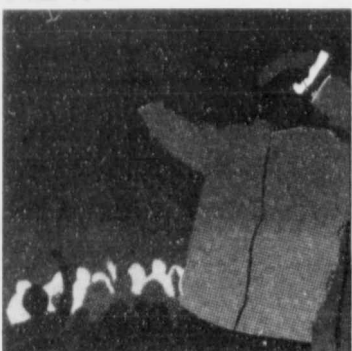


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NEWS



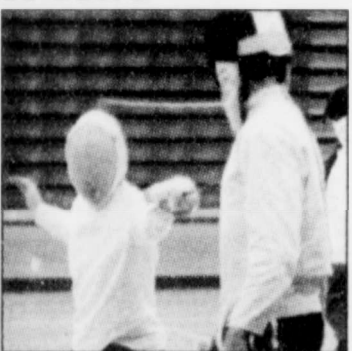
The Cal Poly chapter of Hip Hop Congress continues to find identity as part of larger organization.
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ARTS



Civic ballet of SLO presents "Sidewalk Stories," a quirky, creative adaptation of Shel Silverstein's poems.
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SPORTS



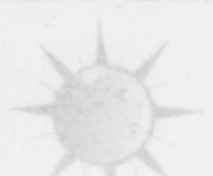
The Cal Poly Fencing Club will host the All California Collegiate Championships on April 26.
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ONLINE



Go online and vote in today's online poll: Are you a hip-hop fan?
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FRIDAY'S WEATHER

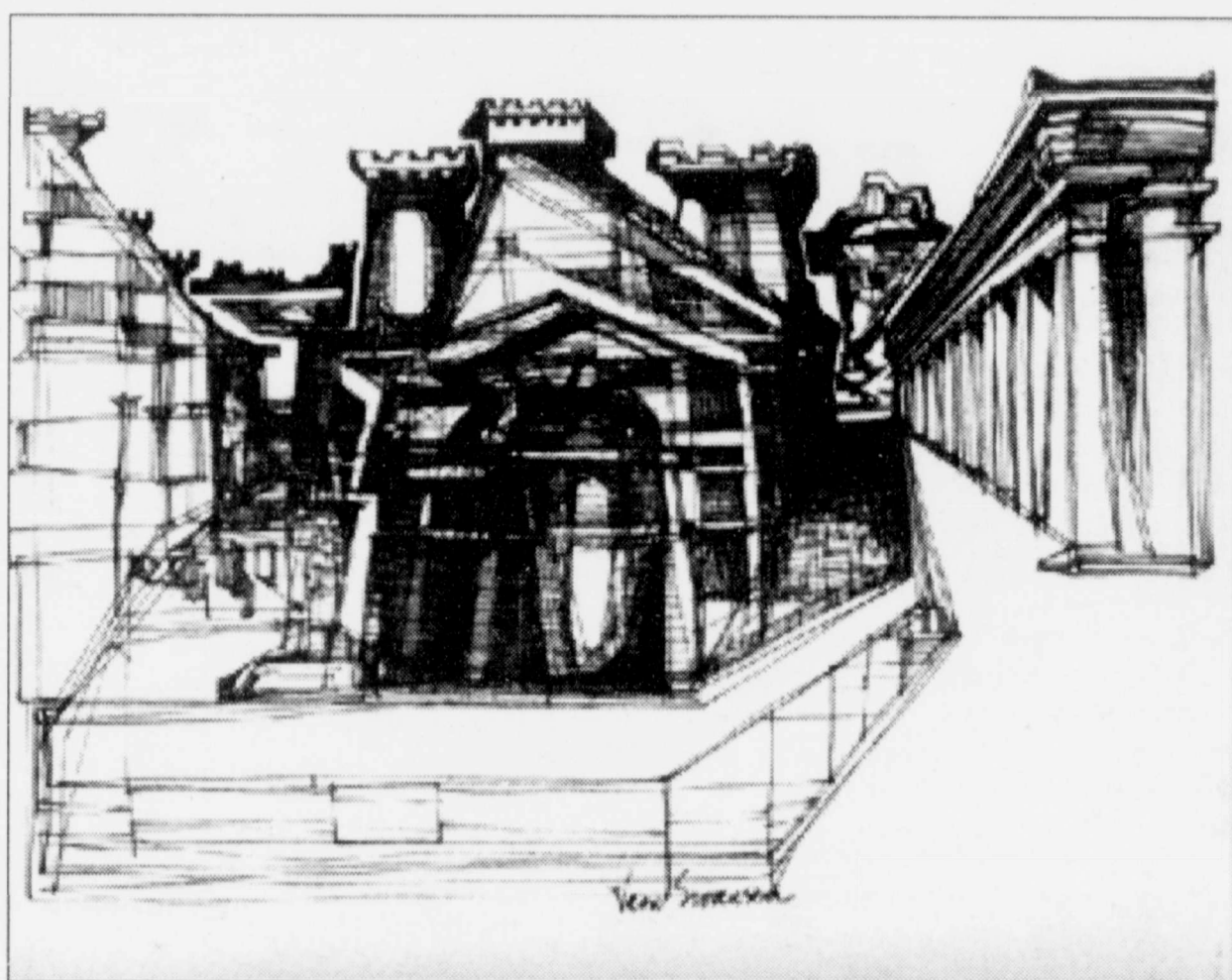
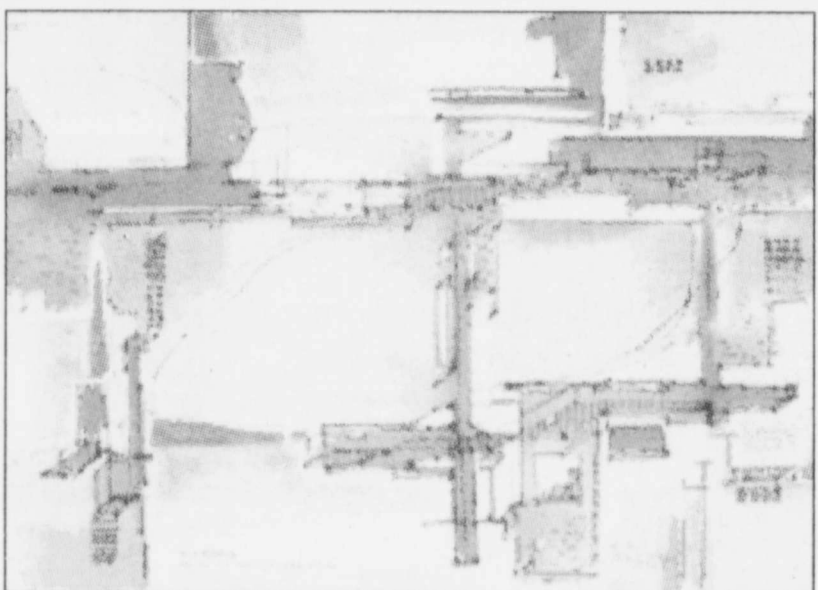


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Fraternity refurbishes 35-year-old painting honoring late professor



COURTESY PHOTOS

Works of art by the late Cal Poly professor Vern Swansen, including the mural adjacent to Backstage Pizza, are being preserved by professional fraternity Alpha Rho Chi.

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Sixteen years ago, the Cal Poly community lost a beloved architect, artist and professor.

Since Vern Swansen passed away, Alpha Rho Chi, a professional fraternity in the Cal Poly College of Architecture and Environmental Design, has preserved and curated about 4,000 of his paintings, including a decades-old mural adjacent to Backstage Pizza.

Though it won't be able to be displayed for about 18 months due

to pending University Union renovations, the mural was recently repainted by Alpha Rho Chi, then sealed by Facility Services to more resplendently present and safeguard it in the future, said Dwayne Brummett, UU director of business services.

"It's a neat thing students got together to do, to take time out of their busy schedules to improve something like that," Brummett said.

Alpha Rho Chi approached the Associated Students, Inc. advisory board about refurbishing the mural,

Brummett said, and was able to arrange a joint effort with ASI, which helped finance the project through paying for materials and 4-foot-by-8-foot sheets of plywood that would be painted.

The sheets of plywood were sealed and stored. They will be installed by facility services, likely after the summer of 2009 upon completion of the UU Plaza renovation, which is tentatively expected to be undertaken in the spring of 2009.

"We basically redid the entire mural," said architecture sophomore Brittany Thornburg, Alpha Rho

Chi historian and Vern chair. "The one that is there is really faded; the new one will be bright and vivid, and truer to the original mural."

At the beginning of the process, Thornburg explained, Alpha Rho Chi scanned the mural's image and used Adobe Illustrator to transform it strictly into a line drawing that was projected onto the appropriately organized pieces of wood, which were then traced upon and painted by numbers in a couple of days.

Throughout, Alpha Rho Chi strived to adhere to the mural's lay-

see Mural, page 2

Panel connects hip-hop to 2008 election, voting

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

A national touring panel shared its opinions about hip-hop, youth vote activism and how they relate to the 2008 presidential election on Tuesday night in Fisher Science room 286.

While much of the forum, "Rap Sessions: Community Dialogues on Hip-Hop," centered on how Americans ages 35 and under have come to be defined as the so-called "hip-hop generation," other hot topics included the prevalence of race consciousness in American society as well as voter apathy.

"Politics has really become a spectator sport over the past few decades, where politicians really aren't discussing the issues that are pertinent to us," said Davey D., a hip-hop columnist for the San Jose Mercury News and disc jockey for Berkeley-based KPFA FM.

"People get so caught up in the Lindsay Lohans and Paris Hiltons and what they're doing that they fail to realize that the socioeconomic conditions around us impact even the non-voter."

Rosa Clemente, a community organizer, journalist and hip-hop activist based out of Annapolis, Md., agreed.

"There are issues that the mainstream media isn't presenting us ... the hip-hop movement is not a radical, but an honest way to address neglected issues. Too many people get caught up in the media frenzy over a black candidate, so that they won't remember to ask the hard questions."

The forum began with a discussion between the two panelists about the current political situation, asking why so many people are getting caught up in the hype over a black candidate.

see Panel, page 2

Grand theft avocado

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

Two men are going to jail after taking a guac on the wild side when they attempted to steal avocados from a Cal Poly orchard.

Braulio Franco and Alejandro Sanchez of Santa Maria were sentenced to 60 and 45 days in the San Luis Obispo County jail, police said. Misdemeanor loitering and false identification charges were dropped in a plea deal.

"We're thrilled to have caught these guys," said University Police Department Commander Lori Hashim. "There was a lot of theft last year of avocados and lemons that cost a lot of money."

The men were caught around 10:30 p.m. on March 12 after a witness reported a suspicious vehicle at Mission Avocado Orchard, which is on state land and owned by Mission Produce. They were found with 40-gallon trash bags and pruning shears, and though they hadn't taken any of the fruit yet, they ran when police arrived.

Mission Produce is a Southern California avocado and avocado products company with more than 6,400 avocado trees planted nearly five years ago on 70 acres of Cheda Ranch. The smallest of the Cal Poly campus ranches, it sits beside Stenner Creek and California Highway 1.

The attempted avocado theft is just one in a string of similar thefts that occurred in Southern California in the past few years.

see Avocado, page 3

Panel

continued from page 1

"We have people who stood out in the snow for two hours in New Hampshire to see Obama speak at a rally," said Davey D., who spent a considerable amount of time on the campaign trail early in the year.

"I had a homeless man in South Carolina telling me he found inspiration in a black candidate because they shared the same skin color."

Clemente retorted, "Yes, but people can find false hope in such officials a la Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, who sat in front of the U.N. and gave a speech that he knew was full of shit."

"I'm not trying to hate; I'm trying to think critically and not let our generation be another one which has gotten duped."

The debate touched on a variety of topics regarding socioeconomic situations in America and the inherent constraints that such an environment places on aspiring minorities.

Issues ranged from the prison industrial complex to how U.S. politics make even potentially groundbreaking candidates such as Barack Obama adhere to a certain mold.

The late arrival of Shamako Noble, the president and co-founder of the Hip Hop Congress (a non-profit organization aimed at instigating socioeconomic and political change on local, regional, and national levels), gracefully steered the conversation back to how hip-hop

has an immense potential to affect both politics and society.

Beginning with his "Hippie Rap," Noble took his own spin on a common theme in Barack Obama's speeches by noting, "It's not that all Republicans are bad people, but maybe that they just have bad ideas."

"Love can be a dirty, ugly, painful thing, but it can also motivate people to put their lives and assets on the line for a movement or cause; hope is what motivates our political activity and causes us to inform and be informed."

Drawing an analogy between the love that came to define the great political movements of the 1960s, Noble reiterated that the new-found love that hip-hop as a movement has forged between young people of all backgrounds needs to serve as a catalyst for change in all social arenas.

"I've found a lot of white kids out there who are doing anti-racist things, and it's because hip-hop gave them a cause to fight for," Clemente said.

After fielding questions from the audience, the panel took a moment to give a few lasting quotes encapsulating the forum's overall message that were pertinent to the vast array of topics the forum touched on.

"I come from the ethos that you can make a dollar out of 15 cents, and hip-hop makes a lot of that possible," Davey D. said.

Noble echoed such sentiments: "Just remember that this is a crazy planet, and everything is possible."

Mural

continued from page 1

out, using boards of the same size and matching colors, Thornburg emphasized.

"It was really cool seeing it come together," Thornburg said of the venture initiated by architecture senior Vi Tran, now studying abroad. "We started with just the blank pieces of plywood, but the more it came together, it looked a lot better than the one up right now."

She added that exterior paint was used in order to make the mural, which is actually an abstract of the Cal Poly seal erected in 1973, more sun-and-rain-proof.

Alpha Rho Chi was fully supportive of postponing the installation of the updated work, Thornburg said, because of the risk of it being damaged during the UU upgrade.

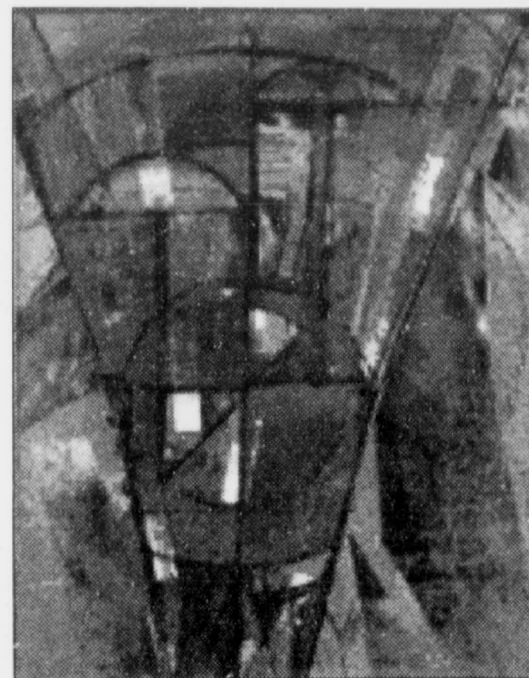
Swansen, born in Oregon in 1916, was raised in Pasadena before earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree at USC, where he became a member of Alpha Rho Chi, a chapter of which he was integral in starting and advising at Cal Poly years later.

He served as the president of the Santa Barbara Art Association and as the Santa Barbara Museum of Art curator of education from 1961 to 1971. He also acquired a master's degree in art from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 1975.

Following stints as an instructor at Santa Barbara City College and Westmont College, Swansen began teaching architecture and watercolor at Cal Poly, and in 1987 was bestowed the faculty merit award from the CAED.

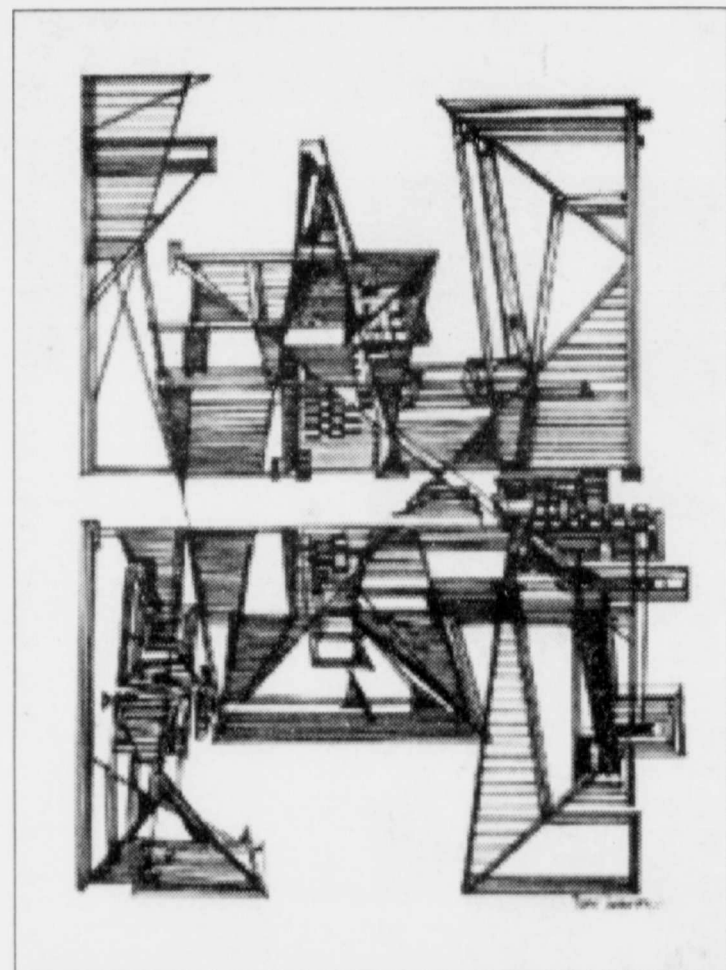
For Thornburg, in her first active year with the fraternity, dignifying Swansen made the mural revision memorable and worthwhile.

"One of the things that interested me in pledging was Vern Swansen," she said. "I feel honored working on this, something that everyone can see every day. He wanted the best for his students."



Vern Swansen, late professor and Alpha Rho Chi adviser, has a lasting impact on the Cal Poly campus as his art has been preserved over the years.

COURTESY PHOTOS



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New assembly bill seeks to give cities power to regulate guns

Rachel Gross

DAILY CALIFORNIAN (UC-BERKELEY)

A local member of the California State Assembly has authored a state bill that would enable cities in California to impose their own handgun laws.

The bill, authored by California Assemblymember Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, seeks to address the high rates of violence in East Bay cities by allowing those cities to create their own handgun bans and other laws that restrict guns.

"We're concerned with high gun violence in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond," said Armando Viramontes, Hancock's legislative aide.

"Lower governments are on the front line in dealing with gun violence. Because they are being affected, they have the right to make those choices."

State law currently prevents localities from drafting their own gun laws.

Viramontes said Hancock's bill would remove the state laws and allow cities to take legislative action against high crime rates. Advertisement

Berkeley City Councilmember Darryl Moore said he strongly supports the bill because it addresses the spike in violence in the Bay Area. He said he plans to write a resolution urging the rest of the council to back it as well.

"We have too many guns on our streets, and if this gives local municipalities a tool to ban handguns and get them off the streets, then I am in support of it," Moore said.

However, not all East Bay residents believe a bill allowing gun bans would reverse the trend of gun violence.

"It would be a catastrophe for anyone who thinks they have any rights at all to defend themselves in their own homes or businesses," said Robert Weaver, 52, the owner of the Old West Gun Room in El Cerrito.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who is married to Hancock, acknowledged the massive opposition facing the bill, but said it remains important because it

creates constructive dialogue about the current epidemic of gun violence.

"It's a great idea that needs to be put on the table to provoke discussion and debate," Bates said.

"(We will) see if it does happen this year, but if it doesn't, we need to keep after it, because the alternative is to keep seeing people kill each other unnecessarily."

According to Viramontes, the bill was tabled during Tuesday's committee hearing in the interests of waiting for the United States Supreme Court to rule on a case involving a similar ban on handguns in Washington, D.C. The case may be reconsidered next week.

The Heller case, as the Supreme Court case is called, highlights issues about the legality of gun laws and the scope of the Second Amendment. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case by the end of June.

However, Viramontes believes that the Heller case will not affect the passage of Hancock's bill because Washington, D.C. is neither a city nor a state.

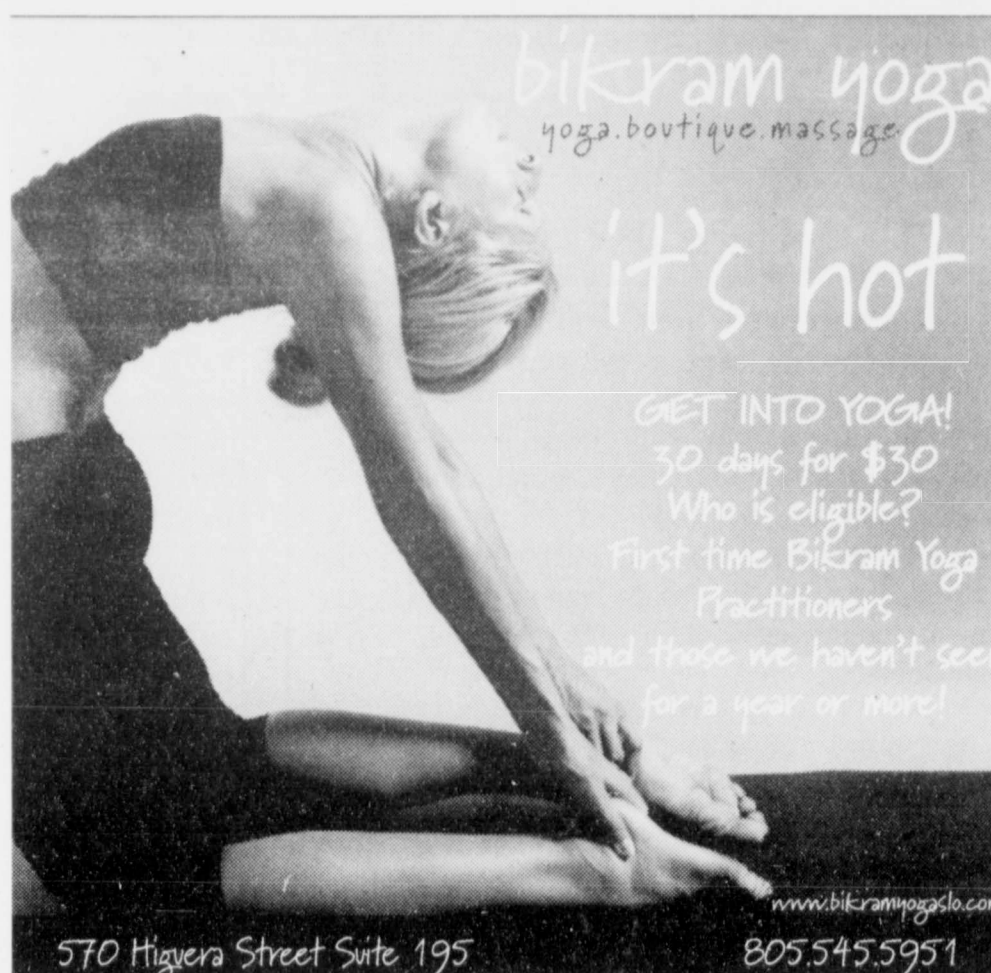
A similar case that may affect the bill is the California Superior Court ruling that overturned San Francisco's citywide ban on handguns in 2006.

According to Viramontes, the ban passed in San Francisco with overwhelming support and was also a reaction to high gun violence.

But the San Francisco gun ban was struck down because it violated state laws. The current bill aims to alter the state law, which could create the potential for local control that does not violate state law.

If the bill passes, Viramontes said, cities like Oakland and Richmond will likely modify their standards for gun control. He added that the bill could serve as an example of how cities can deal with gun violence.

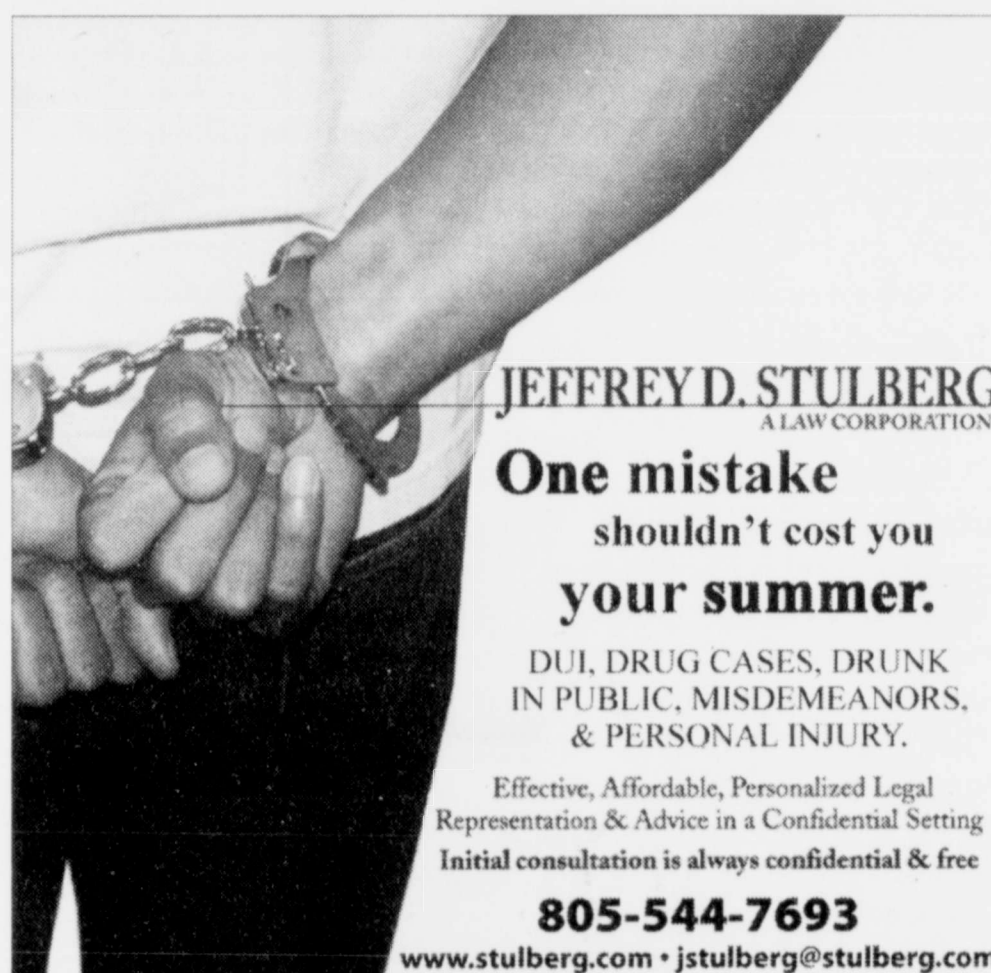
"California is one of the leading states in gun control legislation, so yes, I think this bill could be model legislation that other states would look into to address the gun violence problem," Viramontes said.



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Avocado

continued from page 1

Avocado prices can reach \$1.30 a pound, or about two avocados, according to the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultura Economics.

The price has been affected by consumer demand as well as several setbacks, including a 30-percent water cut by officials from the Sacramento River Delta; the San Diego County wildfires, which caused an estimated \$25 million in damage to avocados, according to the county farm bureau; and a January freeze that cut California's avocado production from 237 million pounds to 550 million pounds last year, said the California Avocado Commission.

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Briefs

State

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A bill requiring paid sick leave for California workers was approved by a state Assembly committee.

The measure by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma cleared the Labor and Employment Committee on Wednesday with a 6-2 vote.

It would enable workers to qualify for up to nine days of paid sick leave a year. Employers with fewer than 10 employees would have to provide up to five days annually.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pilot who steered a freighter into the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge last fall, causing a huge oil spill, had a drunken driving conviction and a history of alcohol abuse and took numerous prescription drugs that could have impaired his judgment that day, federal investigators said Wednesday.

Capt. John Cota had regularly received waivers allowing him to keep his federal mariner's license despite a long list of illnesses including glaucoma, depression, kidney stones, migraines, pancreatitis and, most recently, sleep apnea, according to testimony at a National Transportation Safety Board hearing.

National

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — Lawyers for a polygamist sect subject of a massive child-abuse investigation argued in court Wednesday that although its members' multiple marriages and cloistered ways may be unusual, they have a right to their faith and privacy.

Gerry Goldstein, a San Antonio lawyer representing the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also told a judge that the search of the temple in the sect's West Texas compound is analogous to a law enforcement search of the Vatican or other holy places.

NEW YORK (AP) — According to animal shelter officials, big, black dogs have more trouble finding a happy home than do other dogs. Some shelters even have a name for it: "Big black dog syndrome."

Nobody tracks the problem nationally, and local shelters often keep only limited data on the sizes, breeds and colors of the dogs that are adopted or put down, according to the Humane Society and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



Travelers wait in line at the Portland International Airport in Portland, Ore. after American Airlines cancelled more than 1,000 flights Wednesday.

American Airlines cancels more than 1,000 flights

David Koenig
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business trips and vacations were disrupted for tens of thousands of travelers Wednesday as American Airlines canceled more than 1,000 flights — nearly half its schedule — to fix faulty wiring that could cause a short-circuit or even a fire and explosion.

The airline said it expected to cancel 900 more flights for today.

It was the latest — and largest — in a wave of cancellations at major U.S. airlines that have caused long lines at ticket counters and made flying even more stressful than usual.

Executives at American said safety was never compromised, and they suggested the nation's biggest airline was the victim of suddenly stepped-up scrutiny by federal regulators.

American estimated that more than 100,000 travelers were booked on Wednesday's 1,094 canceled flights. Many had to scramble to book new flights and were stranded at hotels far from home.

The airline had already scrubbed 460 flights on Tuesday after federal inspectors found problems with wiring work done two weeks ago, during the first set of shutdowns.

A top executive said the cancellations would be a "significant" cost to American, and shares of parent AMR Corp. fell 11.1 percent, down \$1.15 to \$9.17.

The issue stems from an order that the Federal Aviation Administration gave airlines in September 2006 —

and gave airlines until last month to meet — about the bundling of wires in the backup power system for the fuel pump of the MD-80 airplanes. The fear is that improperly bundled wires could rub, leading to an electrical short or even fire. However, no serious incidents have been blamed on the bundles, the FAA said.

American officials thought they had fixed the problem last month. But this week, FAA inspectors found problems with the work done on more than a dozen planes. American said it had no choice but to ground all 300 of its MD-80s to deal with the wiring bundles.

American operates about 2,200 daily flights, more than one-third with MD-80s. Nearly half the cancellations were concentrated at two airports, in Dallas and Chicago.

At New York's LaGuardia Airport on Wednesday, hundreds of passengers stood in check-in lines or milled about, using cell phones to get updates on their flights. The airline offered free doughnuts, coffee and orange juice, but there were few takers.

"They should be able to predict these kinds of things," said Laura Goodman, whose flight home to Dallas was canceled. She said would miss an important meeting because the airline couldn't rebook her until Thursday.

American's cancellations came after similar delays at Southwest, Delta and United. Last week, hundreds of travelers were marooned when Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines shut down and filed for bankruptcy protection.

Spice it up with new menu items at Veranda

Veranda Cafe is already one of your favorite eateries on campus... and it has just been made better with the addition of several new items in many sections of the menu.

If you love burritos, be sure to try the two new creations: the Baja, a classic burrito with beans, rice, cheese, lettuce and your choice of meat; and the Cancun, with black beans, cilantro rice, Monterey Jack cheese and lettuce... you can even order it Vegan-style!

The Southwest Chicken Caesar salad puts a south-of-the-border twist on the traditional Caesar.

If you're feeling fishy, give the fried fish tacos a shot. Each order includes two soft fish tacos

with shredded cabbage, pico de gallo and crema de baja.

Two new soups add zest to the menu, including Sopa de Lima, a chicken tortilla soup with lime, and the chicken and pork Pozole



with hominy and fresh cabbage. Don't forget to add toppings from the salsa bar to your soup!

Finally, to top off your meal, pick up a slice of Tres Leche cheesecake or a chile chocolate brownie.

Don't be sad that all of the old items aren't on the menu. You can

still find the chicken or beef quesadillas, nachos with beans or your choice of meat, and the popular taco salad!

The Taco Combo is also new; an order includes two soft or hard tacos with lettuce, cheese, pico de gallo and your choice of meat, as well as beans and rice on the side.

Also, don't forget about Taco Tuesday, when you can get a free fountain beverage with the purchase of a Taco Combo.

For those unfamiliar with Veranda Cafe, it is located up the stairs across from the Rec Center. It is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., and for dinner from 5-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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Thursday's club profile

Hip Hop Congress unites, enlightens and entertains

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

Hip-hop may seem like just spoken words with a beat, but it goes far beyond that, if you ask the Cal Poly chapter of Hip Hop Congress.

Not only does it strive to cultivate the original four elements of hip-hop — breakdancing, graffiti artistry, deejaying and, of course, emceeing — but it also seeks to break down misperceptions and unite people.

"San Luis Obispo's kind of like a petri dish," said graphic communications junior Rachel Cherny, president of the Cal Poly chapter. "It exists in its own little bubble."

Such isolation, Cherny said, can lead to a narrow-minded understanding the HHC tries to undo.

"People don't understand what hip-hop is; they think it's all what's on the radio, or about dealing drugs or prostitution or whatever," she explained. "But it began as a way to start social change and break through boundaries in the community. People can tend to hate what they think is hip-hop, or they hate hip-hop because they don't understand it."

Eradicating the erroneous notion of hip-hop as merely music is key to the chapter's goals, according to manufacturing engineering sophomore Jonathan Villeda, a Los Angeles native.

"We're trying to get hip-hop culture here at Cal Poly since not too many people know about it besides the music," he said, emphasizing all four elements working in unison.

Breakdancing happens to be especially well-represented at Cal Poly. Its Secret Service Crew boasts 15 to 20 performers who practice three times a week in order to prepare for various community events, Cherny said.

She added that many chapters come to be renowned for a given element, and those interested usually join those chapters accordingly.

"We're primarily breakdancing with a few deejays, some who deal mostly with artwork and then some who just have a

love for hip hop in general," Cherny said. "We are somewhat lacking on emcees because there aren't really many rappers who go to Cal Poly."

Important to the chapter's success in illuminating the lesser-known aspects of hip-hop, Villeda said, is its ongoing search for venues to host shows.

At regular meetings, he said, members discuss possible places in the area that would be well-suited for concerts or events and try to pinpoint artists coming through not just San Luis Obispo, but California at large, and then make a calendar detailing such opportunities.

"That way, if people are into a particular artist, it's easier to check it out," he said.

Aside from art's sake, the communicative potential inherent to hip-hop, which the chapter stresses, is often underappreciated, opined executive director of housing and residential life Preston Allen, the advisor.

"It's a great opportunity to bring everyone together under the umbrella of music," Allen said. "And it's exciting to watch because there's such an increasing dialogue between diverse groups of people — yet they're sharing the diversity of their experiences as well. It's a movement of communication — just as powerful as the Internet."

At present, the chapter is trying to arrange for Crown City Rockers, a group known for its eclecticism and liveliness, to return to Cal Poly in late April or early May. It also intends to assemble a collective assortment of Bay Area acts that could take the stage at a locale such as Downtown Brewing Co.

For fundraising, the chapter has started a first-of-its-kind T-shirt initiative pertaining to the HHC as a whole. The endeavor features a design initially devised to fit Cal Poly but is flexibly applicable to all chapters.

Headquartered in San Jose, Hip Hop Congress was a merge of two associations under the same name by

Shamako Noble, Ron Gubitz, Jordan

Bromley and Reali Robinson in 2000. According to its official Web site, HHC has developed more than 50 chapters in communities, high schools and colleges across the nation.

At Cal Poly, it originally began as the S.U.B. (Students United By Hip-Hop) Culture

Club, founded by Brian McMullen, Brenton Smith and Matt Johnson.

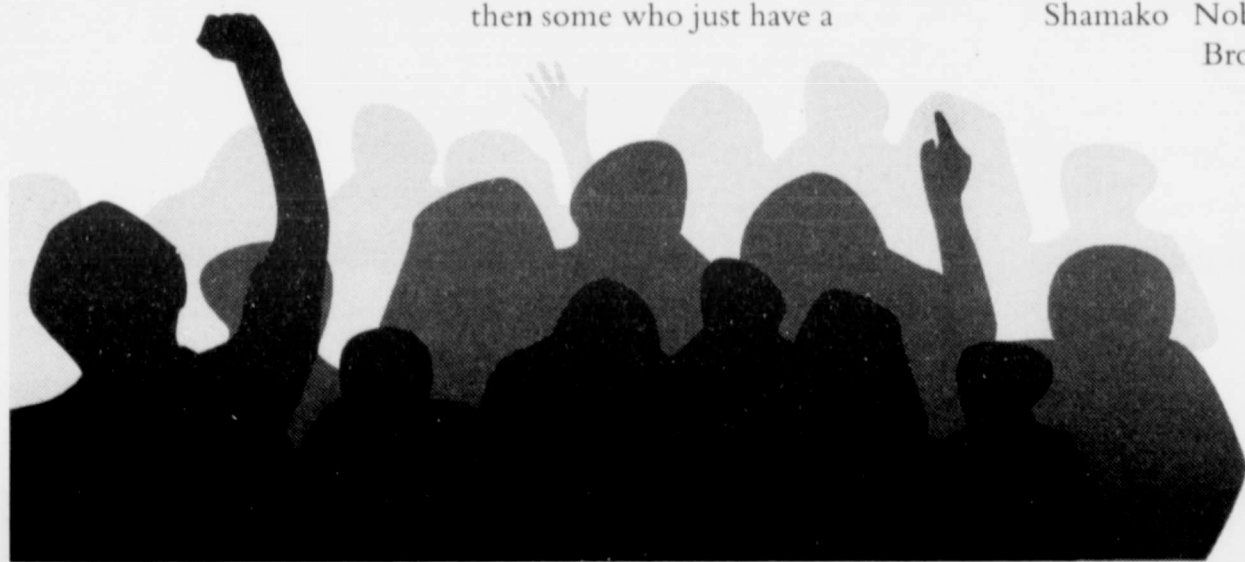
In late 2007, co-president Jennifer Rosenberg (now studying abroad in Thailand) spearheaded the club becoming a chapter of the widely influential, international, non-profit organization.

"Its whole point is to use hip hop culture to inspire action and creativity," said Cherny, who joined last year.

While meetings are formal and involve much "planning and brainstorming," Cherny said, new members shouldn't have difficulty blending in, and anyone can relate to some routines.

"One of the things we want everyone to do is to bring in new artists, or old artists you just started to really enjoy," said Cherny, a Chicagoan. "A lot of us are from different places — from Alaska to all over California, there are tons of regional people. Our favorite part is to use our love of hip hop to help each other."

The full congress meets once a week at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in Building 5, room 225.



LAUREN RABAINO
MUSTANG DAILY



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- CUSTOM STICKERS AND APPAREL -



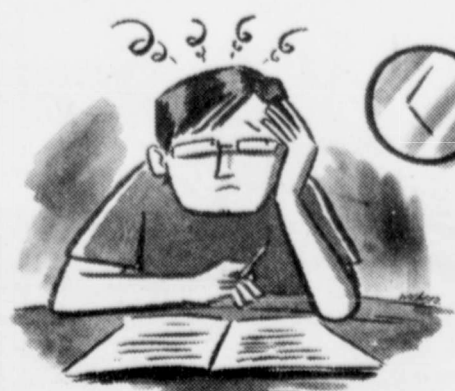
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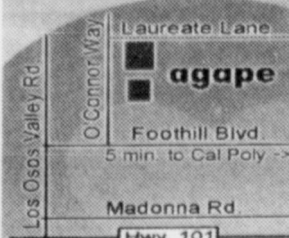
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Sunday
8:45 & 10:30 am
Wednesday
7:00 pm



International Briefs

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)

— Fifty-four migrant workers from Myanmar suffocated in the back of a seafood truck in southern Thailand while being smuggled to the popular resort island of Phuket, police said today.

An additional 47 workers survived the incident late Wednesday in Ranong province and flagged down police for help, police Col. Kraithong Chanthongbai said. Twenty-one were hospitalized while the rest were detained for questioning, he said.

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)

— An outburst of bloodshed that killed eight people cast a shadow on an election Thursday meant to cement Nepal's peace deal with communist insurgents, stoking fears of more violence on voting day.

The voting for a new assembly is intended to usher in sweeping changes for this long-troubled Himalayan country, and will likely mean the end of a centuries-old royal dynasty.

BAGHDAD (AP)

— Errant mortar shells slammed into houses and a funeral tent Wednesday, leaving three children among the dead during clashes in a Shiite militia stronghold under siege by American and Iraqi forces on the fifth anniversary of the U.S. capture of the capital.

The fighting came as the U.S. military announced the deaths of five more soldiers. That raised the number of American troop deaths to 17 since Sunday.



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Cal Poly Foundation is comprised of successful Cal Poly alumni and friends and promotes and generates private support to build and maintain the polytechnic model, and manages Cal Poly's endowment and other private gifts.

Applications are now available in the ASI Student Government Office, University Union Room 202.

Applications are due:
April 11, 2008 before 5 p.m.

WORD ON THE STREET

"How do you feel about hip-hop?"

Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

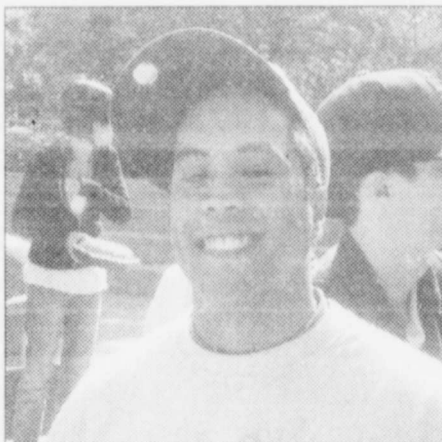
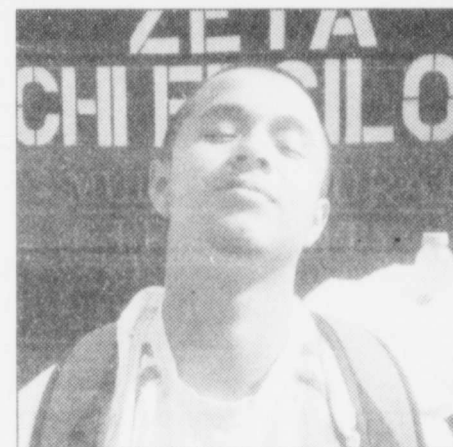


"I like hip-hop a lot. I think it's fun to listen to because it's upbeat and diverse."

— Rebecca Kanegawa,
civil engineering senior

"I love hip-hop! Tupac is the best. They need to play more of it around campus. Hip-hop is not dead, it's just not here."

— Miguel Ramos,
political science junior

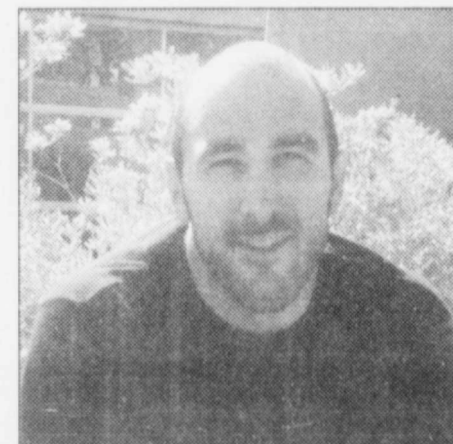


"Hip-hop is cool, but there's not enough of it down here."

— Devin Alcantra,
forestry senior

"I used to listen to it a lot when I was younger, but now that I'm in college, my musical tastes have expanded. I can't really relate to a lot of the mainstream stuff anymore."

— Aric Stone,
mechanical engineering senior



UNDERGRADUATE

2008

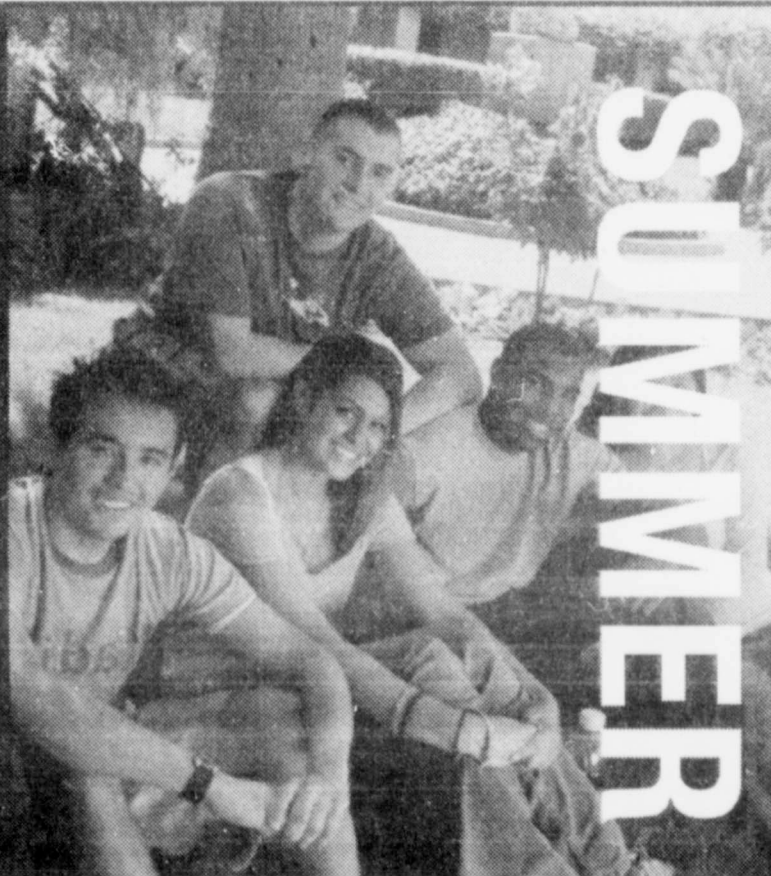
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WHAT THE BLOG?

Navigating CyberOpinion.

For some, "blog" can be a four-letter-word (OK, it's a four-letter word for *everyone*). The anti-bloggers wonder, "Why do people need to subject the rest of the world to their 'profound' insights regarding the universe when they could just get

a roommate or a shrink like the rest of us?" Touché, blog naysayer, but not everyone has the privilege of having their "profound" insights published weekly in their college newspaper (*wink*).

According to Webster's Dictionary, a "blog" is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and hyperlinks." Provided one has access to a computer (and the frontal lobe of their brain), anyone can blog. Considering the endless space for personal ramblings available on the Internet, is it such a good thing that people can just vomit their opinions all over cyberspace? I say: yes and no. Since I go to Cal Poly, and I primarily learn by *doing*, I will share my first blog, examining the advantages and abuses of writing one:

Dear Blog (is this thing on?),

Wow, I can't believe how fast this quarter is going! It seems like just

yesterday I was moving into the dorms and lying about my age (True, but perhaps incriminating information; consider revising). I am very happy with my grades last quarter, as I got yet another 4.0, which makes me on the Dean's List for the eighth consecutive quarter (Total bullshit; may compromise credibility). But even though I am so successful and talented (Insert humility here), I still can't seem to find my keys or a boyfriend :((Reminder: take blog link off Facebook). But things are looking up because that guy in my math class is pretty cute :) (Use emoticons sparingly). Anyway, I was just popping in to say hello and note the wonderfully pleasant weather we are having lately (Totally boring; expunge completely).

Love,
Allison

P.S. I hate spiders (Poor use of opinion; next time, care about something that matters).


While it is all too easy to write a blog that just isn't very good, I have a few pointers for you who, like myself, are just getting used to the idea:

1. Don't forget that people might — God forbid — actually read your blog. Don't get too personal if it's a public blog.
2. Be honest. Don't lie.
3. Be accurate (libel suits are easy because Exhibit A is nicely packaged).
4. Stay away from incriminating information (again with the Exhibit A).
5. Say what's on your mind — democracy demands it (and so do your readers).

Happy blogging!

Allison Baker is an English senior, Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast with a love of internet self-promotion.





KCPR

SOUND CHECK

Every week, KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM, adds a selection of the new and latest music to its ever-growing library. Below are five of those "adds" to the station this week. You can hear this music showcased on New Releases, which airs Mondays from 10 a.m. until noon or on any of the regular format shows. If you'd like to try your hand at spinning these albums and countless others on your very own radio show, KCPR is accepting applications through Friday. Pick one up in Bldg 26, room 301.

Witch — "Paralyzed" (Tee Pee)
 Pure and simple psychedelic stoner rock — nothing more and nothing less.

Belury Poly — "The Willows" (Ghost Box)
 These meditative, library music-based songs evoke B-movie and sci-fi imagery that transcends camp.

Richard Swift — "Onasis" (Secretly Canadian)
 Is it a double EP, double LP or just an album? It doesn't matter, what's important is that these '50s-era rock jangles will encourage you take off your shoes, pop open an budweiser and do the twist, no matter what the situation.

Ilyas Amed — "The Vertigo Of Dawn" (Time - Lag)
 Cold, warm, fuzz-drenched psych folk moves beyond Americana to encompass a rich variety of musical traditions.

Maus Haus — "s/t" (S/R)
 Indie pop, dissonance and texture make this album enjoyable for everyone. Seriously, you will only hear this on KCPR, and if you hear it elsewhere, you are probably really cool.

Paul Cambon and Brian Cassidy are KCPR's music directors.

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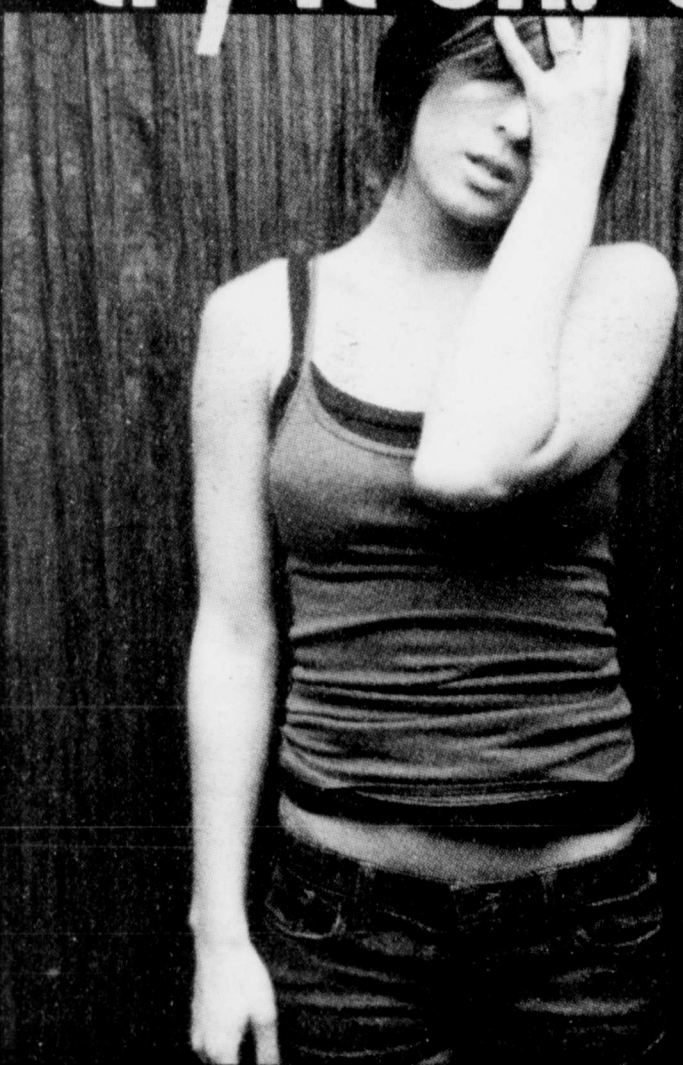



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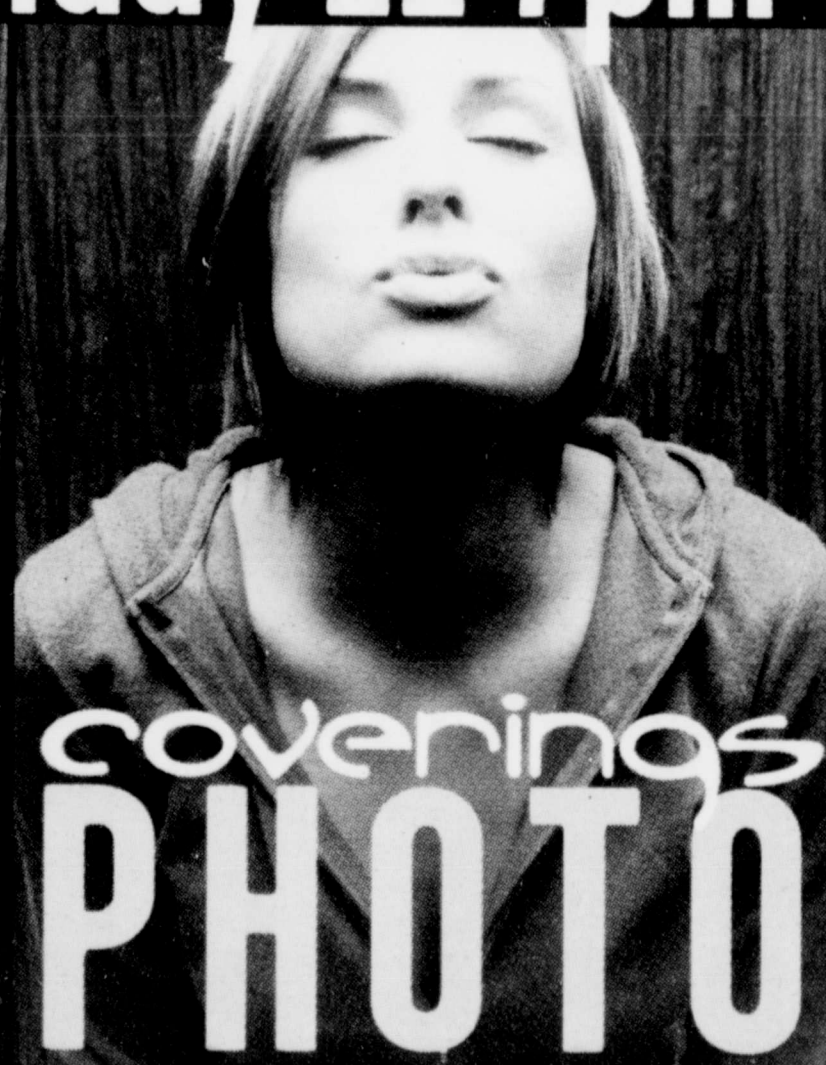


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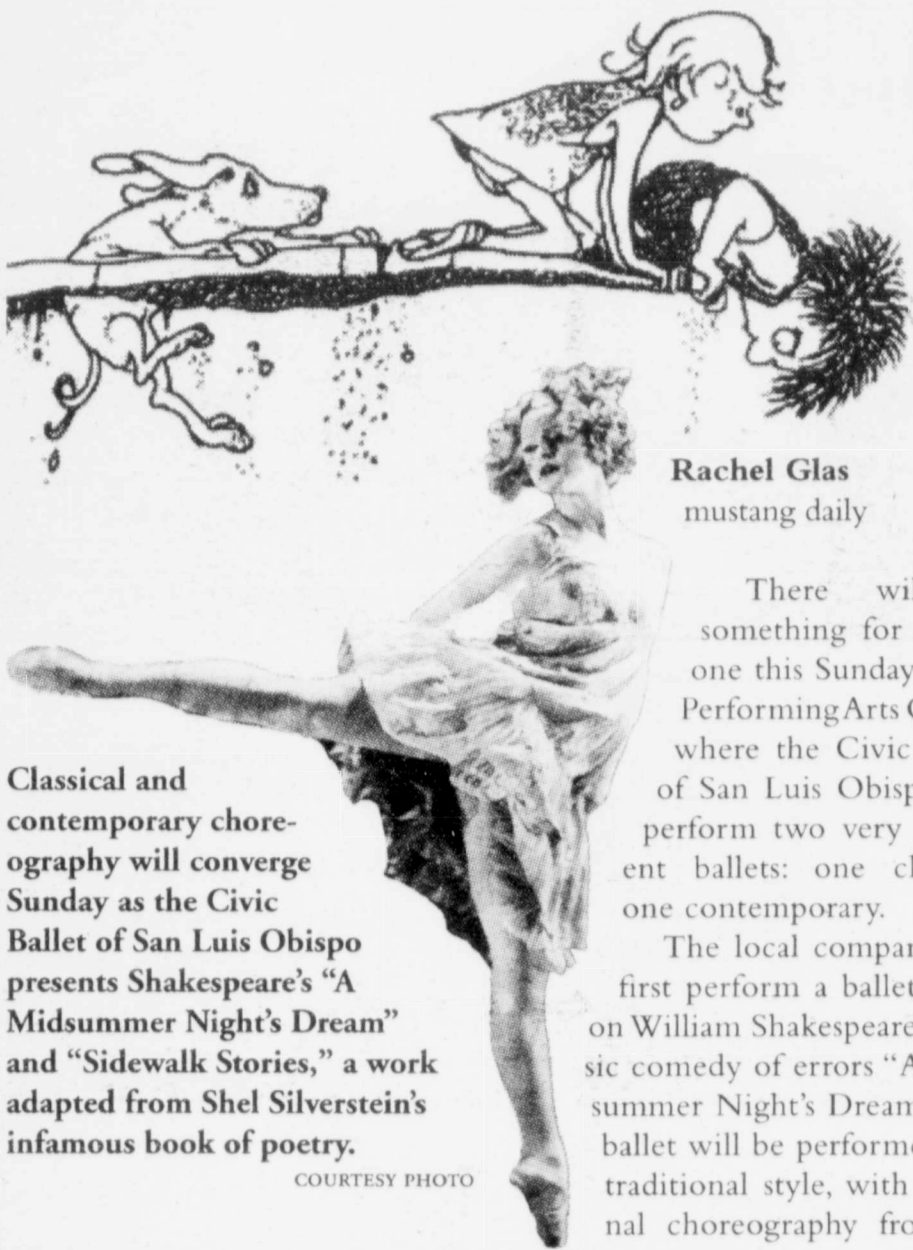
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Beyond the sidewalk

Civic Ballet of SLO presents two disparate but oh-so-quirky ballets



Rachel Glas
mustang daily

Classical and contemporary choreography will converge Sunday as the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Sidewalk Stories," a work adapted from Shel Silverstein's infamous book of poetry.

COURTESY PHOTO

There will be something for everyone this Sunday at the Performing Arts Center, where the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo will perform two very different ballets: one classical, one contemporary.

The local company will first perform a ballet based on William Shakespeare's classic comedy of errors "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The ballet will be performed in a traditional style, with original choreography from ar-

tistic director Drew Silvaggio and company member Jackie Lee.

"It's all about paving our own way," Silvaggio said. "Everything is new. It'll be fun, full of both slapstick (comedy) and melodrama."

The second act, "Sidewalk Stories," is Silvaggio's original adaptation from Shel Silverstein's book of poetry "Where the Sidewalk Ends." The piece features original

choreography by Silvaggio and tells the story of a family whose lives resemble different poems from Silverstein's book.

According to Silvaggio, the choreography is modern and high-energy, "like looking at a picture book," he said.

The contemporary choreography is supplemented by contemporary music. Etta James, Nat King

Cole, DeVotchKa and even Queen are all featured in the selection.

"There's definitely a wide variety of music (to keep) the audience interested," Silvaggio said.

Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo has a long history in the community. Founded 30 years ago by Silvaggio's mother, Lori Silvaggio,

see Ballet, page 10

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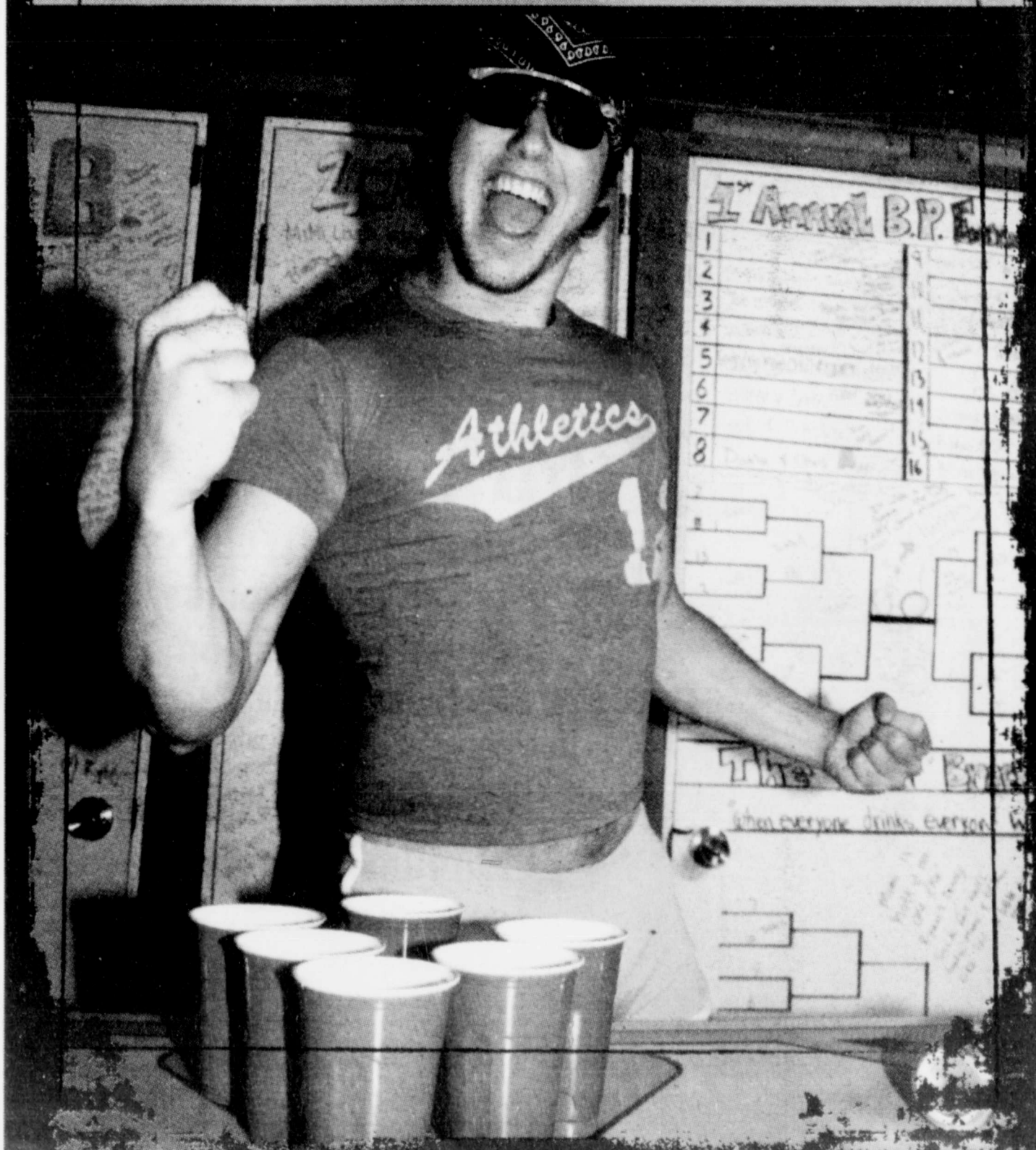
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Craig B. Smith

Thursday, April 10

11:10 - 12:45 Lecture

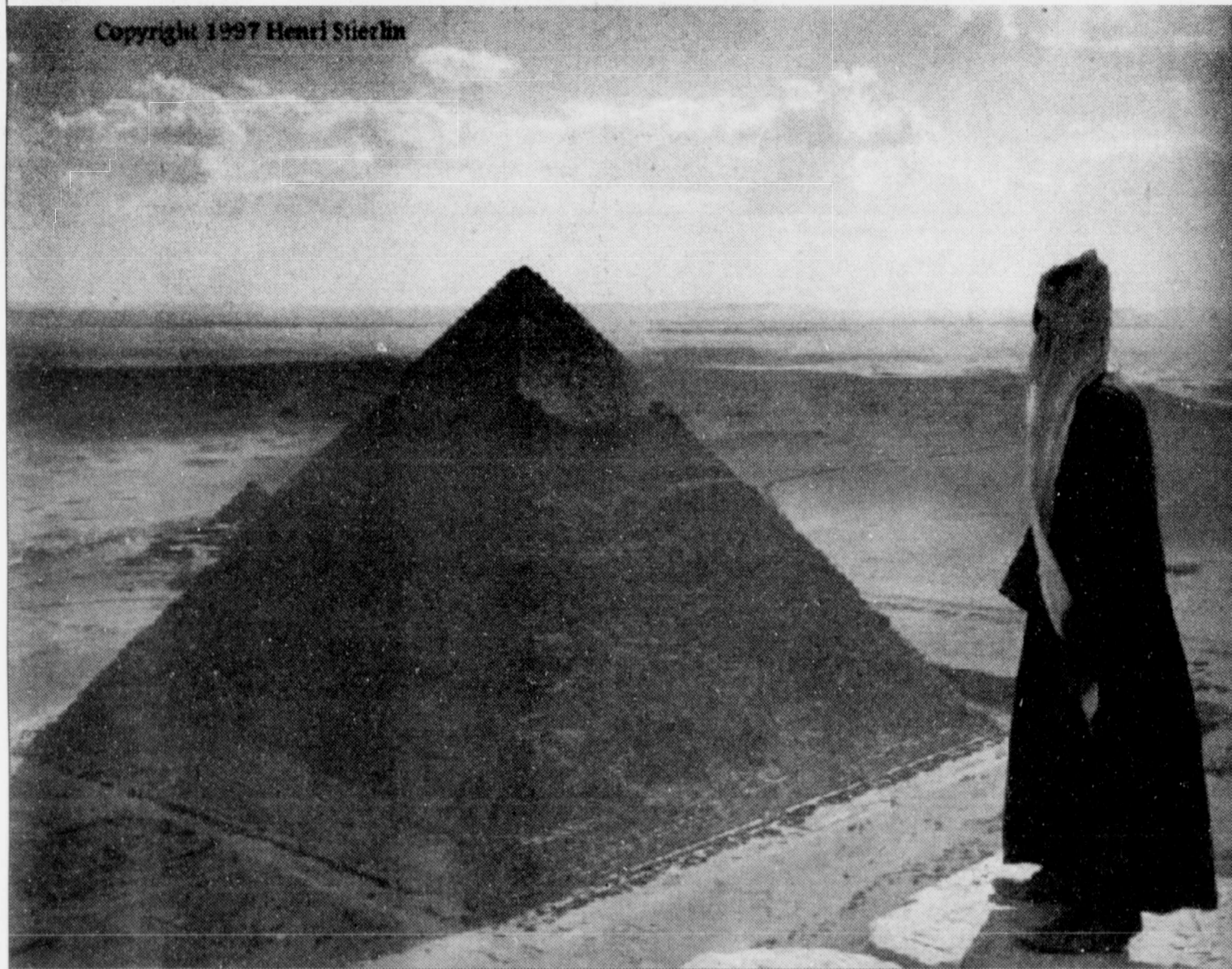
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Ballet

continued from page 9

the company has been performing ever since.

Their "The Nutcracker" ballet, performed near Christmas annually at the PAC, has become a staple holiday custom for many local community members.

"We perform 'The Nutcracker' every year; it's a tradition," said Cathie Brown, marketing programs director for the company.

The company is comprised of a wide variety of dancers, young and old, experienced and trainees. Some have other full-time jobs, but all have been trained professionally, Brown said.

Silvaggio also has a long history with the company. After growing up in San Luis Obispo, he left to pursue a musical theatre degree at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, Silvaggio performed for several different organizations, including the Barrymore Awards (Philadelphia's equivalent to the Tony Awards) as well as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. He also toured China, Spain and Cuba with the San Luis Obispo Jazz Dancers.

After an injury, Silvaggio returned to the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo, where he currently works as the artistic director, as well as teacher and choreographer. Silvaggio will also dance in the upcoming performance.

"It'll be a great time. A dance needs to do something for the audience, provoke them, make them question life. If I can make an audience do that, that's how I know a show is successful," he said.

Performances are Sunday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PAC ticket office or by phone at 756-2787.

Thursday SHOWTIMES

Downtown Centre Cinema

Leatherheads 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Nim's Island 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 9:15

The Counterfeiters 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

Superhero Movie 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30

Drillbit Taylor 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! 1:45, 3:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

Fremont Theatre

21 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05

The Ruins 2:30, 4:44, 9:40

Married Life 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

Run Fatboy Run 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

Palm Theatre

Caramel 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

In Bruges 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

Paranoid Park 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

Sunset Drive-In

Nim's Island 7:45

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! 9:30

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COMICS & GAMES

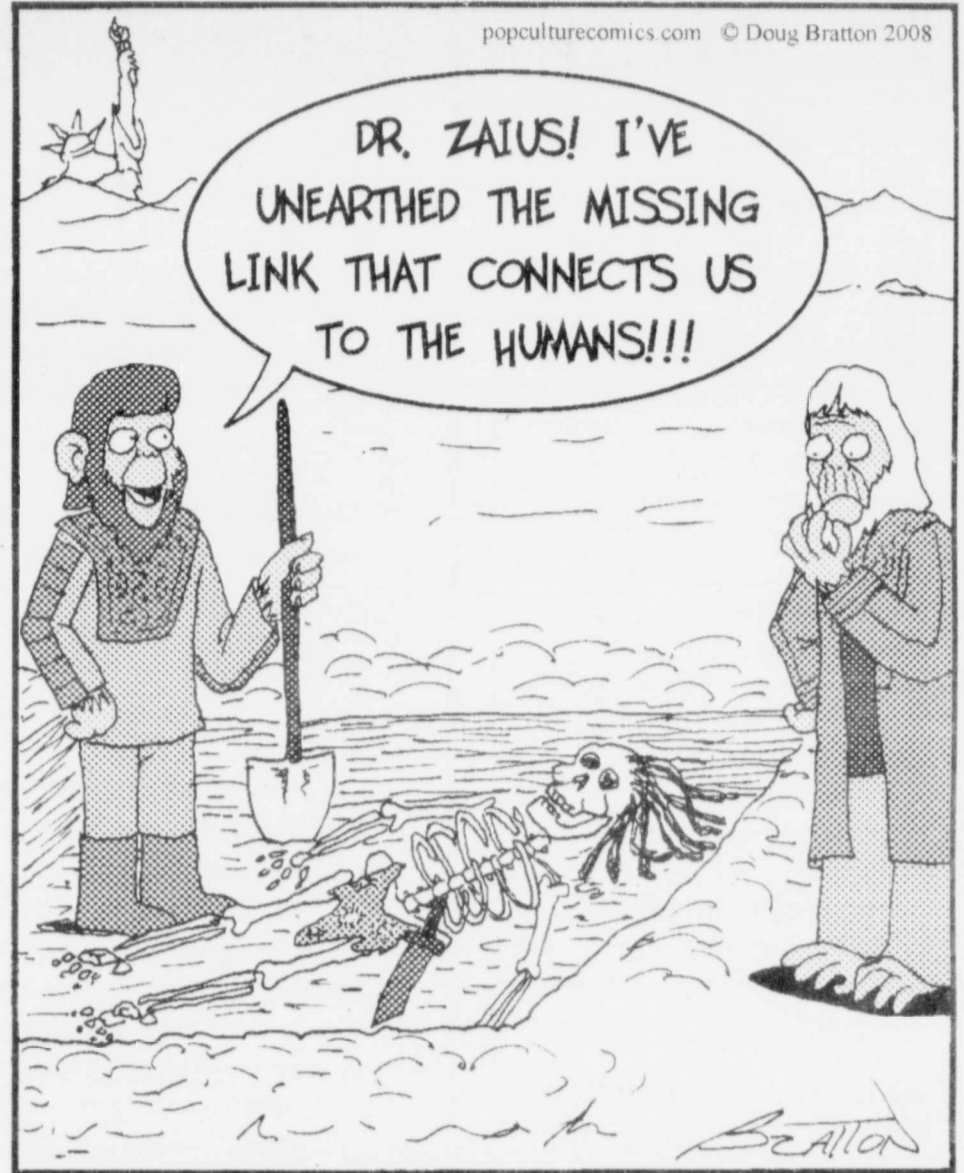
Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes



Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton



Tarzan's remains became a controversial evolutionary find.

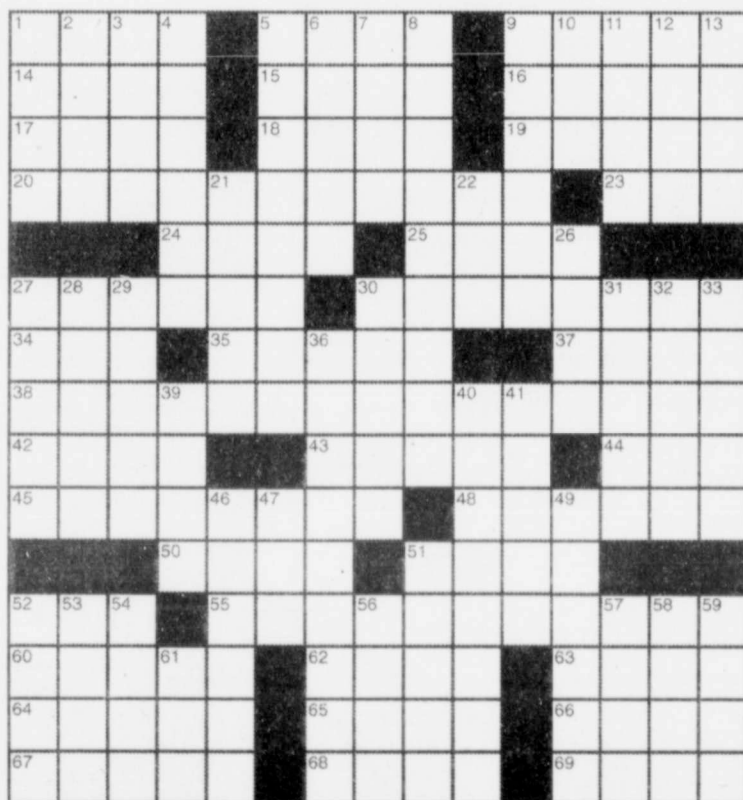
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0228

- Across**
- Sari, e.g.
 - Gloomy
 - Place for an emotion
 - Life of Riley
 - Asian princess
 - Dodger All-Star pitcher Eric
 - Some
 - Deuce follower
 - Begin operating or stop operating
 - Confirmation or uncertainty
 - Fathomed
 - Stadium sound
 - Some Grammy winners
 - Belief in a life of harmony with nature
 - Unchanged or novel
 - Kobold
 - Repeated setting for Georges Seurat paintings
 - Discussion spots
 - Words of praise or words of condemnation
 - TV's Kojak
 - Respectful refusal
 - Pen's partner
 - Approve or penalize
 - Willie Mays and teammates
 - Deborah nominated for six Academy Awards
 - Accord
 - It's definite
 - Easy to see or impossible to see
 - Entangle or disentangle
 - Minimal tide
 - E.R. part: Abbr.
 - Comedic title role for Renée Zellweger, 2000
 - Univ.
 - California's Valley
 - Chaotic
 - Olaf's girlfriend in Lemnong Snicket books
 - Sporty car roof option
- Down**
- Last under use or erode under use
 - "Hurlyburly" playwright David
 - "No returns"
 - "Great" czar
 - Grounds for legal action
 - Gary Burghoff role of TV and film
 - L., B. or J.
 - Revealing garment
 - It might be spiked
 - Jiang's husband
 - Like kids at a circus, maybe
 - Dope
 - Remaining or gone
 - Martini's partner
 - Paris accord
 - Sort through
 - Fair housing?
 - Welcome to paradise?
 - Commonly
 - ring
 - Away from the office
 - Don't exist
 - Shenanigans
 - "No nation is permitted to live in ___ with impunity": Jefferson
 - Twinnings competitor
 - Non-std.
 - Sitting
 - "O, sing to the Lord a new song," for one
 - Add to or remove from
 - Fabled slacker
 - 12/24 and 12/31
 - Converts to a cause, briefly
 - Broadcast
 - Fictional submariner
 - Move gracefully or move clumsily
 - Nav. rank

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DEBTS ALL ASK TO
ILLAT TOE STEAD
SKEDADDLE TRIBE
SAMOA FRITOS
RMS PAWNBROKERS
BOYD NARY ELSA
I WOULD REPO
NUCLEAR FAMILY
DATA NEMAN
OSHA DOTS OMNI
THERMOMETER OKS
OILMAN AMAIN
ONEAD SUBSISTED
LENDL PAL NEEDS
ESSAY AWE YEAST



Puzzle by Matt Ginsberg

- "No nation is permitted to live in ___ with impunity": Jefferson
- Twinnings competitor
- Non-std.
- Sitting
- "O, sing to the Lord a new song," for one
- Add to or remove from
- Fabled slacker
- 12/24 and 12/31
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			9	4			8	
			6		5	7		
	8						3	9
2		8		3	9			6
7			1	5			9	8
	2	5						1
		9	5		7			
	3			2	8			

MEDIUM

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April 10, 2008
Volume LXXI, No. 118 ©2008
Mustang Daily

"Come here! Come look at this ass!"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marschall
Managing Editor: Ryan Chartrand

mustangdaily@gmail.com

www.mustangdaily.net

12

Is smoking good for you?

Lee Barats:
Yes, emphysema
shmemphysema

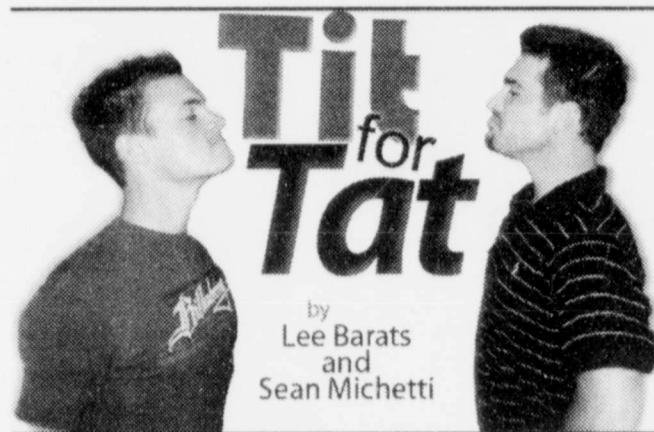
Ever since you were in elementary school, The Man has kept you from having a good time. He wouldn't let you gamble, swear or punch others. My school district even banned Surge cola to keep the kids from "feeling the rush." My point is you've been told that things are bad from a young age and you've accepted this as the truth without even questioning it. But look at me today; I'm a potty-mouthed hothead with a gambling problem. And I couldn't be happier. That's why you should smoke.

"But Lee," you might whine in an annoyingly shrill voice, "what does smoking have to do with all that?" Think about it, idiot. Remember Sammy the No-Smoking Snake? That was just The Man in a python costume planting propaganda in your ear. His only aim was to keep you from enjoying cigarettes, just like he didn't want you to cuss, bet and stab.

"But Lee," you might bitch, "cigarettes are bad for you. It's a proven medical fact." Is that what The Man told you, sheep? People get too hung-up on health risks. Isn't there more to life than your physical well-being, like feeling good all the time? Cigarettes look cool, they're relaxing, and you get to play with fire. Sounds like a good time to me. I don't know how looking cool, relieving stress, and having fun would be "bad for you." Relieving stress is good for your health. Also, when my uncle stopped smoking, he immediately gained 10 pounds. That's not good for you. Smoking is good for you.

Health benefits aside, smoking comes with even more perks. If you pick up smoking, you can gain access to those prestigious "Smoking Only" hotel rooms and those cool all-glass rooms in airports. And here's a question: ever worked with someone who smokes? They get to take at least three times as many breaks as you! Is it fair? No. But is it something you can do, too? You betcha! You'll make the same amount and work less, but that's not the only financial benefit of smoking. Statistics show that smokers are more likely to qualify for welfare, medical insurance payouts and scratch-off lottery ticket wins. You'd be an economic dumbass not to smoke!

Next time people say your lungs are black, your eyes are red and your teeth are yellow, know that they're probably just jealous of how cool and rich you are. Do yourself a favor and take up smoking.



Sean Michetti:
No, surgeon general bless the
surgeon general

Everyone who grows up to be anyone can point to a mentor who helped lead them along the treacherous, rocky path that is our lives. Teachers, rock gods, movies stars and military generals are some of the models we fashion our lives after.

For me, it's the surgeon general. I've always had a fetish for doctors; maybe it's their lab coats. The S.G. is the god of doc-

tors, thus making him/her my God.

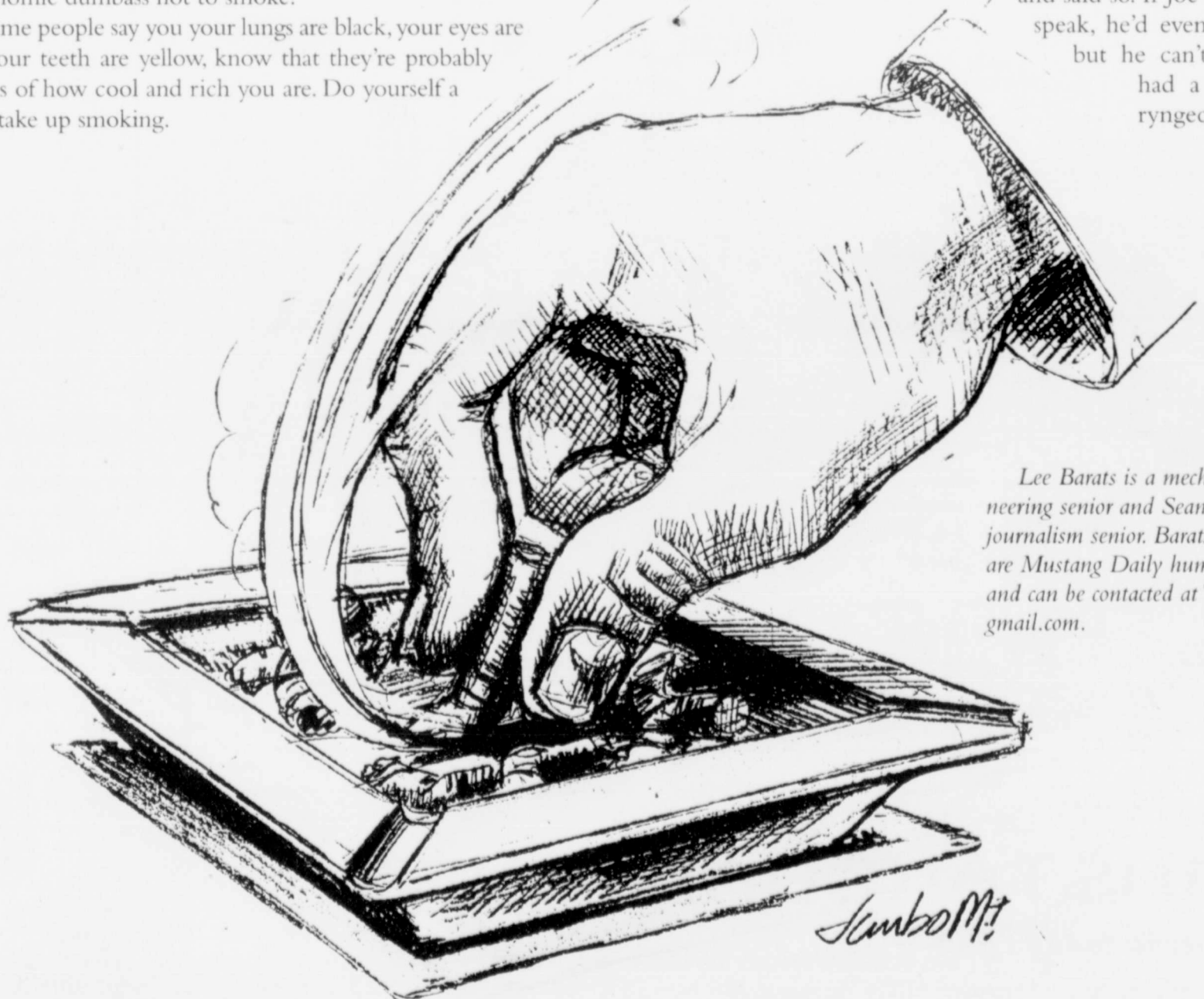
Since 1970, the S.G. has declared that smoking is dangerous to your health. However, that message is printed on the side of a cigarette pack, which is seen only AFTER the purchase. So I will continue the S.G.'s saintly work and give you three solid reasons — BEFORE you buy the pack — that smoking is indeed bad for you.

First, what is a basic and terrifying ingredient in cigarettes? Tar. You only have to travel to Los Angeles and visit the La Brea Tar Pits to realize tar is a killer. Dinosaurs tried the tar and were literally stuck on the stuff. If their massive bodies couldn't muster the strength to climb from the pits, how can you expect your 150-pound body to unhook itself from the smothering tar? You won't be able to.

More importantly, secondhand smoke is terrible for your social life. Mr. Lee Barats will lie to your face and try to convince you that smoking gives you access to more exclusive places. In reality, smokers are just quarantined in small areas so they can't harm us. Ask yourself this: who else was quarantined like that? E.T. And the only friend E.T. had was 10-year old Elliot. If children are the type of friends you want, then just join a seminary.

Finally, cigarettes make your teeth look as crummy as a pirate's. Why would you want to look like you'd just raped and pillaged a village? The facts are that the opposite sex is attracted to you first by: A. Your body, B. Your car, C. Your wedding ring, D. Your intelligence, and E. Your smile. How can you actively destroy the fifth-best thing about yourself? That would be like Vishnu cutting off one of her arms!

Don't smoke. It's not good for you. The surgeon general says so. The Marlboro man came out and said so. If Joe Camel could speak, he'd even say it's bad, but he can't because he had a botched laryngectomy.



Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barats and Michetti are Mustang Daily humor columnists and can be contacted at TitsforTats@gmail.com.

A eulogy for the art of hip-hop

Brian McMullen
MUSTANG DAILY

Hip-hop is dead. It was a culture unifying the art forms of breakdancing, rapping, graffiti and DJing and today, little evidence of its original intent and feeling can be found.

What we see labeled as hip-hop today is a reflection of that basic culture distorted by capitalistic values and a lack of social awareness. To understand this point, you first need to understand hip-hop's roots.

Hip-hop as a musical art form was given birth in the '70s by a DJ named Kool Herc. He took two turntables and a couple of copies of the same record and alternated between the two, extending the funkier part of the song — the "break" — that made dancers go crazy. Kool Herc hosted block parties throughout New York, driving people wild with his new sound.

Similar DJs such as Afrika Bambaata began hosting parties, bringing together breakdancers and rappers to move large crowds. These events were the pinnacle of hip-hop culture and were carried out with positive intentions. A former gang member, Afrika Bambaata saw hip-hop as a means by which to express oneself and compete without resorting to gang violence. His idea was that if you want respect and territory, you had better be able to dance, rap, DJ or paint to earn it. If a fight were to break out at an Afrika Bambaata show, he would get on the microphone and threaten to pack up and leave.

Breakdancing got its start when Manhattan's inner-city youths felt themselves invisible to the world. Dealing with the social and economic pressures that came with New York's Urban Renewal project,

they expressed themselves through aggressive dance moves that could be substituted for fistfights. Breakdancing crews were established, and their reputations on the street were determined by how well they could embarrass opponents with innovative moves. Everyone was given a name that said something about his or her unique style.

Rapping came from Jamaican-style toasting, which was basically shout-out over the DJ's music at a party. When rappers joined the hip-hop culture, they each had a unique style and character that defined them and what the energy their hosted party would be like. They were the masters of the ceremony, and their job was to keep the party people live and hyped with call and response and creative rhymes. MC Busy Bee was known in the late '70s and early '80s for his comedic rhymes and his battle aptitude. Back then, a rapper's credibility was determined by their lyrical prowess, not their off-the-mic activities.

Graffiti started in the '70s as well, and saw artists running from cops, painting trains and bridges, and fighting those who copied their style or ruined their piece. Respect was again innovation in the form of color and style as well as placement and visibility.

There are some similarities between hip-hop's earliest form and its contemporary manifestation. The competitive nature still exists but is based on a different set of values. Today, innovation does not necessarily guarantee respect. In rapping, economic success and lyrics about the amount of "weight" (drugs) one can move are the epitome of credibility. It is important to note that there were rappers in the '70s and '80s who touched on these topics (the Funky Four Plus One More's Lil' Rodney

C! rapped about private jets and sports cars) but this is when these sorts of lyrics were new. And songs about drugs in early hip-hop were usually about their damaging effects and not their economic opportunities. In Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five's hit "White Lines," MC Melle Mel rapped about cocaine addiction and the differences in punishment for drugs offenders depending on their race. This is a far cry from the message of newer songs like DJ Khaled's "Brown Paper Bag."

Furthermore, hip-hop's initial emphasis on originality is lost in today's sales-oriented music culture. When Soulja Boy released "Crank Dat," it seemed overnight that a song called "Crank that Batman" hit the radio from the Pop It Off Boyz. This would have been labeled whack in the '80s because biting someone else's style was the ultimate disrespect and was cause for a fight or a battle in one of the four elements. But in today's culture, if something's successful, you piggyback on it and squeeze all the money you can out of it.

This repetitious nature has ensured hip-hop's death. It's no longer a cultural movement to make the lives of the disenfranchised visible and to create something positive out of a negative environment. In the hands of record companies, it has become commodified, stripped of its soul, with the four elements separated. While it may say something about the state of culture and the mindset of people in America today, the "hip-hop" we see and hear says little in congruence with the founder's intentions. Then again, is hip-hop's death its ultimate message?

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and a former reporter for the Mustang Daily.



I am sure that Mr. Baker, Mr. Durgin, Mr. Mohammad Noori (and many others with various names like Al and James) in the administration will be most impressed with your insightful analysis. Maybe they, too, will invite you for coffee... if you buy. I do understand that Mr. Baker visited the ASI Board of Directors meeting Wednesday. If you haven't met him, now is a good time. Maybe he talked about his involvement with gender apartheid Saudi Arabia? Have fun!

— Roger Freberg

Response to "To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university"

THANK YOU for confirming what I've suspected for a long time...we're getting SOAKED here on the Central Coast, and California in general. I was on the phone to a friend in Minnesota yesterday and told her about our high prices. She was complaining about \$3.15/gallon. I emailed her the article. Keep up the good work!

— Denine Hicks

Response to "SLO County home to highest gas prices in nation"

As a parent I am quite shocked to learn that the President of Cal Poly is so hands-offish to students. Hopefully he will read this article and change his approach to how he interacts with the student body. Maybe I should call him before I send my next donation check? Hmmm.

— Cal Poly parent

Response to "To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university"

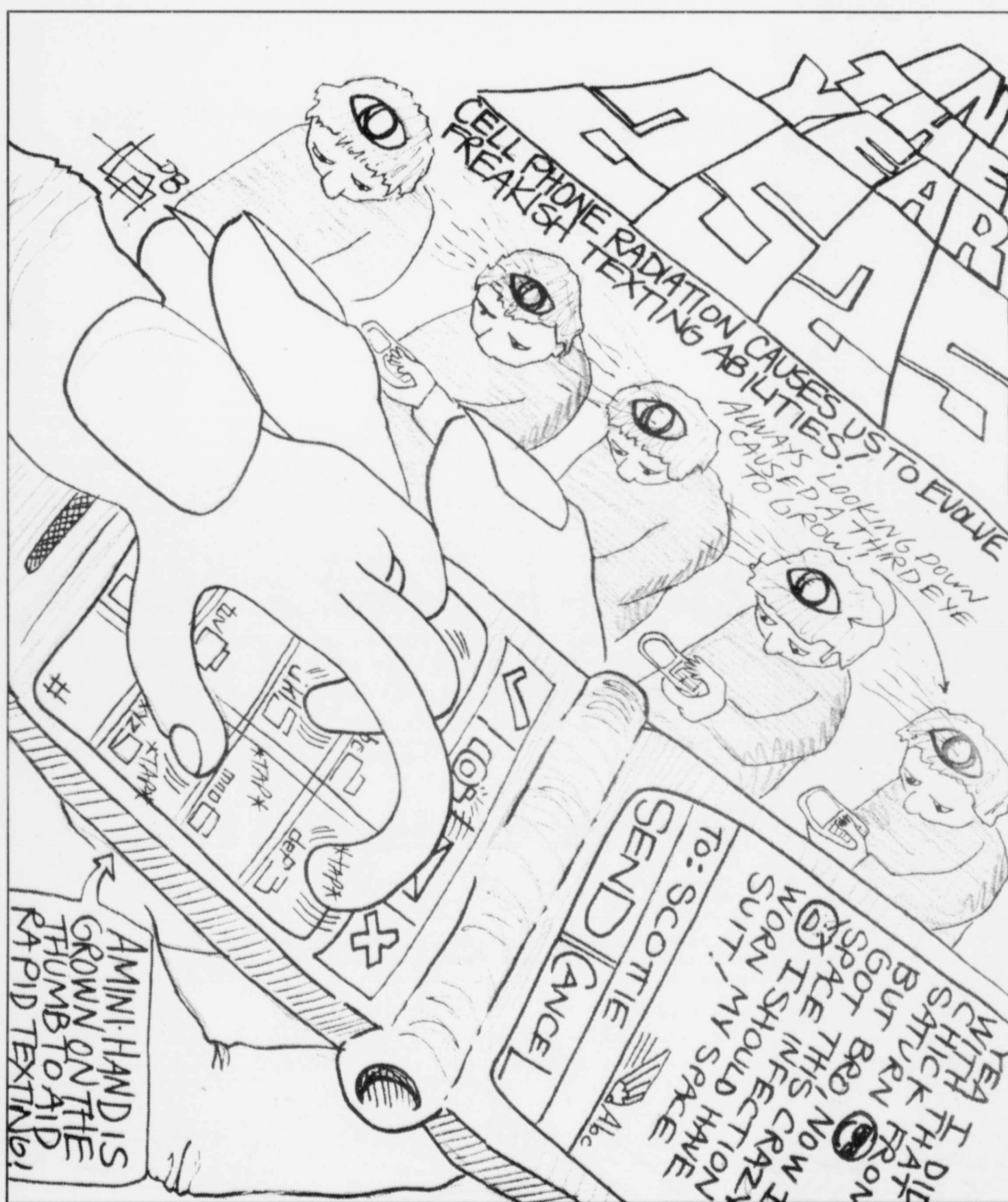
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JAMES GLEN MUSTANG DAILY

Women

continued from page 16

lottery and any other topic regarding male-driven sports, don't think I don't know a good female athlete when I see one.

We have a volleyball team at Cal Poly with perennial All-Americans, and one of the best coaches in the country. Cal Poly has dominated the Big West, winning it twice, and having the conference player of the year two years running. While Cal Poly hosted a regional in 2006, it advanced to the Sweet Sixteen this past season. This team plays everyone who is anyone, and is on the cusp of becoming one of the elite programs in the country. Let me put it this way for guys — if volleyball were football, our coach would have gotten the UCLA job last season.

Sharon Day, a two-sport athlete at Cal Poly, is on the verge of becoming an Olympian in high jumping. She seems to win every collegiate meet she attends, and makes every other competitor in the Big West look inferior. She's easily one of, if not the greatest, female athletes to ever step foot on this campus. Whether she makes the Olympics or not, her legacy is already etched in stone at Cal Poly.

And while Cal Poly might not be the elite platform in track like several of the Pac-10 schools, Day has helped this program creep closer with her immense talent.

Last but not least, I can't forget about the softball program. Its head coach, Jenny Condon, has taken this program out of obscurity to the national spotlight in less than four years. In 2007, she led the program to its first Division I NCAA tournament appearance by winning the Big West. Averaging 34 wins over her first three seasons, Condon has this team headed down a winning path, and has beaten several highly-ranked teams in a short time at Cal Poly.

So while the men tend to grab the headlines in my articles, it's definitely not due to a lack of female talent at this school.

John Middlekauff is an agribusiness senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.



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Fencing

continued from page 16

think the batter and the batter is always trying to guess the pitch that's coming," he said. "It's addictive."

Recently, the club participated in the final NCIFL tournament of the year, and did fairly well, Ferraresi said.

"Even though it is disappointing that we didn't win the cup, I feel that the club is slowly rebuilding and improving," he said. "Many of our novice foilists have been placing in the top eight and I'm very hopeful that we may win the cup again within two years."

Yamasaki placed first in epee and eighth in foil, and Ferraresi eighth in epee.

With regards to the future of the club, Yamasaki would like to see the program develop more.

"I'd like to get our members competing in more national events and branching out and getting better," he said.

All ambitions aside, though, the club continues to thrive because of the simple joy it provides.

"Fencing is a fun, gratifying sport — and you don't need any experience whatsoever to succeed," Ferraresi said.

On April 26, the club will host the All California Collegiate Club Championships on campus in the Recreation Center.

The club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Mott Gym from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will take students until April 15.



BRYAN BEILKE MUSTANG DAILY

On April 26, the Cal Poly Fencing Club will host the All California Collegiate Club Championships in the Recreation Center.

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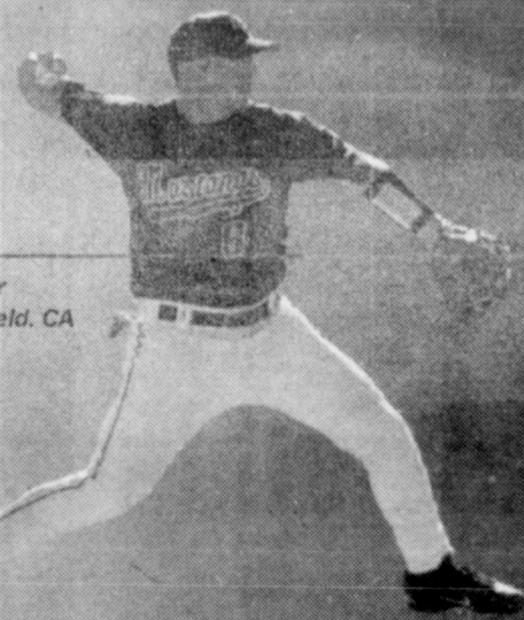


Robert Foy, Sophomore
Wellington, New Zealand

BASEBALL VS. PACIFIC

FRIDAY APRIL 11 TH 6 PM
SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 6 PM
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 1 PM

Brent Morel, Junior
Infielder, Bakersfield, CA



WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. UC DAVIS

SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 11 AM

WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. UCSB

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 11 AM



Brittany Blalock, Sophomore
Palm Desert, CA

CAL POLY
ATHLETICS

Basketball

continued from page 16

with Golden State. We could get in (to the playoffs) if we don't win, (but) it could give us a big leg up if we do win."

There's a symmetry to the two exciting clubs that find themselves in this tough spot, thanks to the unprecedented glut of good teams in the West — and the improbable 22-game winning streak that shot the fifth-place Houston Rockets ahead of both teams.

The Warriors and the Nuggets

both average more than 110 points per game, but they're also two of the most defensively deficient, yielding roughly 107 points each night. They're both inconsistent, with Denver sputtering through losses to Seattle and Sacramento last week while Golden State lost three of four on a tough road trip.

Still, if either team was in the Eastern Conference this season, it would be in fourth place. Instead, both clubs trail seventh-place Dallas (49-29) by two games with four to play.

"It's something that is just crazy right now," Denver guard Anthony

Carter said. "The only thing we can do is keep winning, and hopefully everything will play out in our favor. Being 16 games over .500, I never thought we would still be fighting for a playoff spot."

The Warriors seem a bit bewildered by their predicament, given their remarkable improvements and a maturing roster. Golden State had to win 16 of its final 21 games last season just to get that No. 8 spot, ending a 12-year playoff drought.

Though coach Don Nelson is always quick to point out his team's defensive woes — particu-

larly after allowing the banged-up Kings to score 132 points in Golden State's victory Tuesday night — he has encouraged his players to embrace Golden State's playoff squeeze.

"Our goal is to try to win five games in a row," Al Harrington said. "If we do that, we're definitely in. Ain't nothing anybody can do about that. ... Whatever team decides to play defense is going to win that game, and I think we have an excellent chance, especially on our home floor."

The Warriors expect their 30th sellout crowd of the season tonight, though the 5 p.m. local start time is 2 1/2 hours earlier than normal, which could keep unobserv-

ant fans away until halftime.

And if the game comes down to the final minutes, as many of these teams' tough games seem to do, few clubs are better equipped to finish. Baron Davis has been one of the NBA's most dynamic late-game performers of the last few years, while Anthony and Allen Iverson also have reputations as outstanding closers.

"Our defense can improve, and it will improve as each game comes about," said Davis, who had 33 points and nine assists against Sacramento. "But for the most part, we do what we need to do, and that's win, survive, and it's on to the next game, which is the most important game of the season."

Morel uplifts morale of Mustangs



Cal Poly junior third baseman Brent Morel blasts a home run against Fresno State at Baggett Stadium on Wednesday night. Morel had two home runs in the Mustangs' 8-5 victory.

For a complete recap, go online to mustangdaily.net today.

The Mustangs (11-17) resume Big West Conference play by opening a three-game home series against Pacific at 6 p.m. Friday.

BENJAMIN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

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7	4	6	1	5	2	9	3	8
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Fencing club to host All California Collegiate Club Championships

Brittney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

"En Garde ... Fencers ready? Fence!"

Most may immediately picture "The Three Musketeers" when the topic of fencing comes up, but it is a sport that is so much more than three ridiculously dressed men fighting against injustice. It's one that requires skill, strategy, spontaneity and practice.

Though Cal Poly has never had a well-established fencing club, over the past 15 years it has steadily gained momentum and grown in popularity.

What has helped the sport garner more attention in general is the previous Olympics, said Kyle Yamasaki, a club member.

"We had a couple of gold medalists and a couple of bronze (medalists) so it has really been growing from that, and then in this year's Olympics there could be a couple medal potentials that are helping (the sport) a lot."

As of right now there are between 30 and 40 members, although the count varies each quarter.

"Back in 1993, when our current head coach, Eric McDonald, came to Cal Poly, there were a handful of guys sharing most of their gear on a single strip," club member Mark Ferraresi said. "Since then, the club has become a top player in the Northern California Intercollegiate Fencing League (NCIFL)."

Skill level also varies, and there is no experience required to join the club; equipment is supplied, as well, Yamasaki said.



BRYAN BEILKE MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly Fencing Club, of which there are roughly 40 members, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Mott Gym, and will welcome new students until April 15.

"We have seven coaches right now; every quarter we have a beginning class that's devoted to people that don't know anything about the sport and have never done it before," he explained. "We also have intro classes for various weapons and then we have intermediate and advanced classes, as well as private lessons."

The sport includes three weapons: the foil, epee and sabre. Each weapon type has special rules,

which then determine how the fencer may score on an opponent.

Distinguishing fencing from other sports is its unique intimidation factor, Ferraresi added.

"Most people have never seen modern Olympic fencing, as the sport isn't very widespread," he said. "Because of that, it may take some people out of their comfort zone."

Due to no two fencing bouts being the same, players can never

rely on one strategy, move or trick alone, and in the higher levels, it can become all about strategy, according to Ferraresi. "You constantly have to be aware of the opponent's intentions or second intentions," he said.

Club president Tim Baldwin compared the sport to a duel between a batter and a pitcher. "The pitcher is always trying to out-

see Fencing, page 14

Johnny in
the Box

COMMENTARY



Some love for the ladies

John Middlekauff
ON WOMEN'S SPORTS

During the fall, while working for the Kansas City Chiefs, I witnessed an athletic performance for the ages, and it had nothing to do with football. I attended a high school basketball game in which Kansas' five-time defending state champion played a team with only six players.

The only catch was the team with just six players had the No. 1 junior recruit in the country. The performance I witnessed was one that I will never forget, and the way I view athletics will never be the same.

This player was on an entirely different level — dribbling left, dribbling right, fade-away 3s, finger-roll lay-ups. From no-look passes to a silky smooth shooting touch. Though double-teamed every possession, this player's ability to split two defenders and score was unlike anything I have ever seen on TV, let alone in person.

With 10 seconds remaining, and the game on the line, there was no question where the ball was going. It wasn't six players against a five-time defending state champ — it was one player on a mission.

And 44 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists later, the team with six players led by one superstar sent a tornado through Kansas high school basketball.

One fact I left out is that this player was a girl, playing in a girls high school basketball game.

I had heard the hype, so I figured I better go check her out. Major universities like Tennessee, Connecticut and Stanford were all battling for her services — the three most dominant women's collegiate programs.

Simply put, this girl was an absolute stud. She would start for Cal Poly and be the Big West Conference Player of the Year right now, and I can say that without hesitation.

Too often, female athletics are overlooked, and I'll admit I have contributed to this problem. There have been countless opportunities for me to write about female athletics at this school, and I have dropped the ball.

While I love writing about the NFL draft, 40 times, vertical jumps, the NBA playoffs, the NBA draft

see Women, page 14

Warriors host Nuggets in critical game for playoff hopes of each

Greg Beacham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Stephen Jackson thought the Golden State Warriors were good enough to avoid this kind of late-season drama. Carmelo Anthony felt the same way about his Denver Nuggets.

And in any other NBA season, both players would have been correct.

Instead, the Western Conference's eighth-place teams are headed for an unlikely showdown tonight in Oakland. Both of the NBA's highest-scoring clubs are tied for the

final playoff spot at 47-31 with just a week left in the regular season, and their final meeting easily could determine which team will end up with the best record in league history to miss the postseason.

"We feel like we should be in, but we still have to fight for it," said Jackson, whose Warriors are nine games better than they were at this point last season, when they snuck into the playoffs and toppled top-seeded Dallas.

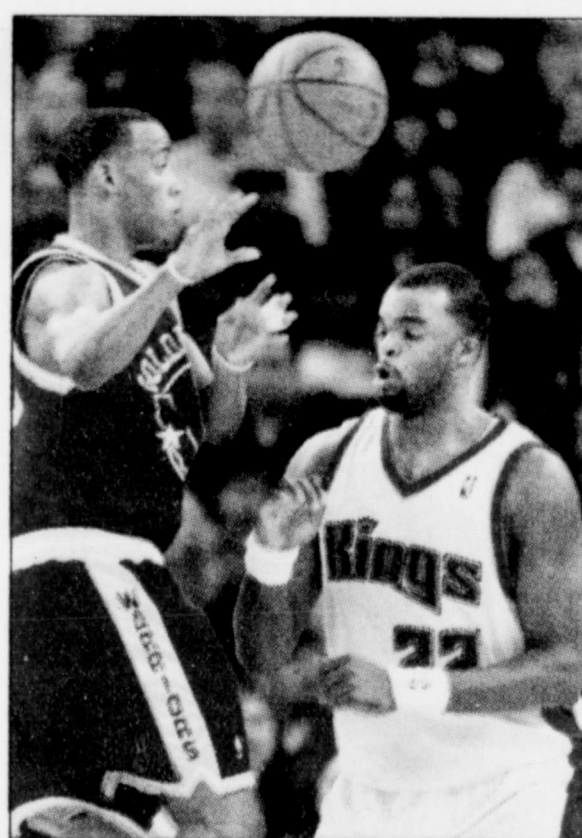
"The downfall is, our record is 10 times better than it was last year. Nobody expected to have this record and be

fighting to get into the playoffs, but it is what it is."

Speaking in two locker rooms 368 miles apart after their clubs' victories Tuesday night, both Jackson and Anthony called the game "a must-win."

"Two good teams who deserve to go to the playoffs are going to battle on Thursday night," coach George Karl said after the Nuggets' 18-point win over the Clippers. "When this thing all started evolving six or eight weeks ago, I remember circling the game

see Basketball, page 15



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golden State guard Monta Ellis, left, and the rest of the Warriors host the Denver Nuggets at 5 tonight in Oakland.