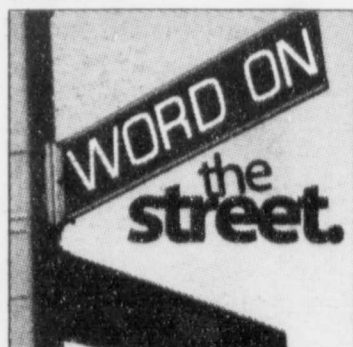


## INSIDE

### NEWS



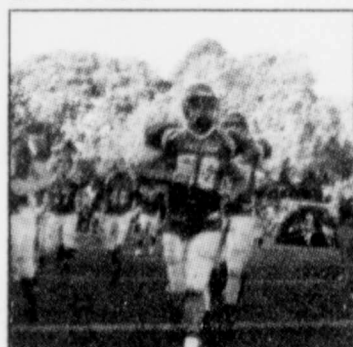
Read students' answers today's question: "If you had to walk downtown with a sign, what would it be?"  
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### ARTS



In "Buried in Books," Christina Casci explores the historical aspects of "The Other Boleyn Girl."  
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### SPORTS



Cal Poly football's most heavily sought after recruit chose the Mustangs over Pac-10, SEC schools.  
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### ONLINE



Want more of Mike Leisure? Go online to view an audio slideshow of his intimate interview.  
mustangdaily.net

### TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny  
High 72°/Low 44°

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## SLO icon for peace: "Hey, peace on you!"

Brian McMullen  
MUSTANG DAILY

If you live in San Luis Obispo, you probably know who he is and likely don't know anything about him.

If you see him at Farmers' Market or on the corner of Santa Rosa and Higuera streets (his favorite place to be), you may wave or honk your horn as you drive by, but that's the extent of your interaction.

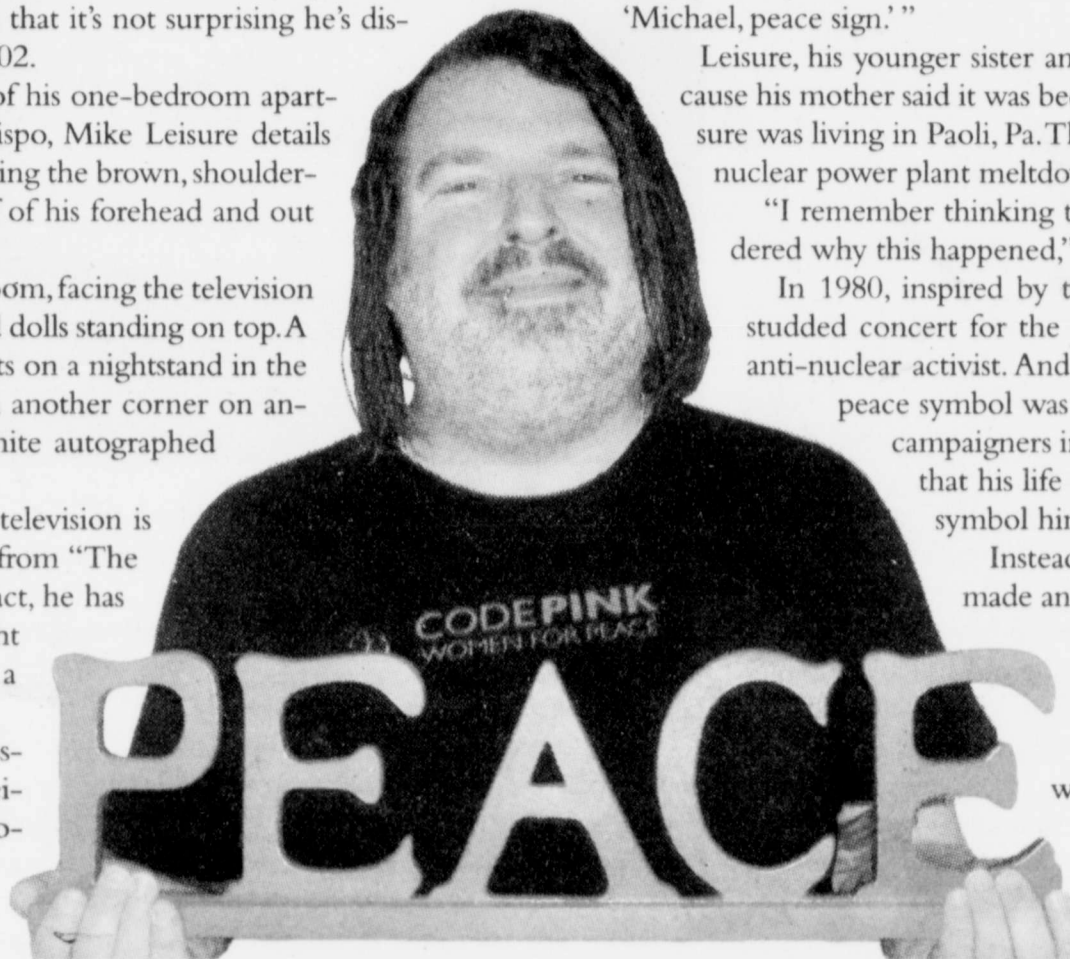
He's mysterious but not threatening, perhaps because of the sign he's always holding with the peace symbol emblazoned on the front. A symbol with a history so intertwined with his life that it's not surprising he's displayed it every day since October 2002.

Sitting on the living room floor of his one-bedroom apartment near downtown San Luis Obispo, Mike Leisure details the events of his 45 years while brushing the brown, shoulder-length, twisted-up strands of hair off of his forehead and out of his salt-and-pepper-stubble beard.

His bed sits in the middle of the room, facing the television with a small collection of bobblehead dolls standing on top. A wood carving of the word "Peace" sits on a nightstand in the brightest corner of the room, and in another corner on another nightstand sits a black-and-white autographed photo of the Grateful Dead.

Facing the bed to the left of the television is a life-size cutout of Nicole Richie from "The Simple Life." Leisure's a big fan; in fact, he has the same image tattooed on his right forearm, and on the other side is a portrait of Tori Spelling.

Often switching from sitting cross-legged to leaning on his left arm, Leisure makes sure to mark the major political happenings, military conflicts, and natural or unnatural disasters associated with each event he recounts of his own history. In this way, he gives his life a context that is rich in the observance of a world in need



Mike Leisure, 45, is a local advocate for peace who can frequently be seen downtown holding signs such as the one pictured above.

of peace.

"It seemed as though the world I grew up in was a much better place than it is now," Leisure said slowly in his highly inflected baritone voice.

He spent the first years of his life in New York and he can remember when "mom used to take (me and my younger sister) bike-riding in Central Park on a Saturday morning. During that time we were in the Vietnam War."

He can also sharply recall his first introduction to the peace symbol.

It was 1969 or 1970, and he and his mother were eating pizza at Frank's Pizza on 96th Street and Madison Avenue. "Amazingly enough, some lady came in with a peace symbol on the back of her denim jean pocket and my mom said, 'Michael, peace sign.'"

Leisure, his younger sister and his mother moved out of New York because his mother said it was becoming a dangerous place, and in 1979, Leisure was living in Paoli, Pa. That's when the Three Mile Island accident, a nuclear power plant meltdown, occurred.

"I remember thinking to myself how dangerous this is and I wondered why this happened," he said.

In 1980, inspired by the Three Mile Island accident and a star-studded concert for the benefit of solar energy, Leisure became an anti-nuclear activist. And that being what is now understood as the peace symbol was originally adopted by anti-nuclear weapon campaigners in Britain, it seems fitting that this is the path that his life took. However, Leisure didn't fly the peace symbol himself quite yet.

Instead, while living in Dover, Del. in 1982, Leisure made an orange T-shirt with the words "No Nukes" printed on it. It was the first time he had publicly displayed a message of protest.

The peace sign would resurface later, in the late '80s and early '90s, when Leisure was living in Arlington, Va. He begins his description of this part of his life by first saying that George Bush, Sr., was president and that the United States was involved in "what started out to be Operation Desert Shield. Then it turned into Operation Desert Storm."

see Leisure, page 2

## Panel discusses results of America's primaries

Kory Harbeck  
MUSTANG DAILY

It was supposed to clear the picture and set the stage for the most anticipated presidential election in decades.

Instead, questions remain on both sides as the race for the democratic nomination intensifies in the wake of last week's Super Tuesday elections.

The political science department hosted a discussion panel Monday headed by Cal Poly professors Chris Den Hartog and Mike Latner that focused on the results of California's primary, storylines that emerged from Super Tuesday and the role superdelegates will play in the Democratic nomination.

Presidential hopefuls Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) are engaged in a head-to-head battle for delegates that could extend all the way to the Democratic convention in Denver from Aug. 25 to 28.

Of the 32 students who attended the event, 20 were women. The professors were pleased by the turnout and mentioned how much they enjoyed the heightened level of involvement young people were displaying this time around.

"I'm actually interested in this election," political science junior Taylor Baumann said. "I was interested to hear their predictions and the implications for the future."

The panel agreed that Sen. John McCain (R-Az.) will almost certainly win his party's nomination but that some interesting dynamics were still at play with former Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Huckabee's continued participation was described as a combination of wanting the vice presidential nominee and a desire to keep the conservative core of the Republican Party motivated.

"It has the potential to undermine McCain if he keeps doing well," Latner said.

Political science junior Peter Swinarski wanted to find out more about the specifics of how delegates are awarded. The discussion on delegates focused on the competitive race between Clinton and Obama.

"The story of the Democratic race has been one of fluidity," Latner said.

A record turnout of 8.5 million in California represented nearly half of registered voters in the state.

A breakdown of the demographics showed why Clinton was able to win 206 of 370 delegates with 52 percent of the vote.

Because of proportionality rules, a nominee has to win by a 2-1 vote or else the delegates will be split evenly.

In districts with an odd number of delegates, the person who captured the plurality of votes receives the majority.

Obama was ahead by 22 points

see Primaries, page 2

## New treatment for chronic disease sufferers

Lindsey Tanner  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Living to 100 is easier than you might think.

Surprising new research suggests that even people who develop heart disease or diabetes late in life have a decent shot at reaching the century mark.

"It has been generally assumed that living to 100 years of age was limited to those who had not developed chronic illness," said Dr. William Hall of the University of Rochester.

Hall has a theory for how these people could live to that age. In an editorial in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine, where the study was published, he writes that it might be thanks to doctors who aggressively treat these older folks' health problems, rather than taking an "ageist" approach that assumes they wouldn't benefit.

For the study, Boston University researchers did phone interviews and health assessments of more than 500 women and 200 men who had reached 100. They found that roughly two-thirds of them had avoided significant age-related ailments.

But the rest, dubbed "survivors," had developed an age-related disease before reaching 85, including high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes. Yet many functioned remarkably well — nearly as well as their disease-free peers.

Overall, the men were functioning better than the women. Nearly three-fourths of the male survivors could bathe and dress themselves, while only about one-third of the women could.

The researchers think that may be because the men had to be in exceptional condition to reach 100. "Women, on the other hand, may be better physically and socially adept at living with chronic and often disabling conditions," wrote lead author Dr. Dellara Terry and her colleagues.

A second, larger study of men in their 70s found that those who avoided smoking, obesity, inactivity, diabetes and high blood pressure greatly improved their chances of living into their 90s. In fact, they had a 54 percent chance of living that long.

Their survival decreased with each risk factor, and those with all five had only a 4 percent chance of living into their 90s, according to Harvard University researchers.



## Leisure

continued from page 1

Leisure said he spent much of his time in Lafayette Park, which people called "peace park."

Out of work and not in school, he would stay in the park during the day "holding the fort down" at its vigil, which is famous for being a gathering place for anti-war and anti-nuke proponents and their protest signs — many displaying the peace symbol.

He was unaware that about a decade later, the symbol would become his message to the world.

Living in San Luis Obispo in 2002, Leisure said he saw people starting to speak out against the possible invasion of Iraq. "Right away inside my brain a bell went off, big bell, humongous bell. I started thinking, 'Déjà vu, I have been here before.'"

It was then that he decided to carry with him the peace symbol every day, everywhere he went except church.

Leisure feels it necessary to make clear that he began protesting only the invasion of Iraq. "I did not believe in protesting against the Afghanistan thing because I believed we had to get bin Laden. He's a son of a bum."

He also said the reaction to his peace-symbol-touting has been mostly positive, especially from military personnel.

"You should see the amount of young Marines that really love me ... They honk at me and they go, 'Right on!'"

Asked if he has encountered any negative responses, Leisure responded, "sometimes people like to flip me the bird or cuss at me and call me every dirty name in the book."

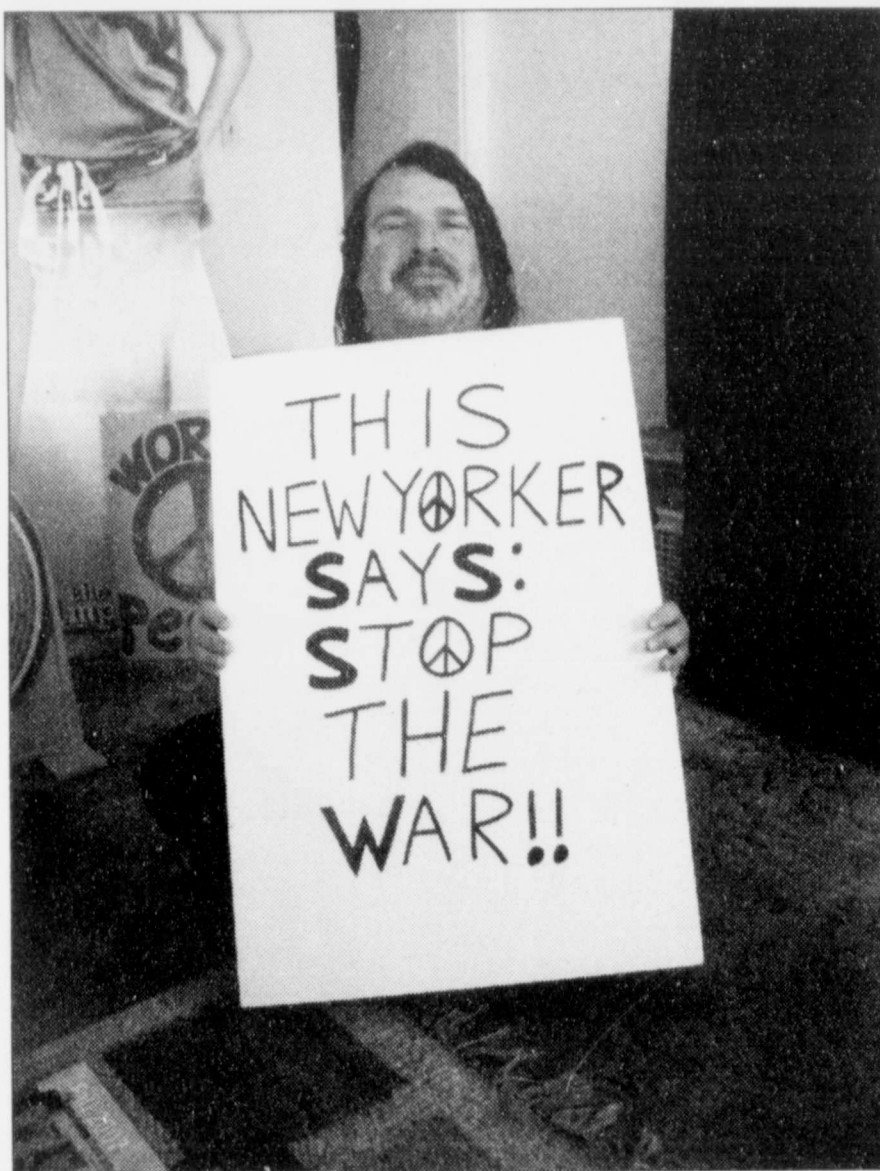
He then described one incident where "one idiot" pulled down his pants and stuck his "rear end" against the window of a passing van.

"I just stood there like, hey buddy, you're making an ass of yourself because you are an ass."

Leisure said that at first, these occurrences bothered him, but then friends told him, "Try not to let their ugliness and rudeness destroy you, because that ugliness and rudeness is inside of them and you don't have to let them formulate the beautiful person who you have become."

He then added, "It takes a lot of courage to be there letting someone flick you the bird and call you all these wicked names and you just have to stand there like, 'Hey buddy, peace on you.'"

And retaliation is out of the question for Leisure. He said that if one strikes back, not only are they stooping to the offender's level,



BRIAN MCMULLEN MUSTANG DAILY

Mike Leisure displays one of his many signs supporting peace.

"but you're destroying the purpose of what you are really trying to pass on."

What exactly is he trying to pass on?

"I hope really to try to see if I can make a difference by showing people that we need to have peace on all levels," he said.

With that in mind and peace symbol in hand, everyday he'll be there on Santa Rosa and Higuera streets, or walking up and down Farmers' Market, with a smile on his face, listening to the calls and honks of supporters and brushing off the curses and gestures of others.

## Primaries

continued from page 1

among voters between the ages of 18 and 29.

And despite closing margins between white and black voters, Clinton was able to maintain her margin of victory, thanks to strong support from Hispanic women.

Especially in districts represented by Latinas in the House of Representatives. Those four districts averaged 71 percent votes for Clinton and gave her a 12-4 delegate advantage.

"I wasn't aware how close the delegate count actually was," journalism junior Amanda Benevento said.

With most news outlets calling the delegate count close to even and not anticipated to change drastically, the nomination is seen as lasting all the way to the convention.

This means an important role for the superdelegates, made up of former politicians and party insiders. Most see the 796 unelected superdelegates as the possible deciding factor in the nomination.

"Until recently, the opinion was that we wouldn't get that far, that someone would emerge," Den Hartog said. "Now, nobody knows the answer, with the possibility that the outcome could alienate the voters and hurt Democrats in the general election."

Clinton is generally seen as having the advantage among superdelegates, leaving open the possibility Obama could have a slight lead entering the convention and still miss out as the nominee.

As their role becomes clearer, some superdelegates are saying they do not want the responsibility and that it should be up to the American public.

The next stage of the election process is the so-called "Potomac Primaries," as Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia all go to the polls today.

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## WORD ON THE STREET

**"If you had to walk downtown with a sign, what would it be?"**

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman



*"Peace."*

— Alisha Kerr,  
nutrition junior

**"Greet the day."**

— Emma Mitchell,  
art and design  
sophomore



*"Don't even worry about it."*

— Kyle Kennedy  
business junior

*"Smile!"*

— Kelsey Delagardelle,  
business senior



## Tom Lantos, last Holocaust survivor in Congress, died

Erica Werner  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Tom Lantos, who as a teenager twice escaped from a Nazi-run forced labor camp in Hungary and became the only Holocaust survivor to win a seat in Congress, has died. He was 80.

Spokeswoman Lynne Weil said Lantos, a Californian, died early Monday at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in suburban Maryland. He was surrounded by his wife, Annette, two daughters, and many of his 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Annette Lantos said in a statement that her husband's life was "defined by courage, optimism, and unwavering dedication to his principles and to his family."

Lantos, a Democrat who chaired the House Foreign Affairs Committee, disclosed last month that he had been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. He said at the time that he would serve out his 14th term but would not seek re-election in his Northern California district, which takes in the southwest portion of San Francisco and suburbs to the south that includes Lantos' home of San Mateo.

President Bush praised Lantos in a statement as "a man of character and a champion of human rights."

"After immigrating to America more than six decades ago, he worked to help oppressed people around the world have the opportunity to live in freedom," Bush said. "As the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress, Tom was a living reminder that we must never turn a blind eye to the suffering of the innocent at the hands of evil men."

Flags were lowered to half-staff at the White House and U.S. Capitol.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Tom Lantos was a true American hero. He was the embodiment of what it meant to have one's freedom denied and then to find it and to insist that America stand for spreading freedom and prosperity to others."

## State

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — A 21-year-old woman was stabbed at a mall parking garage in the University City area in what authorities think was an attempted carjacking.

San Diego police arrested a 42-year-old man on suspicion of attempted murder in Sunday's attack.

Police say he stabbed the woman in the chest after she refused to hand over the keys to her car. San Diego Police Sergeant David Jennings says an officer responding to the stabbing noticed a man fitting the suspect's description waiting at a bus stop at the mall.

...

**RIVERSIDE (AP)** — Citing rampant health and safety violations, a federal judge on Monday appointed two special masters and a temporary receiver to help manage a Coachella Valley trailer park on Indian land that is home to up to 6,000 migrant workers.

Attorney Mark S. Adams was named temporary receiver, with the power to order emergency repairs at the park and control the financial books.

...

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The California Supreme Court says a consumer campaign to get grocery stores to label artificially colored, farmed salmon can go forward.

The justices decided unanimously on Monday to overturn two lower court rulings tossing out the legal challenge.

## Briefs

### National

**DELAWARE, Ohio (AP)** — Men have begun a beard-growing competition, which is partly a presidential look-alike contest, as this central Ohio city celebrates its 200th birthday.

The current, clean-shaven resident of the White House isn't the inspiration. Instead, it's the nation's 19th president, Rutherford B. Hayes, born in Delaware in 1822 and typically pictured with long, wiry whiskers.

The competitors all started Sunday with clean shaves. They were photographed with shaved chins and obtained permits to register in the contest, to be judged July 5.

...

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — It lived up to its name: The temperature in International Falls fell to 40 below zero Monday, just a few days after the northern Minnesota town won a federal trademark making it officially the "Icebox of the Nation."

It was so cold that resident Nick McDougall couldn't even get his car trunk lid to close after he got out his charger to kick-start his dead battery. By late morning, the temperature had risen all the way to 18 — below zero.

"This is about as cold as it gets, this is bad. There's no wind — it's just cold," said McDougall, 48, a worker at The Fisherman, a convenience store and gas station in the town on the Canadian border. "People just don't go out, unless you have to go to work."

### International

**CALEXICO, Calif. (AP)** — A magnitude-5.1 earthquake rocked the northern Baja California region of Mexico near the U.S. border on Monday, just days after the region was hit by a magnitude-5.4 temblor, authorities said.

Monday's quake was centered about 20 miles southeast of the border town of Mexicali at a depth of 4.3 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The epicenter was 23 miles south-southeast of the U.S. city of Calexico.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries on the U.S. side, according to the Imperial County Sheriff's Department and Calexico police.

...

**ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)** — Three armed men in ski masks stole four paintings by Cezanne, Degas, van Gogh and Monet worth \$163.2 million from a Zurich museum in one of Europe's largest art heists ever, police said Monday.

The robbers stole the paintings Sunday from the E.G. Buehrle Collection, one of Europe's finest private museums for Impressionist and post-Impressionist art, police said.

It was the largest art robbery in Switzerland's history and one of the biggest ever in Europe, said Marco Cortesi, spokesman for the Zurich police. He compared it to the 2004 theft of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" and "Madonna" from the Munch Museum in Norway.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**Feb. 6, 11:09** - An officer responded to a report of vandalism in the Tenaya Hall Laundry Room. A door of one of the washers appears to have been beaten in.

**Feb. 5, 18:30** - A disturbance in the Agricultural Sciences building was reported to the UPD. A student had become agitated and hostile and proceeded to punch a locker in the hallway.

**Feb. 5, 13:55** - Officers responded to a call about a suspicious person in the library. The subject was instructed to leave by the officer.

**Feb. 5, 00:27** - Officers were called to Yosemite Hall to check the welfare of a subject appearing to be having a panic attack. The subject was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment.

**Feb. 4, 19:20** - An officer responded to a fire alarm in the Engineering West building to find the class had been evacuated and the alarm was due to burnt popcorn in a classroom.

**Feb. 3, 20:14** - Officers provided first-responder medical aid to a victim of injury at Fremont Hall.

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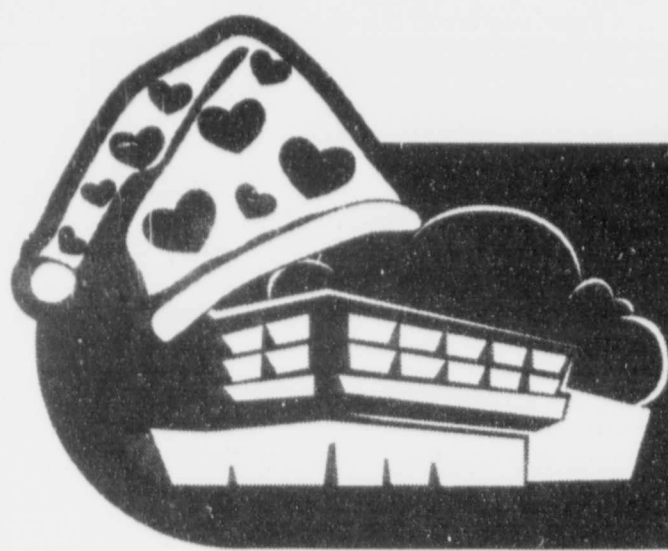
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Based on the historical novel by Philippa Gregory, reviewed below, the film version of "The Other Boleyn Girl" will open in theaters nationwide Feb. 29.

## Time travel made easy

Good historical novels are hard to find. Many have tried to create the perfect combination of history and story, but few have succeeded. Philippa Gregory is one of those who have written history in a new, fascinating and perfect way. Her writing style brings the reader to another place that truly cannot be escaped in "The Other Boleyn Girl." Not only does she write a story that's captivating, but she has done years of research so the main parts of the tale are true to history.

The story starts out in the spring of 1521 at the courts of King Henry VIII. Mary Carey is a 14-year-old girl, married for two years, who the king has shown an interest in. Her overly ambitious family decides it would be beneficial to them if she bedded him. So, the husband is quietly put aside and her sister, Anne Boleyn, and brother, George, teach Mary ways to win the king's favor. She is successful in that but finds the strain of keeping him difficult and finds herself losing her place to Anne. Her struggle for recognition and place slip out of her hands as she sees her sister rising higher.

This famous story, told by a lesser-known character, reveals the relationship between three siblings and the "real" secrets of the court. Mary becomes a best friend, a confidante, and there are no harsh feelings toward her as she goes after the king. By telling it from her perspective, Gregory gives the reader a narrator that doesn't do all the wrong things.

It is hard to understand what it was like back then, but Mary gives us an insight into her feelings and the minds of those in power. The relationship with Henry becomes so intimate that his deepest secrets and thoughts are exposed. It is a perfect possibility for what he might have been like.

Mary's relationship with Anne is the most interesting. They love each other as sisters but have an intense and harsh competition between them that drives



BURIED IN BOOKS  
by Christina Casci

them apart at the worst moments. The character development is truly unbeatable. By the end we even feel for Anne, though she's done one immoral thing after the other.

Some of the interaction between the three Boleyns is enough to make anyone squirm. The relationship between Anne and George is almost too close for comfort. He kisses her and looks at her like a lover but talks to her like a sister. She makes him say he would have her if she weren't the king's, but Mary never really catches on. She treats it like it is totally normal to kiss and ogle your brother.

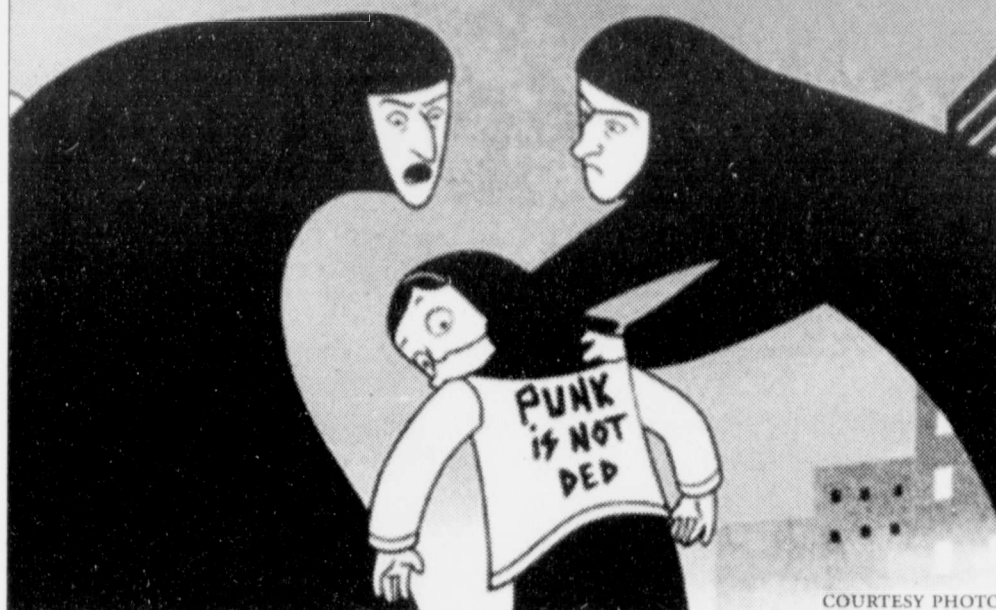
However great the players are, the imagery is even better. In scenes where Gregory describes a room or a market or any kind of event, I was captured by what she does to the imagination. She takes readers to the castles the characters travel to and the country house Mary is banished to for a short period of time. The colors are vividly described and written through the clothing characters wear and the food they eat. It is as though you are living and dancing in King Henry VIII's court with Mary and Anne.

Gregory's writing draws the reader in so tightly that you can't get out. She makes it a television show so that every time you stop reading, you're anticipating the next episode, dreaming of what could be happening to the characters. While reading, I was eager to go home, skip my homework and just get back into this great world that was also terrible.

The past is something we can't run from, and Gregory finds a way to put it in front of us so we want to relive it. Her descriptive writing and creative storytelling make "The Other Boleyn Girl" worth every minute it takes to read.

Christina Casci is a journalism senior, Mustang Daily wire editor and book columnist.

## 'Persepolis': not just another political war movie



Rachel Adams  
DAILY UTAH CHRONICLE (U. UTAH)

"Persepolis" is a wonderfully moody film — a deft mixture of humor and heroism, the thrilling and the mundane. Reminiscent of "Pan's Labyrinth," this film similarly chooses to temper a subject as terrible and adult as war by showing it through the lens of childhood. But while "Pan's Labyrinth" turned adult ideas of heroism and sacrifice into the stuff of fairytales (with depressing results), "Persepolis" turned a child's ideas of God and heroism into the stuff of real, everyday choices.

To those who object to subtitles, I say, your loss (however, there will be an English-dubbed version available at some point, starring Sean Penn, Iggy Pop and Gena Rowlands). To those who think animation is just for children, I have a more substantial reply: Based on the autobiographical graphic novel of the same name, "Persepolis" is definitely not for children. Rated PG-13, it deals with sex, drugs and, of course, war and death. The beautiful, atmo-

see Persepolis, page 7

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# Lannon's 'Pressure' a finely crafted album

(If only it could cure insomnia, too.)

Rachel Glas  
MUSTANG DAILY

About halfway through the fourth track of singer-songwriter Nyles Lannon's new CD, "Pressure," I was feeling as if I had popped an Ambien — or two. So I decided that the seemingly monotonous folk-pop album was the perfect cure for insomnia; all it needed was some different marketing. I could pitch the idea to Big Pharma and make a fortune!

Unfortunately, by the third spin of the album, I realized that my antidote to insomnia would, in fact, not work. The once-indistinguishable tunes turned out to be 50 minutes of finely crafted, emotionally intense pop songs after all. I guess I'll have to make my fortune some other way.

The 11-track album runs the gamut from what I can only describe as the-world-is-ending rock to (relatively) mellow pop.

While listening to songs such as "Slipping" and "Better

with Nothing," with their unrelenting drum beats and lyrics like "closing in" and "the walls are crushing," I half expected to glance out the window and see the sun burning out, or something similarly apocalyptic.



The mood lightens slightly with tracks such as "Lost in the Stars," in which Lannon lovingly sings of missed opportunities. Though Lannon's song isn't as fantastically hopeful as the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," the upbeat guitar and soft vocals of "Stars" evoke a modern-day version of the Beatles' well-known song.

It's no surprise his music resembles the Beatles. During the recording of "Pressure," the San Francisco-based Lannon admits that the Beatles' "White Album" was "all that (he) was listening to." After months of fruitlessly trying to write, the "purity and originality" of the "White Album" convinced Lannon to scrap his work and embark on something new and different.

The result was "Pressure."

Though it's currently ranked No. 87,060 on Amazon.com, the album has garnered rave reviews. Baby Sue Fanzine said it features "wonderfully subdued, moody, melodic pop with a difference," while Paste magazine gave it "4 stars!" (The exclamation mark must mean it's good, right?)

From the first track, the wonderfully catchy "Hesitation," to the addictive (and aptly named) "Next Obsession," to the final, despairing "River" in which Lannon hauntingly pro-



San Francisco-based singer-songwriter Nyles Lannon's new album, "Pressure," features sometimes-delicate, sometimes-edgy but always lovely melodies.

COURTESY PHOTO

claims that he'll "never be free," "Pressure" is a hit. Lannon takes the listener through the roller coaster of his emotions, sometimes taking us down into the darkest pits of despair, other times lifting us into a manageable level of gloom.

As you've probably noticed, this is not a happy album. Yet oddly enough, it's not a depressing listen either. The sometimes-delicate, sometimes-edgy but always lovely melodies keep the album from reaching that point.

So why didn't I realize the artistry of Lannon's music the first time I listened to the album? Perhaps my ears just needed adjusting (a pretty common occurrence in my case), or perhaps it takes time to permeate the layers of his music. Every song is so raw and expressive that it takes multiple listens to see past the surface of seemingly monotonous beats and vocals and truly hear the searing emotions behind them.

So what are you waiting for? Go and listen to the album, preferably on a long, quiet drive at night by yourself. You won't be disappointed.

No pressure, though.

To listen to several tracks from "Pressure," go to [www.myspace.com/nlannon](http://www.myspace.com/nlannon).

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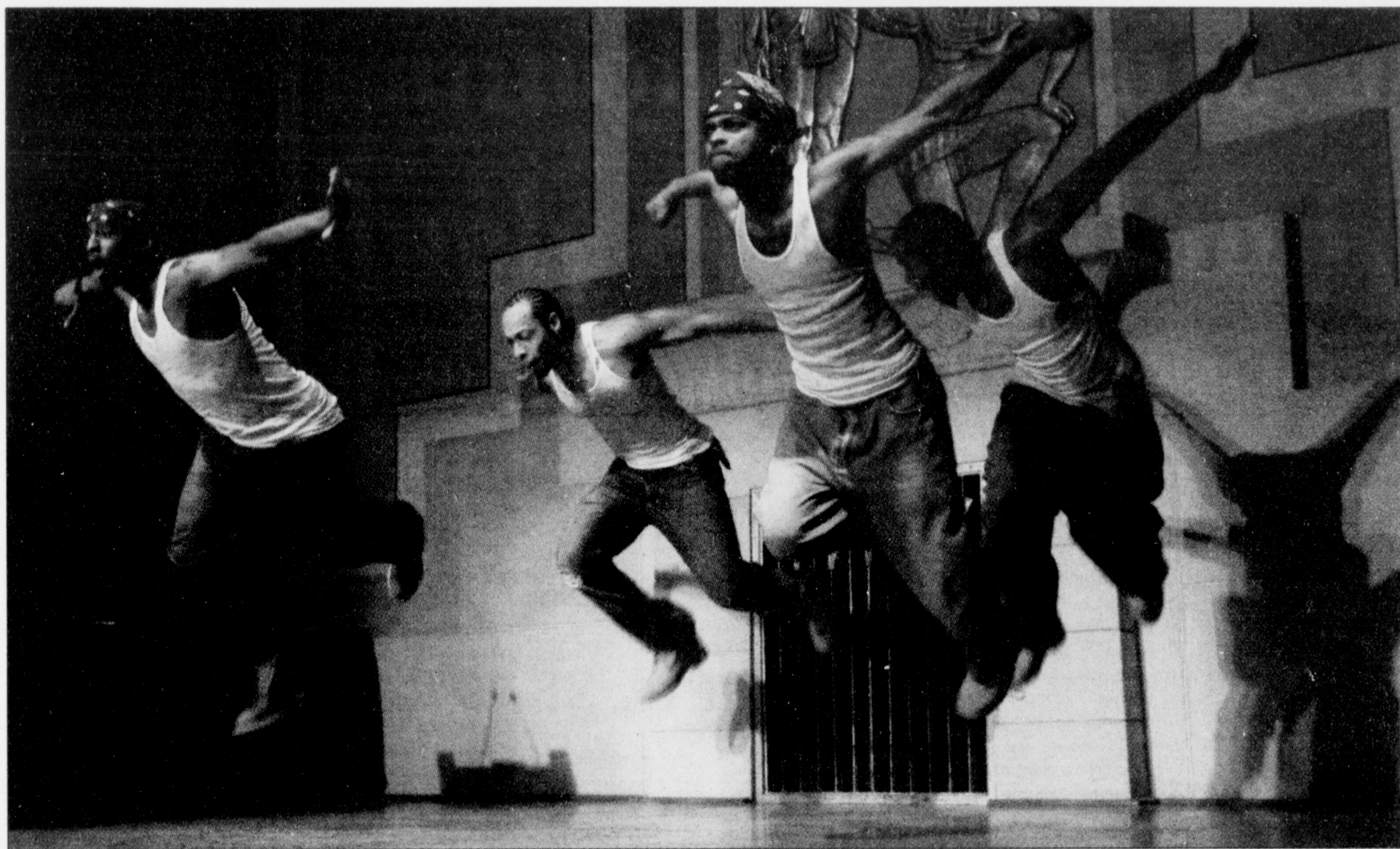
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COURTESY PHOTO

Despite its predictable plot, "Stomp the Yard" is an entertaining film in which Columbus Short, Chris Brown, Ne-Yo, Darrin Henson and others show off elaborate moves.

## Steppin' it up

Mica Vincent

MUSTANG DAILY

I have to admit, before I watched "Stomp the Yard" I was expecting the step version of "Bring It On," chock-full of phrases like, "This isn't a democracy. It's a step-ocracy."

Instead of the fifth installment of the played-out cheerleading movie fluke, "Stomp the Yard" delivered somewhat decent entertainment.

Between director Sylvain White's unique camera angles and the extensive work done in

the editing room, I found it hard to hate "Stomp the Yard" — regardless of the predictable plot.

The movie revolves around a central character, DJ (Columbus Short), who, following tragic circumstances, moves to a new town, is convinced to join a competition between two rival teams, falls for someone he can't have, and struggles to define himself.

Sure, it may sound similar to the formulaic "Bring it On" plot we've all grown to hate, but that's where the similarities end.

"Stomp the Yard" is more like "Save the Last

Dance," complete with train rides and nostalgic flashbacks depicting the loss of a loved one. In this film, DJ copes with the loss of his brother Duron (played by Chris Brown), which is the catalyst for him moving to a new town.

Ultimately, despite his motto, "I don't step, man — I battle," DJ decides to join Theta Nu Theta, the underdog fraternity to Mu Gamma, the seven-time step champions.

OK, it's cheesy, but who cares? Where else are the phenomenal skills of dancers like Short, Brown, Ne-Yo and Darrin Henson showcased

(aside from music videos)?

Does DJ get the girl? Does he learn the meaning of teamwork in time to help his team? Does Theta Nu Theta win the championship?

If you want to see how it ends — or how it begins, for that matter — skip the trip to the video store and celebrate Black History Month by watching it in the University Union (room 221) today from 7 to 9 p.m.

Black Student Union members will be performing a step dancing demo before the movie begins.

## Persepolis

continued from page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

spheric drawings set the perfect stage for the events of the story, allowing the comic and the horrific to fluidly intermingle (as they tend to do in real life), drawing attention away from the foreign aspects (for example, the veils all women are mandated to wear by Islamic law) and allowing the viewer to immerse oneself completely in the story — the coming-of-age of a young girl in war-torn, religiously oppressive Iran.

We've seen plenty of political thrillers during the past couple of years: "The Constant Gardener," "Babel," "The Kingdom," "A Mighty Heart" — all of these are depressingly relevant and inevitably begin to weigh down the movie-goer (or haven't you had your fill yet of bad-news documentaries, such as "No End in Sight" and "The Body of War?") Fortunately, "Persepolis" feels more like a coming-of-age story than a political drama, thanks to the spunky young Marjane (Chiara Mastroianni), whose humorous viewpoint adds new flavor to an old stew. Don't expect to be exonerated, though. The once-refreshing, now-familiar sight of Americans as the bad guys shows up in this film, and the somewhat abrupt ending leaves the viewer with a sense of responsibility. The problems are still there, "Persepolis" says. Who will do something about it? Granted, "Persepolis" isn't perfect: There were a couple of moments where the story dragged (for example, the existential crisis, a French staple that rarely finds a comfortable place in American film). After all of the politics throughout the movie, a call to action of sorts might be expected, and the lack is felt (as I said earlier, perhaps this is a good thing).

The voiceovers are wonderful (with Catherine Deneuve as Marjane's mother, Danielle Darrieux as her grandmother and Simon Abkarian as her father), the characters are well-drawn (literally and figuratively) and rich, the story both incredible and down-to-earth. It's hard to talk about direction in an animated film, but the art direction was amazing. The animation, although simple, was so evocative and vivid I could swear that as the little white flowers fell across the screen at the end of the film, the smell of jasmine floated over me. I became such a part of that two-dimensional world that standing up and walking out of the theater, the three-dimensional world seemed new.

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Mustang Daily

"A llama? Are you serious? You know I'd rather be a cow!"

# MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marshall  
Managing Editor: Ryan Chartrand

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8

keepingitcurrent  
by taylor moore



monday

checkyourpulse  
by sarah bailey



tuesday

therightway  
by members of the  
college republicans



wednesday

titfortat  
by lee and sean



thursday

thegreenspot  
by members of the empower  
poly coalition



friday

## Turn the heat up in the kitchen this Valentine's Day

Planning a romantic evening for Valentine's Day? Many people think of soft music, flowers and candlelight. However, most overlook the importance of romantic aphrodisiac foods! Despite a long-standing interest in aphrodisiac foods throughout the centuries and across multiple cultures, little to no scientific study has been done to confirm or deny these claims. Lacking scientific evidence, you will need to be the judge for yourself!

Create an evening revolving around a menu of delicious aphrodisiacs. Here are the sexy foods to make it easy:

**Banana:** Some studies show its enzyme bromelain enhances male performance. Bananas are rich in potassium and B vitamins, necessities for sex hormone production. This phallic fruit backs up its appearance.

**Caviar:** It's high in zinc, which stimulates the formation of testosterone, maintaining male functionality.

**Oysters:** Oyster extract is excellent for men's reproductive health and endurance. It is a rich source for the amino acid taurine, which has a cardio-protective effect and improves nerve transmission. Historically known as an aphrodisiac, flavanoids in oyster meat have been shown to stimulate the reproductive system.

**Celery:** This common vegetable acts as a stimulant, and eating the fresh root strengthens the sex organs. Celery root contains an essential oil and the minerals iron, calcium, magnesium, sulfur and phosphorus.

**Pine nuts:** Zinc is a key mineral necessary to maintain male potency and pine nuts are rich in zinc. Pine nuts have been used to stimulate the libido as far back as the medieval times.

**Squash:** Seeds contain fatty oil, protein and vitamin E that is important for healthy sexuality. For stimulating the woman's sex drive, have her indulge in a sweet potato.

**Basil:** Eat one leaf a day to maintain health, prosperity and fertility. Basil contains essential oil, tannins and vitamins, and also possesses aphrodisiac powers. This popular spice is said to stimulate the sex drive and boost fertility. It is also said to produce a general sense of well-being for body and mind.

**Cayenne:** Cayenne is also known as capsicum and plays a very large role in blood circulation. When cayenne is ingested, it dilates blood vessels. This allows increased blood flow throughout the body, especially to the major organs.

**Garlic:** A mouthful of fresh garlic might not sound like the best start to a romantic evening, but garlic has long had a reputation as an aphrodisiac. Used as an aphrodisiac since the Egyptians, the Romans consecrated it to Ceres, the goddess of fertility. Recent research suggests that garlic's ability to improve blood circulation might also improve sexual performance in some.

**Licorice:** This acts on the glands, especially the adrenals, to optimize hormone levels. The adrenals produce sex hormones and are directly involved with a healthy sex drive. Lowered adrenal function can lead to loss of libido, less energy and poorer sexual response. It is particularly stimulating for women. So buy your special valentine a big box of Good n' Plenty candies.

### Check your PULSE

by Sarah Bailey



**Mustard:** Believed to stimulate the sexual glands and increase desire.

**Arugula:** This salad green has been documented as an aphrodisiac since the first century A.D. Arugula is also a good source of iron, calcium and vitamins A and C.

**Wheat:** Ingestion of wheat germ, oil or sprouts have been shown to strengthen the sexual organs. Wheat also contains vitamin E to strengthen the sexual organs.

**Zinc:** This mineral is essential for healthy sexual function and the health of the sexual organs. It is involved with production of several hormones involved with genital function and has been used to treat infertility.

**B-Complex:** All of the B vitamins are involved with production of energy, metabolism and synthesis of hormones. B vitamins may be the most important nutrient for healthy function of the nerves. Lack of sensory function can directly lead to a lack of sexual fulfillment. A lower level of B vitamins means lower levels of female hormones.

We've all heard the old adage, "the shortest way to a lover's heart is through their stomach." If you're resisting this whole idea because you're just not a cook and would not have any idea how to incorporate these foods, you can relax. This evening will be a great test for the power of aphrodisiac foods. Go online for some easy recipes to incorporate these enticing ingredients into a romantic evening. You could make a pesto sauce (basil and garlic) with whole wheat pasta topped off with some pine nuts, served with an arugula salad. Have fun and be safe!

Sarah Bailey is a nutrition senior, a Mustang Daily nutrition columnist and a member of PULSE. E-mail her your questions at [sbailey@calpoly.edu](mailto:sbailey@calpoly.edu).



MARGARET SCOTT NEWSART





## Leave the meat out of it

So you're out on a date with the cutie from your history class. You order a steak. He/she orders the vegetable pasta. You ask if he/she eats meat and he/she says no. Do you:

A. say, "that's cool," and resume your previous conversation

B. ask why and have a civil discussion about regarding the pros and cons of vegetarianism

C. spend the rest of the night trying to convince he/she that meat is SO TASTY and you just CANNOT UNDERSTAND why anyone would give it up and animals were put here on earth for humans anyway and you KILL vegetables when you eat them so why is it ok to eat them?

If you answered C, then congratulations! You are just like the majority of people I meet here in San Luis Obispo.

I've been a vegetarian for seven years. I've never once regretted the decision to give up meat, nor do I ever plan on eating meat again. I don't talk about my decision unless asked, and oftentimes people don't know I don't eat meat until several weeks or months after we've been friends, when they start wondering why I never get a hamburger or pepperoni pizza.

(For the record, I gave up eating meat because I believe as humans, we have other

options to nourish ourselves without killing animals, and thus it is wrong to kill them for food.)

I don't broadcast my beliefs. So why then does everyone insist on grilling me about my choice, then telling me exactly why I am wrong for making it?

I mean, I'd understand it if whenever my roommate ate a turkey sandwich I asked, "So how does the rotting flesh of a once-live being taste today?" or passed around color photos of slaughtered animals while out to dinner at Firestone.

But I don't. For example, I was at a barbecue last year when the guy at the grill asked me what I'd like. I asked for a veggie burger, and another guy nearby whom I'd been chatting with earlier asked me why not a real burger. Once I explained, he nearly died from shock (perhaps his heart couldn't take all the red meat he'd been eating?).

Once recovered, he proceeded to spend the entire night telling me how dumb I was for not eating meat, and trying to convince me to eat a burger. Sorry dude, it would take a lot more than a drunk, argumentative recreation major to get me to eat my first burger in seven years. You aren't that special.

But it's not just random people who badger me. It's my friends too. Invariably, the subject comes up every time we go out to eat. And since we go out to eat several times a week, it gets very tiring. I mean, I can joke about eating cute little penguins with the best of them. But after a couple of weeks or so of continuous ribbing, it just begins to sound desperate. If you have to constantly prove that eating meat is morally right, you aren't trying to prove it to me, you're trying to prove it to yourself.

So basically, I understand most people eat meat, and I accept that. I don't rag on you for eating a once-adorable, brown-eyed cow named Bessie, so please just extend the same courtesy to vegetarians.

Moral of the story: on Thursday, when out to dinner with your Valentine, go ahead and order the steak and just don't ask about your date's reason for choosing the vegetable pasta. If you absolutely must ask, consult my article, and please please please choose A or B from the handy quiz I've provided. You can thank me Friday morning.

Rachel Glas is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

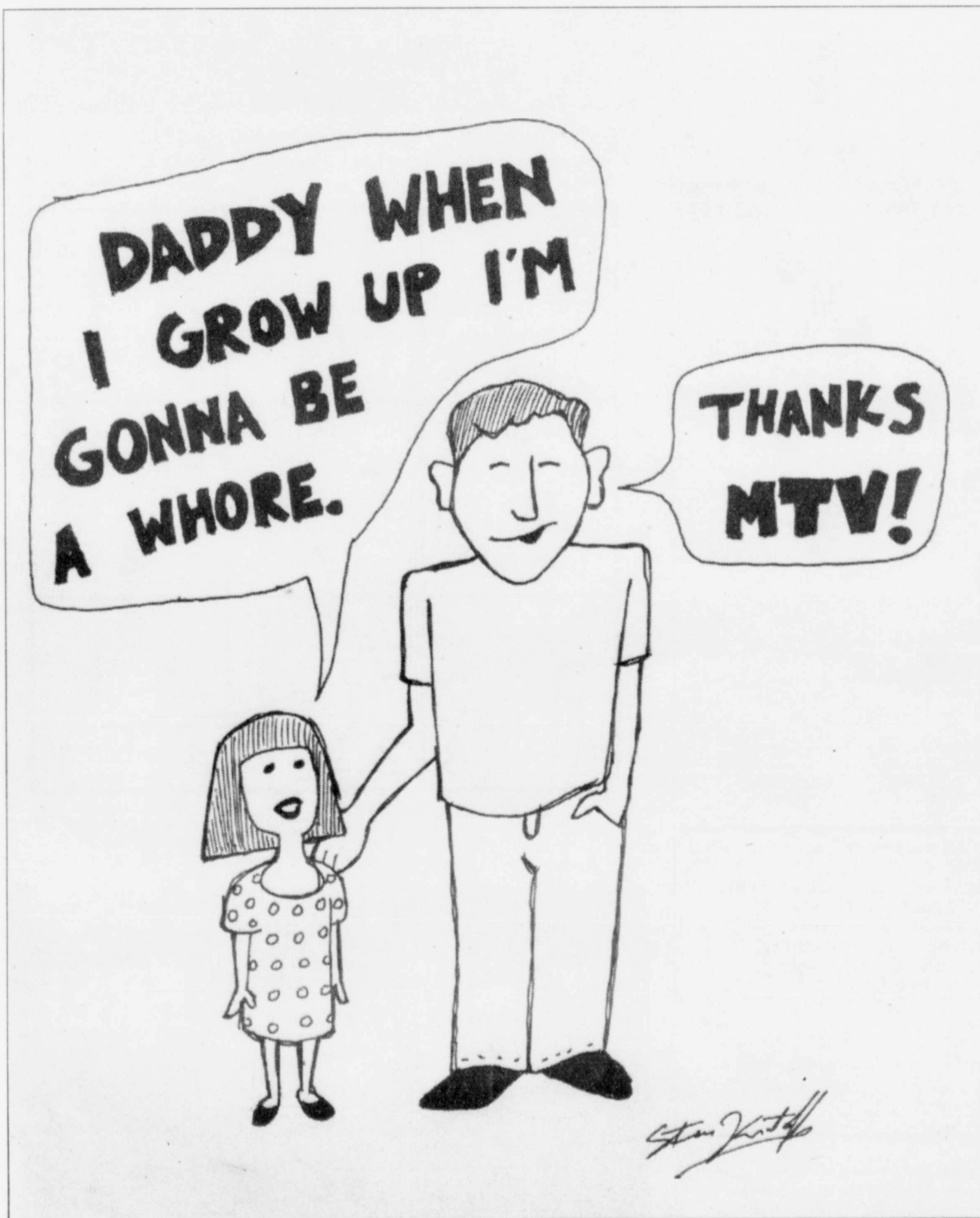
### UU artwork needs to be replaced

A lot of the artwork in the UU seems out-of-date and not widely appealing — especially the metal wall-sculpture called "Web of Life" near the Chumash Auditorium entrance. I complained about it last year and I was then invited to join

the UU Art Acquisition Committee to help update the UU's artwork and "bring down the Web of Life." It all sounded cool, but nothing really happened with this ASI-run committee in more than a year.

All I hear from ASI is "it takes time" and "one step at a time." Well, the Web of Suck is still hanging and as far as I know, the committee doesn't exist anymore.

Jacob Howell  
Graphic design senior



STEVE KRISTOFF MUSTANG DAILY

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# COMICS & GAMES

## Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



## Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes



## Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

www.popculturecomics.com © Doug Bratton 2008



"Daaaaammn!!! Scooby just got totally bitch-slapped!"

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0101

### Across

- 1 "Mamma Mia" group
- 5 Play chauffeur
- 10 Money to help one through a tight spot
- 14 Either of two directing brothers
- 15 All gone, as dinner
- 16 Mayberry boy
- 17 Daydreamer's state
- 20 Directional suffix
- 21 A choir may stand on it
- 22 Good thing
- 23 Sailor, colloquially
- 24 Digit in binary code
- 25 Joseph Conrad novella
- 34 Edward who wrote the play "The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia"
- 35 Pastor's flock
- 36 Rebellious Turner

### Down

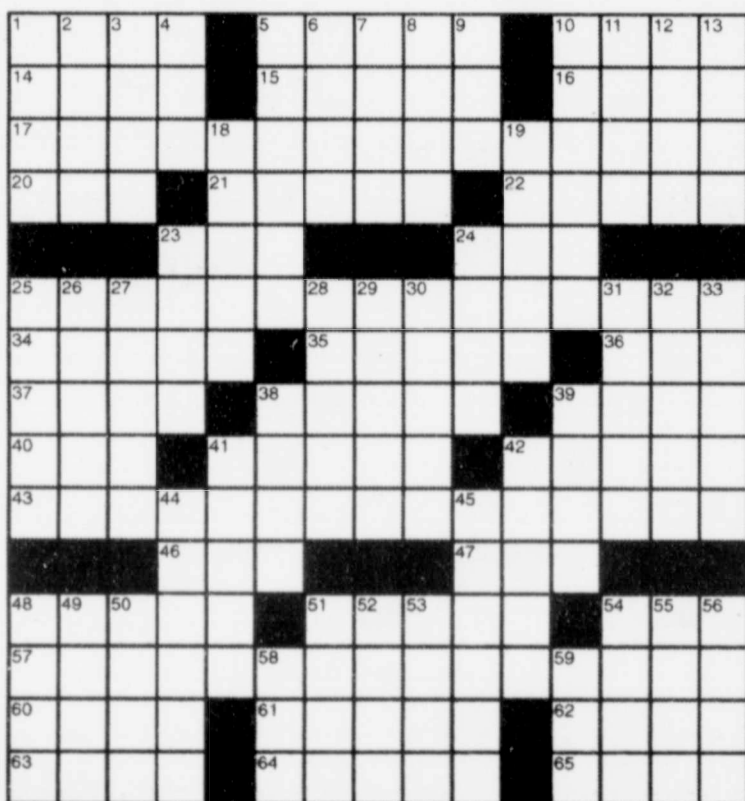
- 37 Vintage autos
- 38 Kind of club that's a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 39 Prefix with lock or knock
- 40 -cone
- 41 Colonial settlement
- 42 Bobby Orr, notably
- 43 Vocational school instruction
- 46 Superannuated
- 47 Ring outcome, briefly
- 48 -pant (multipocketed wear)
- 51 Room plus, in a hotel
- 54 "Don't -"
- 57 Common employment benefit
- 60 Cleveland's lake
- 61 Enlarge a house
- 62 Men-only

### Down

- 1 Suffer from a charley horse
- 2 Transvaal trekker
- 3 Vanilla -
- 4 "What else?"
- 5 "Meet the Fockers" co-star, 2004
- 6 Hamelin's problem
- 7 "Jury" (Spillane novel)
- 8 Zig or zag
- 9 S.A.S.E., e.g.
- 10 Relax, as rules
- 11 Berkeley Breathed comic strip
- 12 Lieutenant
- 13 Fit snugly
- 18 Really hot under the collar
- 19 Like Lincoln, in physique
- 23 Uno + dos
- 24 Straight: Prefix
- 25 Hard on the ears
- 26 "Maria -" (Dorsey tune)
- 27 - to mankind
- 28 Taken wing
- 29 Intimidate
- 30 Station with a show
- 31 The blahs
- 32 Participated temporarily, as with a band

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SCADS VAST BLEW  
KOREA ARIA LEAH  
IRONFILING ONCE  
DAM ENID SOOTHE  
SLANTED LAUD  
AIR SPLITSUP  
THEMET AGE YORE  
HEXES CIA SPLAT  
ERIC CON SPIELS  
NOTAWHIT WIN  
LOON CARGOES  
ANGLER COMA MRI  
BALI TOPBILLING  
EDEN LIAR EATIN  
TANG ELSA DOSES



Puzzle by Adam G. Perl

- 33 Police con
- 38 Actuals
- 39 Florence's river
- 41 Letter-shaped opening for a bolt
- 42 Harley rider
- 44 Links bend
- 45 Bring into harmony
- 48 Stick of gum, e.g.
- 49 Prefix with - postale
- 50 Common Seattle forecast
- 51 Slaw or fries, e.g.
- 52 Reverse, on a PC
- 53 "The shoe - the other foot"
- 54 A couple of chips, maybe
- 55 Injury reminder
- 56 Purchases for a shindig
- 58 - 9000, sci-fi computer
- 59 Bit of air pollution

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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

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			9	3	7		
	3		1		5		8
	4		6		3		5
	6		4		8		2
1		5		7			4
7		3			5		9
		2	7	1			
6		8	2			4	

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# LeBron

continued from page 12

but they all play on teams that would have trouble winning in the NCAA Final Four.

Calderon's Toronto Raptors, on the other hand, are currently holding the fifth spot in the Eastern Conference. Earlier this year when T.J. Ford went down with a neck injury, many proclaimed Toronto's season over.

Nobody expected Calderon, an undrafted guard from Spain, to step into the role and give the Raptors an even better shot at winning. He has done such a great job, having the best assist-to-turnover ratio among players who average more than 30 minutes a night, that he will hold on to the starting spot even though Ford has come back from injury.

**Rookie of the Year:** Greg Oden — 'Wait, what?! Why isn't this one going to Kevin Durant?' It's easy: Durant is playing for the Seattle SuperSonics, a team that has the second-worst record in its conference. Even though Durant has a lot

of talent and will probably develop into a phenomenal player, I just have trouble giving the award to somebody who barely shoots 40 percent from the floor.

The NBA is full of talented players, and most of them could average around 20 points per game like Durant if the offense was centered on them.

With regard to the Oden pick, I honestly couldn't think of a player who actually deserves it. Experts proclaimed last year's draft as one of the best rookie classes ever, but I have yet to see it. It's not that those players won't have great careers, but they simply haven't made much of an impact on their teams, unless you count Oden.

As soon as the Portland Trail Blazers drafted him, their philosophy changed, and even though he has yet to play a game in the NBA, his presence turned the franchise around.

**Sixth Man of the Year:** Manu Ginobili — This is an automatic win for Ginobili because most people know he shouldn't be a sixth man in the first place. He would be a start-

er on most teams, but coach Gregg Popovich likes to give the San Antonio Spurs an extra boost by having him come off the bench. Even in that capacity Ginobili quietly averages all-star numbers on a team that contends for the title every year.

**Coach of the Year:** Doc Rivers — One of the hardest things to do in sports is to win when you are expected to. When the Boston Celtics made blockbuster trades for Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen over the summer, the expectations for them skyrocketed.

Yet at the same time, all the critics came out saying the team had no chance because it had no depth and had point guard issues.

On top of all that, the city grew to want more as they saw the Red

Sox win the World Series and the Patriots complete a perfect regular season. The Celtics, under Rivers, have responded by having the best record in the NBA.

**Executive of the Year:** Kobe Bryant — No, this is not a joke. I truly believe he deserves this award. If it weren't for Kobe lobbying to trade Andrew Bynum over the summer, Bynum might not have been

inspired to increase his work ethic and display the dominance he had earlier this season. Also, if it weren't for Kobe's demanding to be traded and threatening to opt out of his contract next year, the Lakers might have never made that trade for Pau Gasol.

OK, maybe this is a joke.

Dmitry Bisk is an animal science senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

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1	8	5	3	7	2	6	4	9
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## Bryant, Lakers continue strong trip

Los Angeles wins 106-97 to improve to 4-1 after trading for Gasol, who adds 26 points to Kobe's 31

Mike Cranston  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kobe Bryant scored 31 points, Pau Gasol added 26 and the new-look Los Angeles Lakers continued their impressive road trip with a 106-97 win over the reeling Charlotte Bobcats on Monday.

The Lakers improved to 4-1 since acquiring Gasol behind Bryant's third-straight game scoring 30 or more points.

In improving to 6-2 on their nine-game road trip, the Lakers never trailed but struggled to put away the Bobcats. Charlotte cut a 13-point deficit to 89-86 midway through the fourth quarter before wilting in their seventh-straight loss.

Bryant's jumper with 4:30 left made it 96-90. His no-look pass to Lamar Odom for a dunk made it 100-93, and Bryant put the Lakers ahead by 11 with two free throws with 1:07 left.

Gasol had his second-highest scoring game since joining Los Angeles, hitting 9 of 11 shots and 8 of 12 free throws. The Lakers shot 50 percent in their third-straight win.

Raymond Felton scored 29 points and Nazr Mohammed added 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Bobcats, who matched their longest losing streak of the season.

The Bobcats played without leading scorer Gerald Wallace for

the fourth time in five games. Wallace, hobbled by a strained right foot, was replaced a night earlier in Detroit by rookie Jared Dudley in the starting lineup.

But coach Sam Vincent changed his mind Monday, putting Dudley back on the bench, moving Felton to shooting guard and starting Jeff McInnis at point guard. Felton turned into Charlotte's go-to scorer with Jason Richardson held to 10 points on 4-of-14 shooting.

Felton was two points shy of his career high, hitting 11 of 20 shots, and added eight assists. But the Bobcats had to make up too much ground after a dominating start by the Lakers.

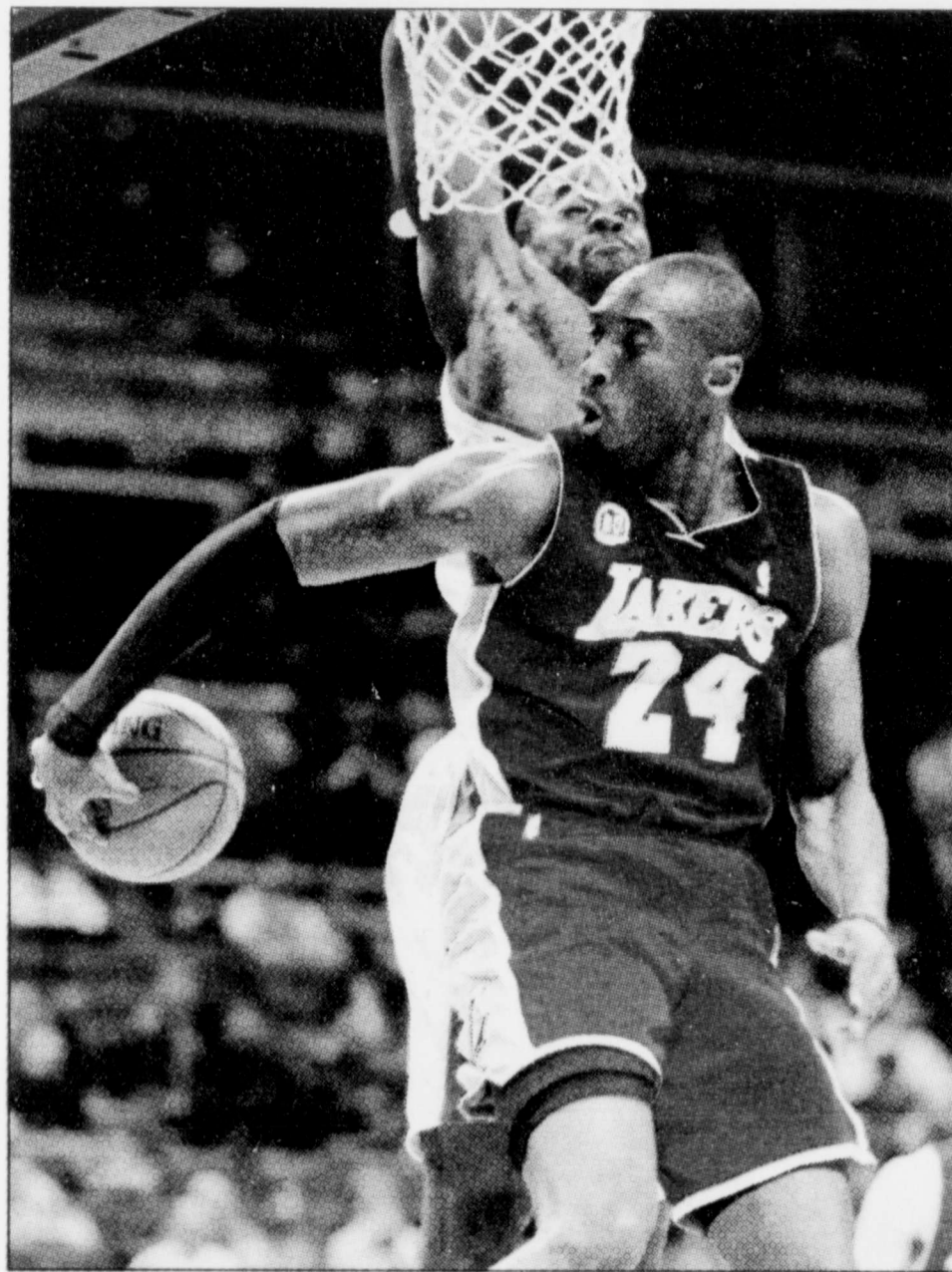
Bryant hit his first five shots, three of them 3-pointers, and Gasol was 6-for-6 including two dunks as the Lakers looked early like the versatile inside-out team with Gasol.

When Bryant finally missed — a desperation 3 with the shot clock winding down — Gasol grabbed the rebound, was fouled and hit both free throws to give the Lakers a 49-40 lead.

Bryant and Gasol were a combined 12-of-14 from the field and 9-of-9 from the foul line as Los Angeles led 55-44 at halftime.

The Bobcats weren't getting completely blown out thanks to Felton's 18 points and the Lakers' 10 turnovers.

For the second-straight day, the Lakers struggled to put away a strug-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant throws a pass behind Charlotte Bobcats forward Emeka Okafor on Monday night.

gling team. After allowing Miami to come back in the fourth quarter Sunday before finally finishing off the Heat, the Lakers saw a 13-point lead with just over 10 minutes cut to three on Charlotte's 15-5 run.

The game had nowhere near the drama of last year's visit by the Lakers, won by the Bobcats in triple-overtime despite Bryant's 58 points.

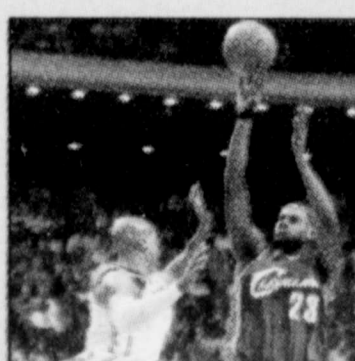
The Lakers wrap up their trip Wednesday at Minnesota.

### NBA BRIEFS



#### Spurs 93, Raptors 88

Manu Ginobili scored a season-high 34 points and added a career-high 15 rebounds as the Spurs led from wire-to-wire and won for the fifth time in six games.



#### Cavaliers 118, Magic 111

Larry Hughes scored a season-high 40 points and LeBron James chipped in 29 points and 10 assists for the Cavs. Orlando lost its third of a five-game home stretch.

## Top football signing chose Cal Poly over Pac-10, SEC

Donovan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY

Rich Ellerson didn't want to single anyone out. The Cal Poly head football coach hesitated, shifted his weight and tried to pick his words carefully. But in the end, he couldn't resist voicing the obvious: Quentin Greenlaw stands out.

"As heavily recruited as Quentin was, that meant a lot to us," said Ellerson, asked if any one or two of the 16 signings the program announced Wednesday were particularly sought after. "He's capable of doing some spectacular things."

Greenlaw, from Rio Mesa High in Oxnard, was the 89th-ranked outside linebacker prospect in the country by ESPN's College Football Recruiting Tracker.

He reportedly drew interest from Pac-10 schools including Oregon, Washington and Washington State, and took a visit to Mississippi of the SEC. Other Football Bowl Subdivision suitors, according to various recruiting Web sites, included Air Force, Fresno State, San Jose State and Nevada.

Even USC, whose training camp Greenlaw attended last year, inquired.

Ultimately, though, Greenlaw simply liked Cal Poly the most, he says.

"I like the players and coaches a lot, and the academics the school has," he said. "And I thought I'd bond better with people there than at other schools I visited."

The Mustangs coaching staff couldn't seem happier to share his sentiments.

"Everything said he belonged here, yet you were hoping that message would come across that this would feel more like home than some of those other programs," Ellerson said. "This was the right fit."

In his final two prep seasons, the 6-foot, 205-pound Greenlaw made a combined 168 tackles and six sacks. During his senior campaign, his offensive role increased, as he compiled 35 carries for 182 yards and two touchdowns en route to an All-Ventura County First Team selection.

Although a two-way player at the prep level, Greenlaw says he'll likely be mostly a linebacker at Cal Poly, due to his own inclination and the coaching staff's initial projections.

"I like defense a lot more than offense," he says. Rio Mesa head coach Bob Gregorchuk also said Greenlaw figures to be more of a natural fit defensively.

"I'd say he'll be more of a defensive player," Gregorchuk said, adding that the "extremely, ex-

tremely fast" Greenlaw "can go from standing still to full speed in one step."

Even though he'll probably focus primarily on defense, Greenlaw says his background as a running back will only add to the breadth of his understanding of the game.

"It gives me a good point of view of what the running backs will be thinking without going against them in practice," Greenlaw said.

Ellerson agreed, and pointed out it's not entirely out of the realm of possibilities that he'll see some time at B-back offensively, although he'll probably fit best as a rover or mike linebacker.

Versatility aside, Greenlaw's most alluring attribute may be his speed. In April 2007 he was part of a Rio Mesa 4x100-meter relay team that finished second in the state at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays with a time of 41.96 seconds. Also last year, Greenlaw was clocked in the 200 meters at 21.9.

"If it turns into a race for the sideline, he'll win it," Ellerson said.

For now, Greenlaw is looking forward to the upcoming track season before he heads to Cal Poly.

"He's kind of a quiet kid," Gregorchuk said. "He came back from Cal Poly more excited than I'd seen him. It should be a great fit for him."

The GIVE  
and GO

COMMENTARY



## Is this the year of LeBron?

Dmitry Bisk  
ON THE NBA

With this weekend's all-star game marking the halfway point of the NBA regular season, I wanted to reflect on how crazy it has been. For the first time since the '80s, we have seen the Boston Celtics and the L.A. Lakers rise to dominance at the same time.

However, we have also seen a once-great franchise — the New York Knicks, due to a once-great player, Isiah Thomas — become the laughing stock of the NBA. We have seen Chris Webber and Don Nelson re-united, and the trade of Shaquille O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns (I hope that roller skates were included in both deals).

All this could probably make any NBA fan forget about Tim Donaghy. (Oops, my mistake.)

To commemorate this great NBA season, I wanted to give my take on player awards:

**Most Valuable Player:** LeBron James — Every year there are many players who deserve it. Cases could easily be made for Steve Nash, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Chris Paul, Dirk Nowitzki or Kevin Garnett. However, none of them have stood out like "King" James has this year.

Unlike all of his competition, James does not have the luxury of playing with a talented supporting cast. To the contrary, it seems Cleveland Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry is content with overpaying mediocre players like Larry Hughes and Drew Gooden rather than going after Jason Kidd, a guy who could actually help his young superstar contend for a championship.

Nonetheless, James has raised his game to a new level this year, averaging an unbelievable 30 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. If that isn't enough of a compelling argument, consider this: the Cavaliers are 0-6 in games James didn't play in.

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Marcus Camby — Camby is the Nuggets' last — and only — line of defense. With perimeter players like Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson dominating the Nuggets' trigger-happy offense, it's not surprising opposing teams average the fourth-most points per game against them. Still, Camby currently leads the league in blocks per game and is second in rebounding. Just imagine what kind of shape the Nuggets would be in if Camby weren't there.

**Most Improved Player of the Year:** Jose Calderon — This pick was extremely simple because no other player up for this award is on a winning team. Sure, Rudy Gay, Chris Kaman and Al Jefferson are having career years with eye-catching stats,

see LeBron, page 11