The congressionally chartered charity, America's foremost emergency responder, has now had five leaders in the past six years, including the interim chief named to fill in for Everson.

...

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — The owner of Spanky's Pizza fears being driven out of business by the stench of cigar smoke, which customers say is mixing with the familiar smells of pepperoni, cheese and garlic.

Philip Nadeau said last month's opening of a smokers' lounge at the Cigar & Smoke Shoppe next door coincided with the arrival of the new scent.

"The smell is atrocious," Nadeau said. "It's more than atrocious, it's horrible."

...

ACCOMAC, Va. (AP) — A waste truck leaked poultry fat along 20 miles of roadway Tuesday, causing at least four crashes and making a stinky mess.

Virginia State Police said a truck hauling a waste product of poultry grease from a Perdue Farms plant left a valve open and the fat leaked onto U.S. Route 13 from the plant to the Maryland state line.

International

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A British teacher arrested for allowing her students to name a teddy bear Muhammad will probably be cleared and released soon, a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in London said Tuesday.

Gillian Gibbons was arrested Sunday and faced possible charges of insulting religion — a crime punishable by up to 40 lashes. She was questioned by Sudanese authorities on Tuesday.

"The police is bound to investigate," embassy spokesman Khalid al Mubarak told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "I am pretty certain that this minute incident will be clarified very quickly and this teacher who has been helping us with the teaching of children will be safe and will be cleared."

...

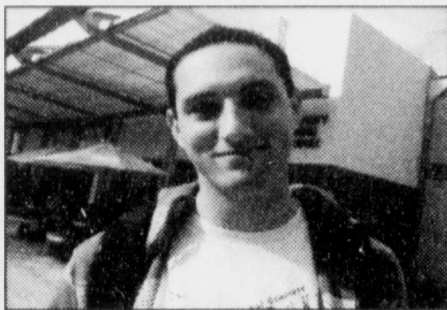
BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. troops fired on vehicles at checkpoints in Baghdad and northern Iraq, killing a child and at least four other people, the military command said Tuesday. It also said it was checking a report an American patrol shot at civilian cars near a Baghdad bridge, killing two Iraqis.

Roadblock shootings have consistently fed anti-U.S. sentiment among many Iraqis since the arrival of American forces in 2003. U.S. troops have been hit by suicide car bombs numerous times since 2003 and act quickly to protect themselves when a driver ignores orders to stop.

WORD ON THE STREET

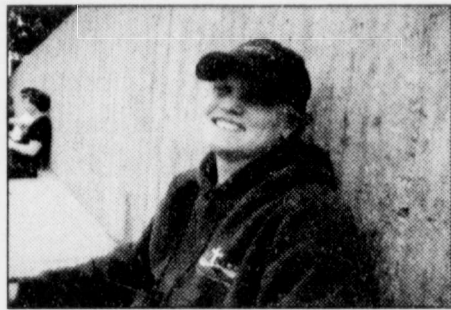
"What one gift would you want to receive this holiday season?"

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman



"A puppy for every girl at Cal Poly with my name and number attached to each tag."

— Adam Rouman, business junior



"I want a new mountain bike because my old one is jealous of my road bike."

— Diane Zaida, economics junior



"I need some new socks 'cause all mine have holes in them."

— Justin Hooper, liberal studies junior



"World peace."

— Raquel Serna, food science freshman

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Scientists want to wipe out rats on Alaskan island and bring birds back

Mary Pemberton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 200 years ago, rats jumped ship for Rat Island.

The muscular Norway rat climbed ashore on the rugged, uninhabited island in far southwestern Alaska in 1780 after a rodent-infested Japanese ship ran aground. It was the first time rats had made it to Alaska.

Since then, Rat Island, as the piece of rock was dubbed by a sea captain in the 1800s, has gone eerily silent. The sounds of birds are missing.

That is because the rats feed on eggs, chicks and adult seabirds, which come to the mostly treeless island to nest on the ground or in crevices in the volcanic rock.

"As far as bird life, it is a dead zone," said Steve Ebbert, a biologist at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, whose 2,500 mostly uninhabited islands include the Aleutian chain, of which Rat Island is a part.

State and federal wildlife biologists are gearing up for an assault on the rats of still-uninhabited Rat Island, hoping to exterminate them with rat poison dropped from helicopters. If they succeed, the birds will sing again on Rat Island. And it will be the third-largest island in the world to be made rat-free.

A visitor to the island 1,700 miles from Anchorage doesn't have to look far to find evidence of vermin. The landscape is riddled with rat burrows, rat trails, rat droppings and chewed vegetation. Certain plants are all but gone.

"You go to Rat Island and there



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Ebbert, a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, posing with rat response kit on one of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Rats on the Aleutian Islands prey on eggs, chicks and adult seabirds.

are hardly any chocolate lilies," said Jeff Williams, another refuge biologist.

The same for songbirds and seabirds.

Rats have all but wiped out the seabirds on about a dozen large islands and many smaller islands in the refuge, which is home to an estimated 40 million nesting seabirds. Puffins, auklets and storm petrels are most at risk because they leave their eggs and young for extended periods while foraging.

The rats jumped ship beginning in the late 1700s, a problem that worsened in the 1800s when Russian merchant vessels plied the islands, and

grew more serious in the 1940s, when hundreds of military ships visited the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

Now the islands are vulnerable to "rat spills" from freighters traveling the quickest route from the West Coast to Asia. The Aleutians receive about 400 port calls from vessels each year.

Rats have been the scourge of islands worldwide. According to the California-based group Island Conservation, rats are to blame for between 40 percent and 60 percent of all seabirds and reptile extinctions, with 90 percent of those occurring on islands.

"Rats are one of the worst invasive species around," said Gregg Howald,

program manager for Island Conservation, which is working with the U.S. government on a plan for Rat Island.

Norway rats typically have four to six litters a year, each containing six to 12 babies. One pair of rats can produce a population of more than 5,000 rats in an area in one year.

The state is joining forces with federal wildlife biologists in a multi-pronged attack to drive the rats from Alaska.

State regulations went into effect this fall requiring mariners to check for rats and try to eradicate them if found. Violators face a year in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Corporations could

be fined up to \$200,000.

The state also is mailing out 15,000 "Stop Rats!" brochures to educate mariners on how to control rats aboard boats and keep them from going ashore.

The brochure tells mariners to kill every rat on board, have traps set at all times, keep trash and food in rat-proof containers, use line guards — funnel-shaped devices that go around mooring lines — to keep rats from getting off or coming aboard, and never throw a live rat over the side. Rats are excellent swimmers.

The assault on the rats of 6,871-acre Rat Island could begin as early as next October. The plan — which involves the use of a blood thinner that will cause the rodents to bleed to death — still must be reviewed and sent out for public comment.

Scientists want to see how the project goes before deciding whether to try to exterminate the rats on other islands.

The world's biggest island rat eradication took place on 27,922-acre Campbell Island off New Zealand. Rats also have been wiped out on Canada's 8,080-acre Langara Island.

Once the rats are gone from Rat Island, wildlife biologists expect the return of birds to be dramatic.

After black rats were wiped out in November and December 2002 on Anacapa Island off the California coast, murrelets were back in force by the following April, and Cassin's auklets were nesting there for the first time.

"Over time, you see an incredible response," Howald said.

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The Owls' new album is a hoot

For your own safety, we'll start out with a bit of disambiguation (just like Wikipedia). By 2001, two bands were playing under the following two names: "The Owls" and "Owls." Now, I know they might look a bit similar, but trust me, it's like chocolate and shit. Don't mix them up. And don't look for help from last.fm, since that train-wreck of a program drops the definite article and groups them together. Based in Chicago, "Owls" is essentially a forgettable reiteration of the long defunct and equally disposable emo-pop turd, Cap'n Jazz. Don't listen to Owls; don't eat shit.

The tasty treat you've really been craving is "Daughters and Suns," the first full-length record from The Owls, which, like any good meal, is a diverse array of flavors. Although many bands are built around a single songwriter/composer, The Owls employ three of their present members for this duty, each writer taking on lead vocals for their respective songs. Surprisingly, this arrangement retains cohesion — plus it adds a fun little extra to the listening experience: choosing your favorite Owl.

First up, Maria May constructs cute-as-a-button twee-pop numbers whose sound might be described as that of late Heavenly (minus the guitar riffs), or perhaps a more optimistic and emotionally stable version of The Softies. "Peppermint Patty" is a great example, featuring a delightful burst of whistling to augment the gentle plinking of piano and delivery of lines like, "You will never have to hear the clever ones sayin' you're so dumb." Fans of May's work here should definitely check out The Owls' debut EP, "Our Hopes and Dreams."

Brian Tighe, front man of The Hang Ups, starting in 1990, concentrates on songs having a stronger emphasis on rhythm and uses traditional rock structures that remind me a bit of The Rolling Stones circa 1967 (or the Beatles circa 1965 for that matter). Check out "Channel" or "All Those In Favor" to see what I'm

talking about. Toe-tapping is all but inescapable.

Finally, Allison LaBonne, former vocalist of Legendary Jim Ruiz Group, concentrates on gorgeous and literate balladry of exceptional quality with rousing harmonizing and triumphant melody. The lead track "The Way On" is an excellent example of her sublime song-craft and disarming vocal delivery. (Fun game: guess which Owl is my favorite!)

Add in former Ashtray Hearts drummer John Jerry and production by Tighe (what a jack-of-all-trades) and we get a damn solid record.

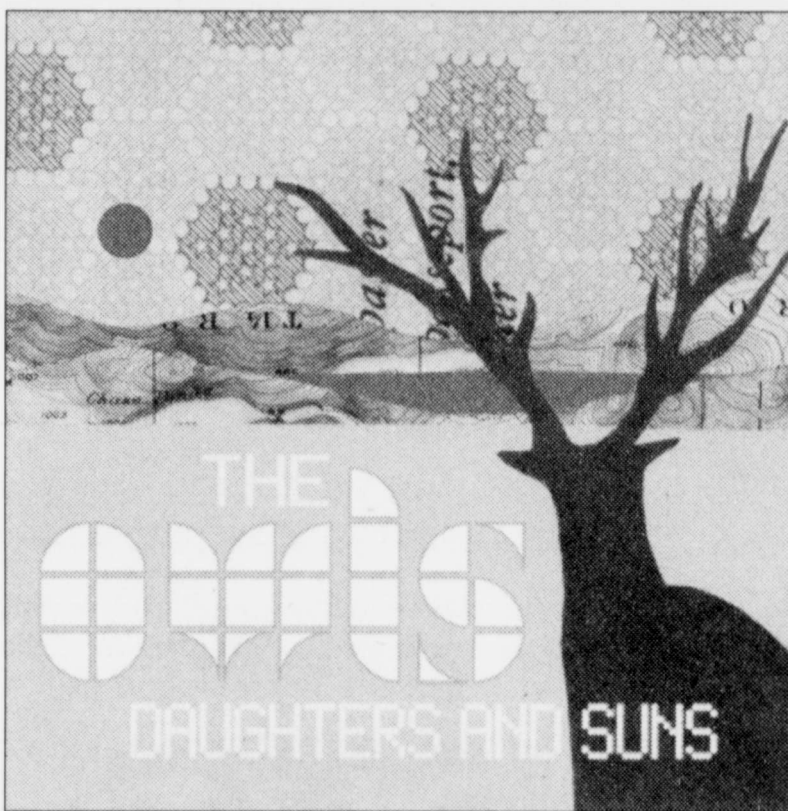
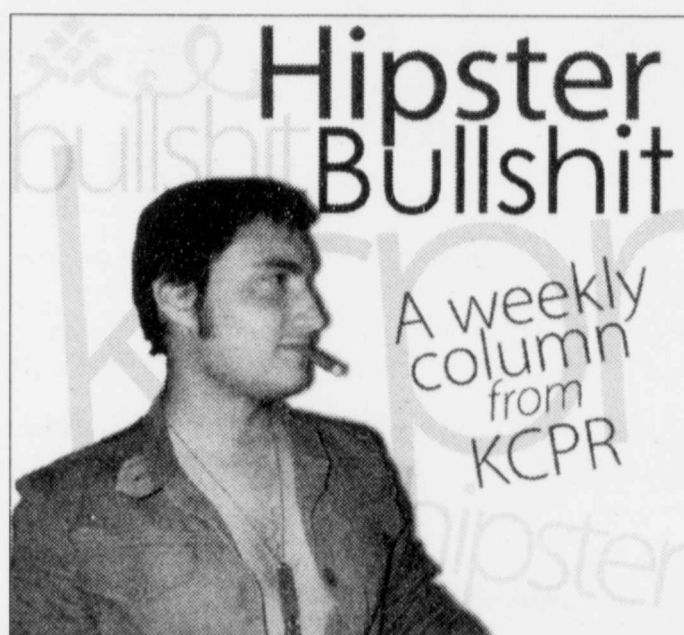
More important than the mechanics though ... is the pathos. This is some of the most heartfelt stuff of the year. I should probably elaborate on that (especially after knocking Cap'n Jazz). OK, the music is emotionally charged, yes, but in

the most guileless, honest and unaffected way possible. The songs are just so devoid of scoffing irony and overwrought angst it's startling. In 2007! How did this record get made? We're talking about music that swells with such benevolent emotion as to evoke memories of your favorite Carpenters' song!

And there's something *nice*, yeah? I mean, even in the world of indie pop, how many records can you *really* listen to with your grandmother? Oh, what? Belle and Sebastian? You wanna trot Stuart Murdoch out here? Maybe if he didn't write in all those thinly veiled allusions to illicit sexual deviance. The Polyphonic Spree? They have some squeaky-clean lyrics. Too bad they're so obviously a scary suicide cult of unwashed hippies — from Texas, no less!

But The Owls exist without vice. In fact, their humanity is so impressive, I almost feel sorry for beginning this article by thoughtlessly spitting in the face of Cap'n Jazz fans. Almost.

Jesse Bo Widmark is an architectural engineering senior and a business director for KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. He's also completely full of it.



"Daughters and Suns," the newest release from The Owls, features potent twee, pop and rock songs. Like the Beatles, three of the band's members write and lend lead vocals to their respective songs, providing an array of styles. COURTESY PHOTOS

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Appetite for Construction tour brings rock bands Switchfoot (above) and Relient K to the Cal Poly Rec Center tonight. The bands share a passion for Habitat for Humanity, an organization with the aim of eliminating homelessness, and will donate \$1 of every ticket sold on the tour to the organization.

CONSTRUCTING HOMES WITH ROCK TUNES

Marlize van Romburgh

MUSTANG DAILY

They're coming to Cal Poly tonight and they've got an Appetite for Construction. Guns N' Roses turned nice? No, it's Switchfoot and Relient K on their co-headlining nationwide rock tour.

The two Grammy-nominated rock bands will play at the Cal Poly Rec Center tonight as part of their Appetite for Construction tour, so named because a dollar from each ticket will be donated to support Habitat for Humanity. The tour has raised more than \$67,000 for Habitat so far.

Switchfoot and Relient K have long been fans of each other's music and, while working out the details of this tour, discovered they also held a mutual respect for Habitat for Humanity's mission of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness around the world.

"We've known (Relient K) for years, but we met up last year when we were both playing at a Habitat for Humanity benefit concert in Los Angeles and the idea kind of blossomed into what this tour is," Switchfoot drummer Chad Butler explained.

"We found this common desire with the Relient K guys to work with an organization that's nationwide but has very local hands and feet in each community."

Relient K's bassist and vocalist John Warne said, "Habitat is an amazing organization that enables people who wouldn't ordinarily be able to buy a home the opportunity to have one, and we're excited to be a part of that."

Appetite for Construction is also Switchfoot's first tour since dropping Columbia Records and announcing that they will release their next album as an independent band. Because of that, they wanted to branch out and try something different.

"It's been very different from touring just to promote your latest single or to sell records," Butler said.

The Switchfoot members also make the effort to visit local housing build sites and invite fans and show attendees to participate in the building alongside the band.

"None of us are very experienced at construction. You know, we play guitars and drums for a living," Butler chuckled. "So for us to show up and make any real difference, it was surprising to me how simple it was."

"We really had no idea what we were doing as far as the construction goes," Warne agreed. "But within thirty minutes we were putting up siding on the house and sawing and hammering."

The lead singers of each band also got together this summer to write a song, aptly titled "Re-build," which can be downloaded from Switchfoot's Web site for a voluntary donation of money or time to Habitat.

Along with Butler, the rest of Switchfoot consists of lead vocalist Jon Foreman, bassist and backing vocalist Tim Foreman, guitarist and keyboardist Jerome Fontamillas and guitarist Andrew Shirley.

The band has sold more than one million concert tickets worldwide since the 2003 release

of their breakthrough Double Platinum album "The Beautiful Letdown," which featured their most successful singles, "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move." Their recently released "Oh Gravity" album peaked at No. 1 on iTunes' Top Albums chart.

Relient K broke into the music mainstream in 2004 with the release of their fourth record, "Mhmm," which debuted at No. 15 on the Billboard 200. Their latest album, "Five Score and Seven Years Ago," debuted at No. 6 on the charts, making it their highest-charting album to date.

The band is made up of lead singer Matt Thiessen, drummer Dave Douglas, guitarist Matt Hoopes, guitarist and vocalist Jon Schneck, and Warne.

Self-described as the more pop-oriented band on the tour, Warne said, "The goal with our music is just to get kids to think a little bit ... We write songs about the things we believe in and what's relevant in our lives and just hope that other people can relate to that."

Both Switchfoot and Relient K hold Grammy nominations for Best Rock Gospel Album, and the band members consider themselves to be faithful Christians, so their music is oftentimes categorized as Christian rock. But both bands have attempted to swerve away from that genre label, fearing it will limit their audience.

"I think that if you label us as Christian, you're going to get some people who aren't Christian who won't even give us a listen because of that," Warne said.

"We've always tried to put out honest music for thinking people," Butler said. "You can categorize it and put it in a box however you want ... but I think the music is more dangerous when it's outside of the box and you aren't labeling it."

"If our songs are communicating hope, that's a really meaningful and fulfilling message," Butler continued. "We've been able to travel to places like South Africa and India and see a very different culture than our own, a very different set of circumstances. To find kids that are growing up in dark places of the world ... and yet they're able to find hope in the midst of that, that's intriguing and inspiring to me."

"People like Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash wrote songs about the journey of life and the questions of life," Butler explained. "There's a connection in music that can be very powerful for talking about things that are uncomfortable to talk about in conversation, yet it feels very natural in a song."

"I want to continue the conversation each night we play," he said. "The most important part of the night for me is to hear people singing along and to feel that they're getting something out of the music more than just entertainment ... Hopefully we're making music that extends the conversation for more than just the one night we're in town."

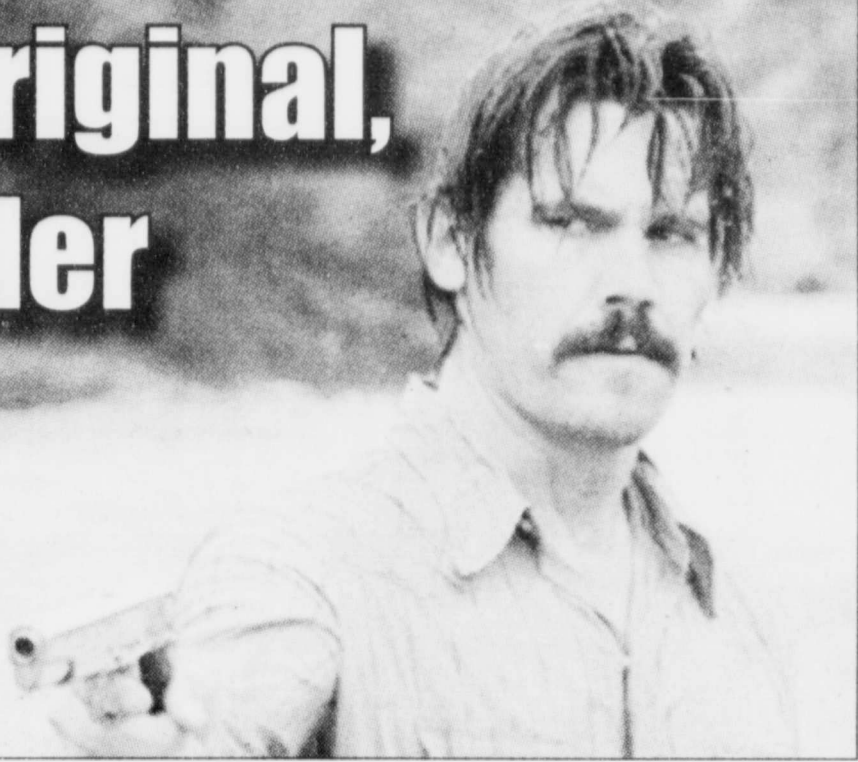
The two bands will bring their music and their appetite to the Recreation Center stage Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.vallitix.com and the Mustang Ticket Office for \$25.



Hear Switchfoot drummer Chad Butler talk about San Diego and the recent wildfires at mustangdaily.net

an independent

'Old Men' original, smart thriller



COURTESY PHOTO

Almar Flotildes

THE DAILY GAMECOCK (U. SOUTH CAROLINA)

"No Country for Old Men" is yet another Joel and Ethan Coen masterpiece. If you don't know, these are the guys who wrote, directed and produced "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

And though "No Country" is an adapted film, the Coen Brother's artistic hand is evident throughout the entire movie.

Adapted from Cormac McCarthy's novel of the same title, the film begins in Sanderson, Texas, a small, dry desert town about 20 miles away from the Mexico border.

The story focuses on the lives of three people, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin), Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) and Sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones) after they find themselves involved in the aftermath of a drug deal gone wrong.

Moss, a young Vietnam vet, is antelope hunting one day when he stumbles upon the site of the drug deal now turned graveyard — abandoned of all life, just dried-up blood and bodies scattered all around.

Moss finds a briefcase filled with cash — more than \$2 million worth. Of course, Moss takes the money.

The man tracking the money goes by the name of Chigurh, or as Moss pronounces it, "Sugar." Woody Harrelson's character, Carson Wells, describes Chigurh as a man without a sense of humor — "peculiar." He is the kind of man that will "kill you just for inconveniencing him," Wells said.

Sheriff Bell, a long-time officer from a line of sheriffs, makes it a priority to find Moss before Chigurh can do the same to him. But like in all good thrillers, the sheriff is always one step behind. Lee as a seen-all, done-all kind of guy is sarcastic and almost cynical.

Having a sense of humor is essential and part of the Coen's "Country."

Besides Lee's usual best, Brolin and Bardem stand out for their outstanding performances. But it is Bardem as this psychotic killer — a realistic personified version of evil — that especially sticks out. Just his presence in a scene is so alarming. Even his shadow is so intimidating, his deep voice even more so.

Every scene, particularly an early one where he's talking with a gas attendant, Chigurh is one-on-one with another human being; you are on the edge of your seat, frightened even for yourself. You don't know whether the person opposite Chigurh will live to see the end of the next scene or will be slain at the hands of his partners.

Expect this extremely tight tension throughout most of the movie. And expect to see Bardem in line for an Oscar nomination as well as the Coens and their "Country."



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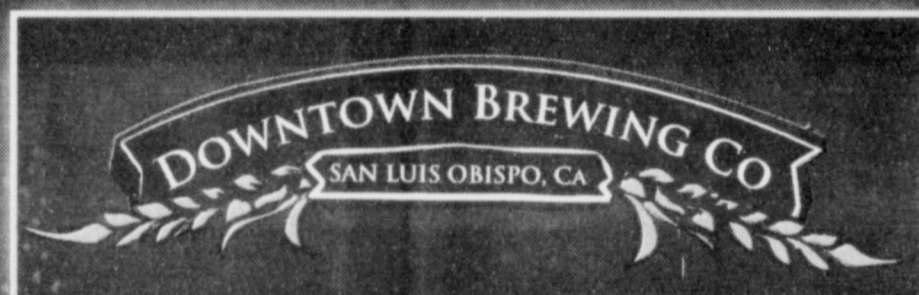
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November 28, 2007
Volume LXXI, No. 59 ©2007
Mustang Daily

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

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8

Buy-o-fuels: On sale now at participating schools

"It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber," the saying goes. Now more than ever, public schools across the nation are feeling the brunt of the current administration's allocation of funds, not into educating future generations, but instead into spreading "American-style" democracy around the world. As a result, some institutions have turned to private donorship to make up for the lack of funding provided by our own government. Even here at Cal Poly, with the

recent anonymous donation of \$60 million to the architecture program, these types of gifts are necessary to continue to provide the excellent education that we rely on. But what if a corporation decided to give Cal Poly enough money to start a brand new degree or even a whole new college — the only caveat being that they get a say in how it operates?

For UC Berkeley, this concept has become a reality earlier this year when BP (previously known as British Petroleum) gave \$500 million to start a new Energy Research Institute at Cal and the University of Illinois. But this gift is not simply a matter of pure benevolence; BP expects a huge return from their investment in the form of research-based data. The Institute's main objectives are to explore and develop the area of Bio Fuels research, which at first might appear to be a step in the right direction, at least for BP's part. But after looking deeper into this issue, the plan appears more like a way for BP to gain access to information at a very low cost. Half a billion dollars is a lot of money for UC Berkeley and chump change for a company like BP. The new Institute will feature an eight-person board of directors, comprised of four members from BP and the rest from Berkeley, that will dictate the direction the program heads in.

At this point, you might be feeling a little torn. On the one hand, this type of funding is hugely beneficial for UC Berkeley, which relies heavily on nearly non-existent public funding. But at the same time,

LEANING
LEFT
by Erica Janoff



what sort of impact does a partnership between an oil company and a university have on the future of public institutions? Especially a company like BP, whose history is littered with oil spills and negligent behavior often resulting in exorbitant fines. So has BP finally realized a new direction? My gut says no.

Corporations such as BP are focused on their own bottom line — maximizing profit. Giving massive sums to public institutions is simply another way of serving their own self-interest, even at the expense of academic integ-

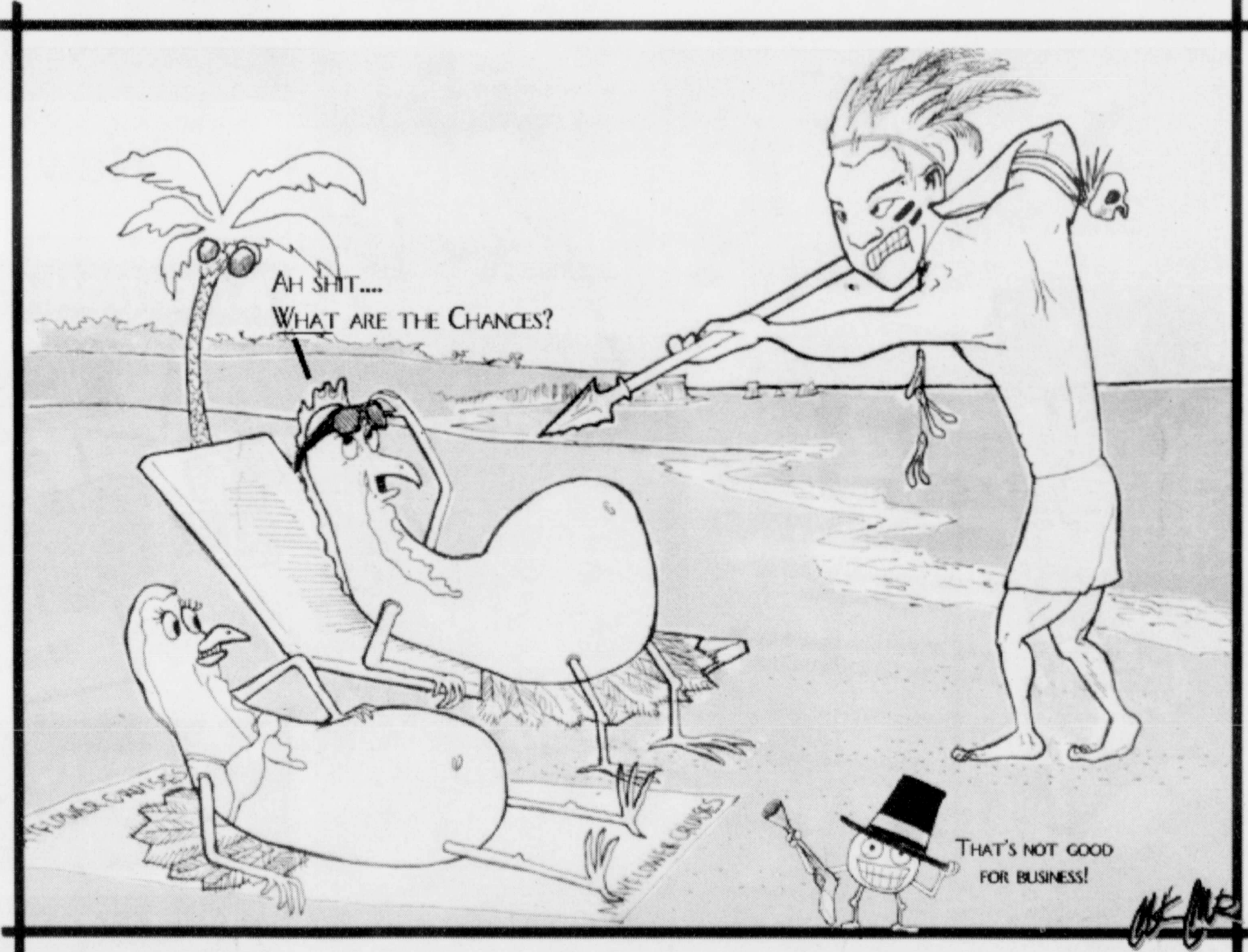
ity. With BP able to dictate what and how research is to be conducted at the new Institute, they are also able to limit what information is available and to whom. Overlooking this built-in secrecy, Gov. Schwarzenegger has agreed to publicly fund the construction and hiring of all new entities involved with the Institute.

Let's summarize: BP is essentially outsourcing a majority of their research and development department (whose main priority is to find new ways of generating a profit for BP) to be conducted at a public university (whose objective is to create a balanced, well-rounded educational experience) at no profit. This is a blatant conflict of interest on behalf of all public entities involved.

Cal Poly also receives funding from private donors: Raytheon, one of the largest military defense contractors in America, gives generously almost every year. These donations are hugely beneficial, offering students access to equipment and facilities that Cal Poly might not be able to afford otherwise. But I have to wonder, to what extent do their checks become our guiding principles? At a time when public funding is not enough, we still have to demand that our academic freedom remains uncompromised by the heavy hand of corporate influence.

Erica Janoff is an industrial engineering senior, the president of the Cal Poly Democrats and a monthly Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

'THE TURKEYS' ATTEMPT TO GET AWAY FOR THANKSGIVING



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"I'm with a bunch of people who get excited if they get free pizza on election night."

Taxes: what are they good for?

When looking at Presidential campaign Web sites recently, I noticed something confusing. The top four candidates for the Republican Presidential Primary — Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney and John McCain — all seemed to prioritize national issues differently. Obviously the stance each of these candidates take on any particular issue is a clear way to distinguish himself from others. However, it seems that the order in which a candidate chooses to prioritize these issues can also be a significant way to sway voters.

For example, the fact John McCain chooses to put “government spending, lower taxes and economic prosperity” at the top of his issues page in contrast with his opponent Fred Thompson, who gives national security top billing, could be of crucial importance to some voters. Or perhaps if certain voters looked deeply enough, they would be concerned for the way the same issue is presented by two different politicians, such as Giuliani simply addressing “marriage” and Romney focusing on “confronting threats to American culture, values and freedoms.”

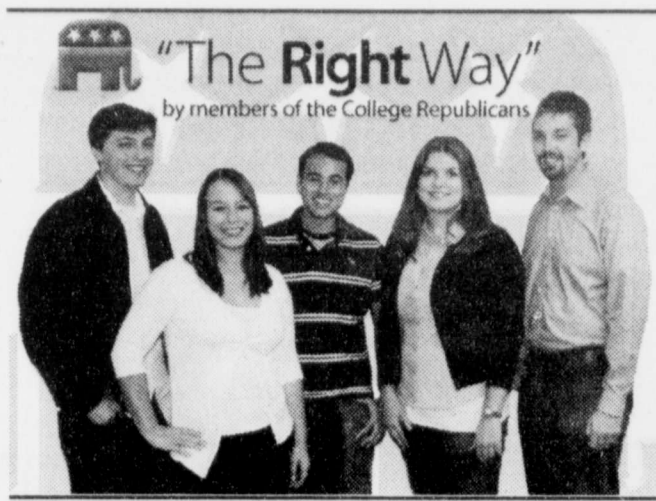
In spite of these differences, there is one priority that historically shows up at the top (or very close) of every Republican’s focus: taxes. This singular issue bleeds into countless other aspects of how a politician affects policies in their domain. Taxes are what lead people to succumb to the cliché “I’m fiscally conservative and socially liberal.” Ultimately, taxes represent one of the most clear dividing and defining lines between Republicans and Democrats.

Candidates agree that taxes should be reformed for simplicity and fairness, and it is also agreed that the Middle Class bears the heaviest tax burden, yet the agreement usually ends there.

Taxes are an unfortunately complicated subject. Getting the facts straight regarding “tax brackets” has the potential to make your head spin. Just between

the Clinton and Bush administrations from 1992 to present, taxes have changed frequently. In 1992 there were three tax brackets: 15 percent, 28 percent and 31 percent. The higher your income, the more you pay. In 1993 there was a tax hike on the wealthy, with two extra tax brackets added at the top of the income scale, but no cut for the lower classes. So in effect, the federal government was simply collecting more money from the “wealthy” by adding those two new brackets (36 percent and 39.6 percent while still maintaining that original 31 percent bracket).

In contrast, with the Bush administration between 2000 and 2002, each tax bracket dropped by 1 percent except for the lowest 15 percent bracket. Furthermore, in 2003,



Taxes are what lead people to succumb to the cliché “I’m fiscally conservative and socially liberal.”

our current national budget deficit, it seems that raising taxes would be one way to help remedy that deficit, or at least get a few steps closer to a balanced budget.

It boils down to philosophy. Two main campaign points that I have heard from Democratic candidates, including Sen. Hillary Clinton, are to “make health care affordable and accessible to every American” and “expand access to affordable, high-quality child care.” These are two nice ideas, but how can these goals be accomplished? Typically health care and child care cost money; therefore Sen. Clinton, for example, would have to find a source of income to pay for these programs. The most obvious place this would come from would be taxes.

another bracket was created at the bottom (10 percent) so that the lowest income citizens would get a much larger break. All other brackets dropped by 2 percent and the very highest bracket (wealthiest) received a cut of 3.6 percent.

So why the differing policies? Clinton raised taxes; Bush has lowered them repeatedly. With the state of

Republicans, on the other hand, seem to be interested in continuing to cut taxes, at least based on what we’ve heard of their campaign statements. Taxes conflict with the Republican ideal of limited government (especially in economics). The more taxes the federal government collects from its citizens, the larger that government’s presence will be in the lives of those people for the simple reason that the government is collecting those taxes and often using them to instate social programs such as health care, child care, and welfare. Democrats tend to be more open to these social programs, probably because they want to be able to use those programs or because they like the idea of those programs. Republicans tend to maintain their more capitalistic point of view and state that free market reigns and they don’t want the federal government too involved in their business.

This begs the question, is there a way to compromise? I believe the reason many American citizens don’t have access to necessities such as health care is because they can’t afford it due to ... high taxes! Focus needs to be on true accountability on our elected officials to stop creating band-aid programs that drive our taxes up even further. Between federal, state and local taxes, it’s a wonder that anyone can survive. If it’s possible to “clean out” our federal budget and get back to our more basic necessities, every tax bracket will be much better off.

Christina Chiappe is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Candidate’s cannabis candor easily consumable

Lauren Williams

DAILY FORTY-NINER (CAL STATE-LONG BEACH)

Pot smokers exhaled a sigh of relief last Friday when the second major Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, admitted that he had not only smoked marijuana when he was young but that he inhaled, saying “that was the point.”

Those who occasionally partake in recreational drugs can rest assured knowing that one of the most respected, well-presented, well-spoken, intelligent candidates not only occasionally smoked marijuana but “did some blow,” according to an article in The New York Times that quoted his biography.

As reported in the article, the only reason he hadn’t tried heroin was because he didn’t trust the dealer who was selling it to him.

No wonder his presidential campaign so strongly resonates with the under-25 crowd: He is attractive, successful, has tried drugs and is candid about his lifestyle when he was younger.

While the common perception of pot-heads is often marked by unintelligence, a lack of industriousness and motivation, and a general deficiency of ambition, the Illinois senator is not only redeeming those who occasionally experiment with recreational drugs but is doing something rarely associated with politicians. He is being honest.

Rather than take a middle-of-the-road, “I-toked-but-didn’t-inhale” stance or a hard line, drugs-are-the-product-of-Satan position, Obama is showing in the truest form that he is human, prone to curiosity, experimentation and error.

This should be especially appealing to college students.

Despite the general view depicted in public service announcements, those who occasionally (or even habitually) use drugs are not forever bound to a sofa, endlessly watching TV, eating Hot Pockets with a forever tarnished reputation as a drain on society, but can do something universally admired in society, like become president.

Obama embodies that image.

He gives people the chance to dream that, although their parents, school counselors and coaches told them that if they ever did drugs, they would spend the rest of their lives regretting it, they, too, might be able to go to Harvard Law, become a community organizer, respected professor, lawyer and maybe, one day, president of the United States.

Many kids, when they’re young, imagine becoming president, largely because it is one of the most respected, admired and powerful positions in the country. Most eventually give up that dream because of some slight youthful slip-up.

Dreams of one day becoming president fell by the wayside due to grades that were not as good as they should have been, experimentation with drugs, taking time off school or some other deviation from the norm, whether slight or large.

Now, with an open former pot smoker ranking second in the Democratic polls, drug experimentation may someday be a presidential qualification — or maybe not. But certainly leading a conventional safe life is no longer expected from presidential candidates and gives college students at non-Ivy League universities a shred of hope of one day achieving greatness.



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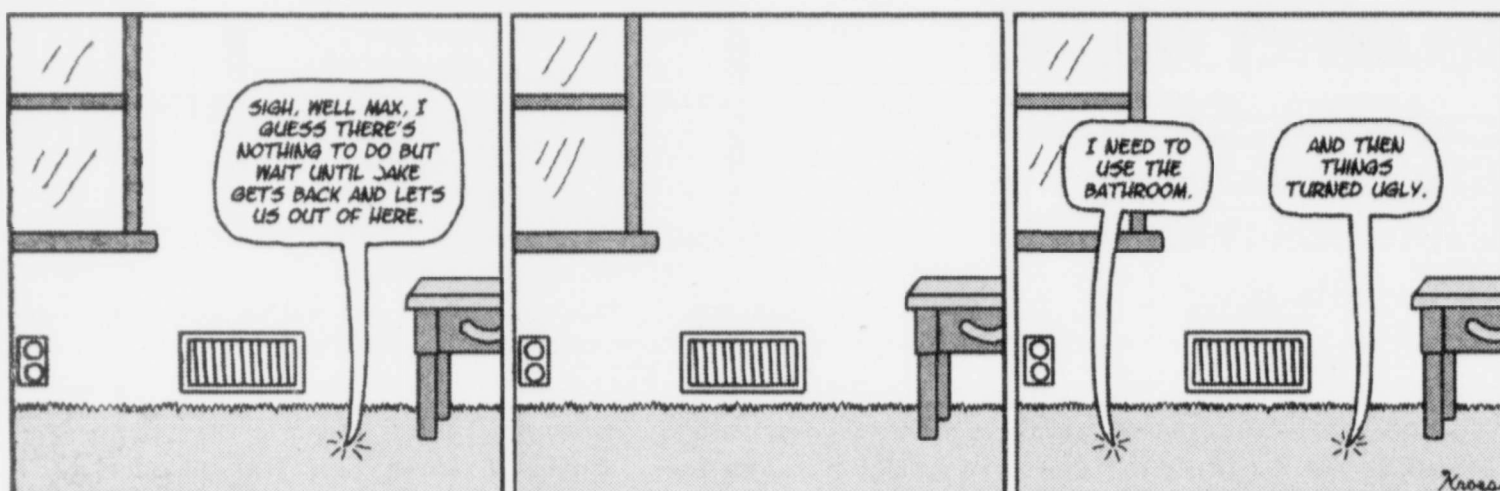
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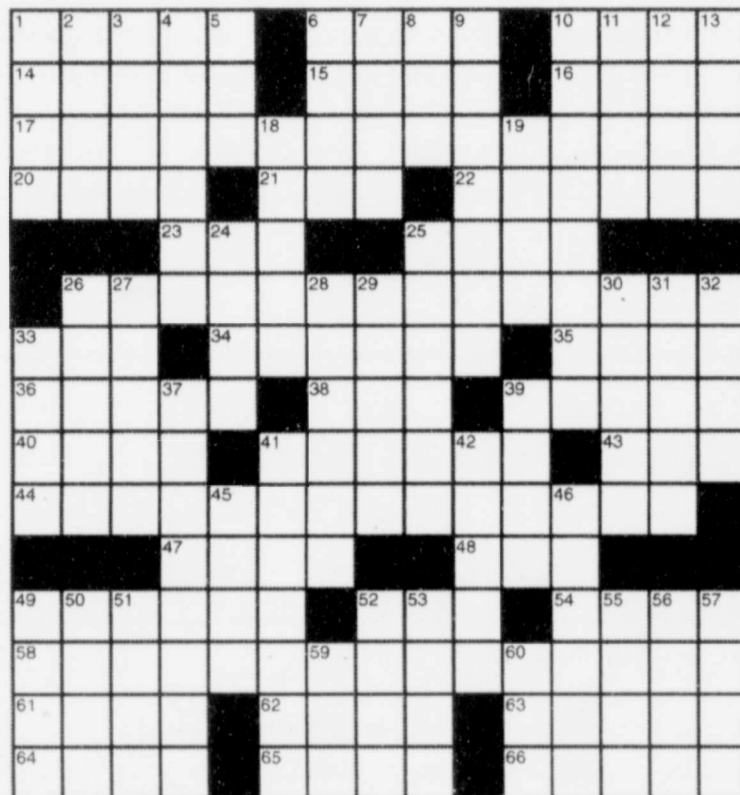
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1017

- Across**
- 1 The Velvet Fog
 - 6 Casino pair
 - 10 Cabaret, e.g.
 - 14 Smuggler's stock
 - 15 Giant-screen film format
 - 16 Summer wine selection
 - 17 All the rockets in existence?
 - 20 Ask for
 - 21 Some emergency cases, for short
 - 22 Place for shots
 - 23 Noughts-and-crosses win
 - 25 Brand of shaving products
 - 26 "Dry-clean only," e.g.?
 - 33 Empty (of)
 - 34 Small, as a Beanie Baby
 - 35 First course option
 - 36 Does as told
 - 38 ____ Andreas fault
 - 39 Like déjà vu
 - 40 Turner who sang "The Best"
 - 41 Marzipan ingredient
 - 43 Piggy
 - 44 Cooking utensil from central Spain?
 - 47 Like a starless sky
 - 48 Alt. spelling
 - 49 Iran-____
 - 52 Debtor's letters
 - 54 ____ buco
 - 58 HAL 9000, in "2001: A Space Odyssey"?
 - 61 First-year J.D. candidate
 - 62 Restaurant chain acronym
 - 63 Thus far
 - 64 A sergeant might ask a soldier to pick it up
- Down**
- 1 Tabbies' mates
 - 2 Mayberry boy
 - 3 Angry reaction
 - 4 Animal with a shaggy coat
 - 5 U.K. record label
 - 6 Fizzled out
 - 7 Radio's former "____ in the Morning"
 - 8 Poky
 - 9 Mutual fund redemption charge
 - 10 Deep fissure
 - 11 Oral history
 - 12 "Evil empire" of the '80s
 - 13 "It's ____ real!"
 - 18 Sarge's superior
 - 19 Brewery units
 - 24 Baseball's Ed and Mel
 - 25 Relative key of C major
 - 26 Second-longest human bone
 - 27 Utopias
 - 28 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
 - 29 As a friend, to the French
 - 30 Outlet of the left ventricle
 - 31 Astronaut ____ Bluford, the first African-American in space
 - 32 Sport with lunges
 - 33 Mil. option
 - 45 Crucifix inscription
 - 46 Subject of the 1999 film "Le Temps Retrouvé"
 - 49 Karate blow
 - 50 The last Mrs. Chaplin
 - 51 Minute part of a minute: Abbr.
 - 52 A program usually has one
 - 53 "Stupid me!"
 - 55 Eyelid woe
 - 56 Ooze
 - 57 Table scraps
 - 59 Geezers' replies
 - 60 Dads

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	U	M	E	S	E	M	I	B	A	S	I	N
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A	E	N	E	A	S	F	R	I	T	O		
B	A	A	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	T	E	C
A	S	T	R	O	W	A	C	O	S	R	T	A
S	T	E	E	R	A	N	E	W	I	R	E	S
H	I	M	O	M	Y	A	R	N	N	A	T	E



Puzzle by Paula Gamache

- 37 First N.F.L. QB with consecutive 30-touchdown passing seasons
- 39 Novelist Ferber
- 41 Acid neutralizers
- 42 "____ Organum" (1620 Francis Bacon work)
- 45 Crucifix inscription
- 46 Subject of the 1999 film "Le Temps Retrouvé"
- 49 Karate blow
- 50 The last Mrs. Chaplin
- 51 Minute part of a minute: Abbr.
- 52 A program usually has one
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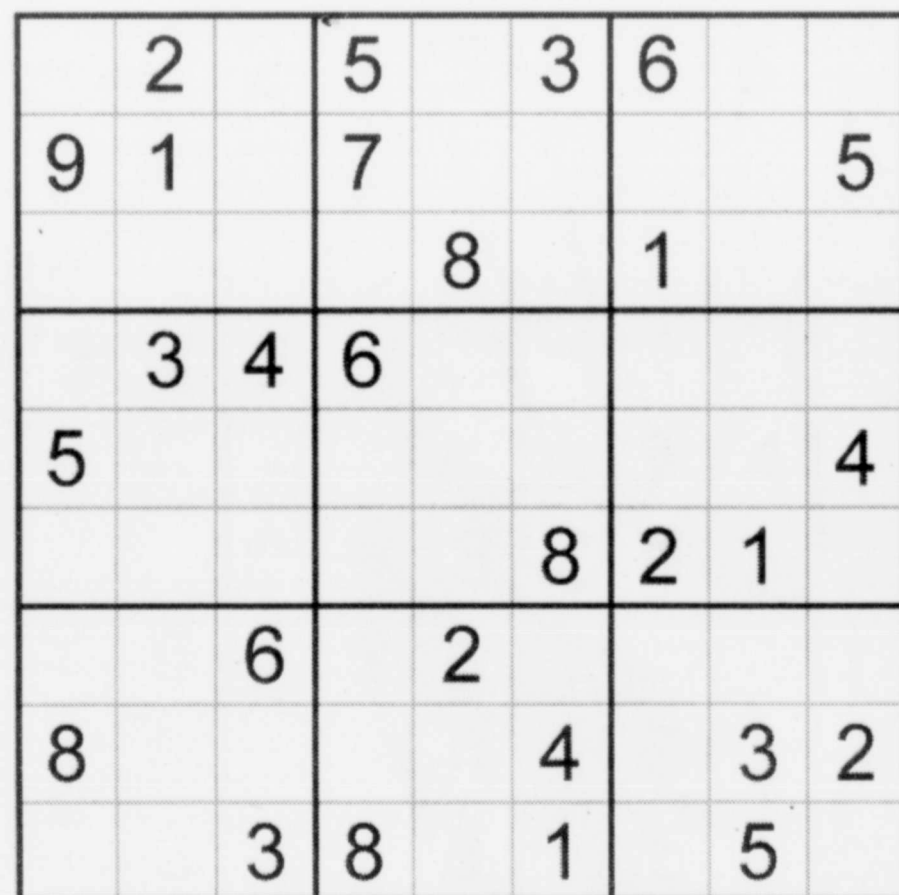


After Lois Finally Realized that Stewie was Trying to Kill Her

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



EASY

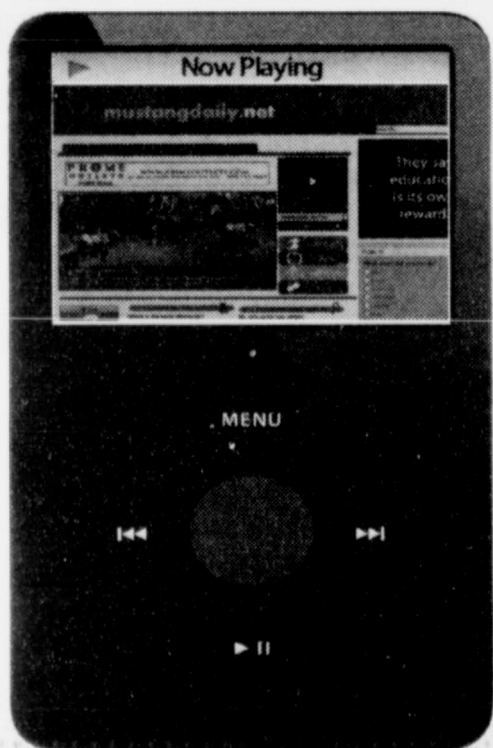
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Shotwell

continued from page 12

family and Cal Poly well."

Brown's star rising quickly in Dallas

Every year, only a handful of seventh-round rookies around the NFL even make active rosters, let alone play on Sundays.

Former Cal Poly cornerback Courtney Brown, though, has already become a top-flight special teamer for the Dallas Cowboys. Listed as a third-string free safety and wearing No. 27 for Dallas, Brown has been all over the field on kickoff and punt coverage units the past couple of weeks.

After spending the first eight games of the season for the Cow-

boys (10-1) on the inactive list with a mysterious biceps injury, Brown has made the most of his last three games.

Against Washington on Nov. 18, Brown made a crucial fourth-quarter tackle of Redskins punt returner Antwaan Randle El for no gain, which helped seal Dallas' 28-23 win in the final minute. The play received praise afterward from Terrell Owens in the Cowboys' locker room, in which Owens — who was presented the game ball for his four-touchdown masterpiece — singled out Brown's special-teams play as an example for teammates, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

On Thanksgiving, Brown recovered a fumble on kickoff coverage in the first quarter against the Jets.

Of his role on the Cowboys'

special teams, Brown recently told the Dallas Morning News: "You gotta know which way the play's going. The (return team) will tell you which way the play's going, so you gotta read that, read your blocks and get your fit."

Brown was rarely thrown at as a shutdown corner at Cal Poly in 2006. He had apparently shot up

the draft board by running a 4.32 40 in March but fell into the seventh round, where the Cowboys nabbed him at No. 212 overall.

Brown made a name for himself at Cal Poly by picking off a I-AA school-record seven passes in 2005. Now it appears the Cowboys might have found a steal of their own.



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2	9	3	8	7	1	4	5	6

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MUSTANG WOMEN'S HOOPS

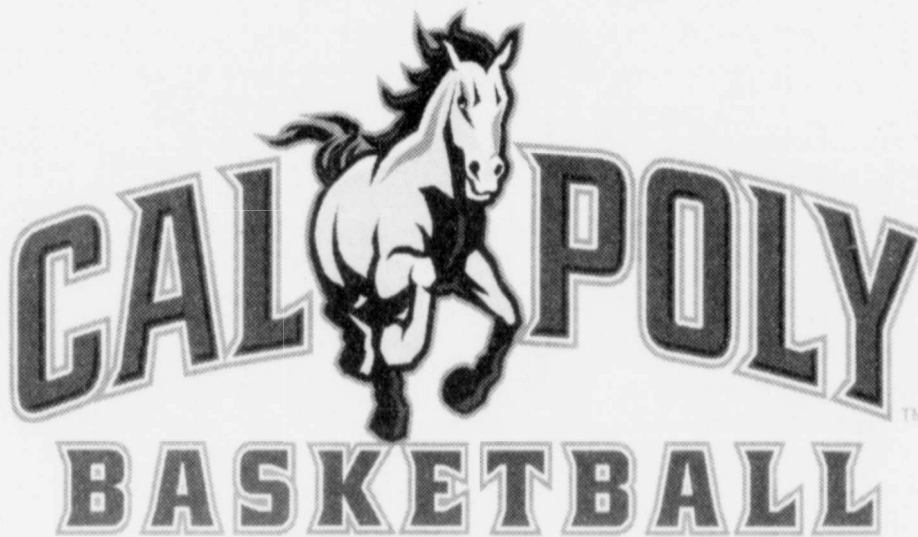
Thursday Night VS. San Diego State - 7 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon vs. San Diego - 2 p.m.

MUSTANG MEN'S HOOPS

Sunday Afternoon VS. Menlo College - 2 p.m.

MOTT GYM



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The Eagle has landed

Former Cal Poly star linebacker Shotwell to sign free-agent deal with Philadelphia today

Tristan Aird
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Kyle Shotwell, it seemed, had played his last down with Chris Gocong when the two were Cal Poly football teammates in 2005.

But the NFL has a funny way of reuniting people.

At around 1 p.m. Tuesday, Shotwell received a call from his agent, Ryan Tollner, who told the rookie linebacker what he had wanted to hear since being waived by the Oakland Raiders on Sept. 1. Another NFL club had a contract lined up for Shotwell to sign.

It turned out that team was the Philadelphia Eagles, for whom Gocong is now starting at strongside linebacker.

"I called him right after I found out," Shotwell said Tuesday night in a phone interview from Santa Barbara Airport. "He was completely ecstatic for me. He was ecstatic that we could reunite. Chris is one of my best buddies. He's from Santa Barbara, I'm from Santa Barbara. Now I'm looking forward to going out there with him. I'm sure he'll make the transition smooth to the East Coast."

Shotwell was set to depart Santa Barbara at 7:20 p.m. Tuesday for San Francisco, from which he planned to catch a redeye flight to Philadelphia that was scheduled to arrive at 6:15 a.m. EST today.

Although he did not yet know all the financial details of his contract, Shotwell said he expects this morning to sign a deal that would land him on the team's practice squad.

"I know that typically practice squad (players) are making around six grand a week," Shotwell said.

And for Shotwell, who received a workout but no contract offer from Green Bay in October, it's been a long time coming.

"It definitely feels good," he said. "I've been putting in so much work, really my whole life, especially since my season last year at Cal Poly. They've been great experiences, but from a monetary standpoint it hasn't been too good. I'm going to start



BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Shown against Southern Utah in September 2006, former Cal Poly linebacker Kyle Shotwell (17) is set to sign a free-agent contract with the Philadelphia Eagles this morning. He will join the team's practice squad and become the fourth former Mustang currently in the NFL.

making money, which is nice."

The 6-foot-1, 235-pound Shotwell won the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in Division I-AA after finishing the 2006 season with 122 tackles and seven sacks. It was the third straight year a member of Cal Poly's front seven had won the award. Gocong won it after ringing up 23.5 sacks as a defensive end in 2005 and linebacker Jordan Beck — now with the Denver Broncos — took the prize after logging 135 tackles, 5.5 sacks and four interceptions in 2004.

Shotwell, though, wasn't invited to the NFL Scouting Combine in February before April's draft, as Gocong and Beck were before him. After Shotwell ran a 4.5-second 40-yard dash at Cal Poly's pro day in March,

two scouts from NFC teams told the Mustang Daily they were impressed with his workout.

Still, Shotwell went undrafted and signed a three-year free-agent deal with Oakland on April 29. He had a productive training camp and led the Raiders with seven tackles in their preseason finale at Seattle, but was among the team's final cuts shortly before the season opener.

Nearly three months later, Shotwell has his chance again.

"That's why I've been staying in shape and staying ready," he said. "I've been working out really hard. I'm ready."

When asked if he would eventually hope to make the active roster, Shotwell said, "That's the goal. I want to learn the system,

give it a look in practice, really establish myself as a hard-working guy."

It's a system in which Gocong has fared well, coming up with 50 tackles (37 solo) this year. His only sack of the season came Sunday night when he nailed Tom Brady, one of just 13 times the likely league MVP has been brought down this year.

"To learn from a guy like Jim Johnson will be awesome," Shotwell said of the Eagles' defensive coordinator.

It's been exactly a year and 10 days since Shotwell last roamed the middle of Mustang Memorial Field. And now he'll be wearing green once again.

"It's been so quick," Shotwell said. "I'm going to go out there and represent my

see Shotwell, page 11

Wrestling with the Titans

Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly wrestling team sees Pac-10 action today at Titan Gym as it takes on Cal State Fullerton, a quite familiar foe following the Cal State Fullerton Open on Nov. 18.

Although the Mustangs competed in a tournament setting at the open, they matched up against several Fullerton wrestlers, which made it safe for head coach John Azevedo to say that today "is going to be a close duel; (Fullerton has) a solid team."

Cal Poly's Chad Mendes and Chase Pami won their brackets at the open in the 141- and 157-pound divisions, respectively.

Mendes, 11-0 this season, was 6-0 at the open. He topped the Titans' Teddy Astorga 7-3 in the title match.

In preparation for today's dual meet, the Mustangs watched video from Nov. 18 and clips from last year's contest when the Titans came

to Mott Gym. Azevedo said his squad has been working hard in practice to make improvements.

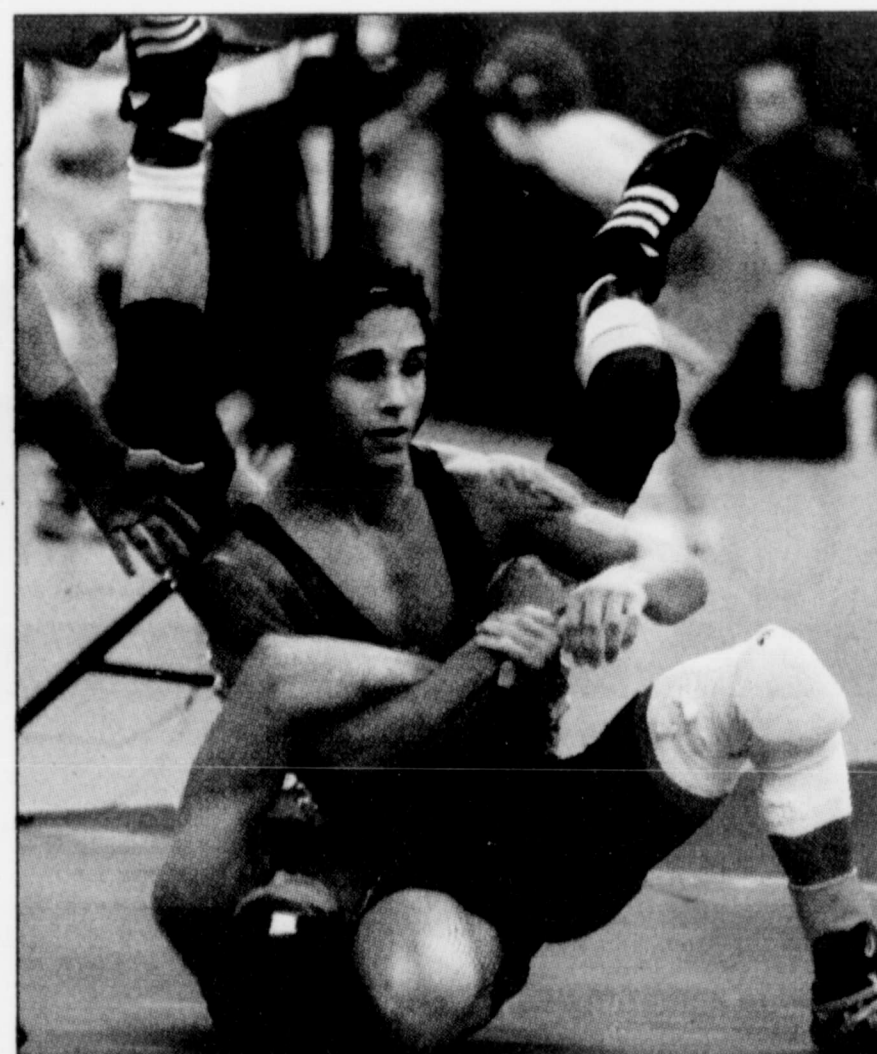
He explained that assistant coach Sammie Henson has been on the mat with the wrestlers, focusing on riding, turning and being able to get away from opponents.

Wrestling action hits Mott Gym on Dec. 8 when the Mustangs take on No. 1 Minnesota, last year's national champion.

"Obviously it's gonna be tough to beat them, but we're hoping to battle them and get some upsets," Azevedo said.

Although Azevedo said he won't focus on the Golden Gophers until after the Fullerton meet, he said that people have already called him in anticipation of the event.

"At this time of year, we want to keep making improvements," he said in hopes that those changes will lead to the Pac-10 Tournament and then nationals.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chad Mendes (above), an All-American two seasons ago, is 11-0 this season. He redshirted last year due to injury.

Redskins safety dies by gunshot

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor died Tuesday after he was shot in his home by an apparent intruder, leaving the Washington Redskins in mourning for a teammate who seemed to have reordered his life since becoming a father.

The 24-year-old player died at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he had been airlifted after the shooting early Monday.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said the league will honor Taylor's memory at all games this weekend.

"This is a terrible tragedy involving the loss of a young man who leaves behind many people struggling to understand it," he said in a statement.

Taylor's No. 21 will be painted in a grass parking area leading into Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va.