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Taliban kills Christian aid worker in Kabul.

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"Eclectic bunch" of stories sure to amaze readers.

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### TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny  
High 85°/Low 52°

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## Entrepreneurs compete for capital



COURTESY PHOTO

Ray Scherr Business Plan Competition finalist Steven Roger presents his company proposal at the final round of last year's competition. Every year, Cal Poly students and community entrepreneurs develop business plans and compete for up to \$250,000 in venture capital.

Josh Ayers

MUSTANG DAILY

What do Google, Starbucks and Nike all have in common? For starters, the founders had an idea with enough potential to draw money from investors that, in turn, allowed them to obtain unlimited success as well as a global popularity.

The Orfalea College of Business and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is holding its annual Ray Scherr Business Plan Competition, a three-stage contest that seeks to help provide funding and networking for campus-affiliated entrepreneurs and their business ideas.

"This is for any student, faculty or staff," said Chris McCann, the director of the Ray Scherr Business Plan Competition.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization with a chapter based at Cal Poly.

"We do student-led projects that help students in some way," said Brian Riley a business senior and former president of SIFE. "There is always like six or seven projects going on at one time."

This year's competition features \$10,000 in potential prize money that will be awarded to three teams.

McCann, now a business senior, has run the competition for the past two years and said that it is a great opportunity to get

feedback on ideas as well as an opportunity for students to develop a network of contacts.

The first-place winner will receive \$4,000 and the runner-up and the community winner will each receive \$3,000 for their plans.

Scherr, the founder of the Guitar Center retail chain, is providing the \$10,000 for the competition as a gift to the entrepreneurship programs within the Orfalea College of Business.

McCann said that 140 people showed up at the information night last year and that it provides a good opportunity to network with or without an idea to start from.

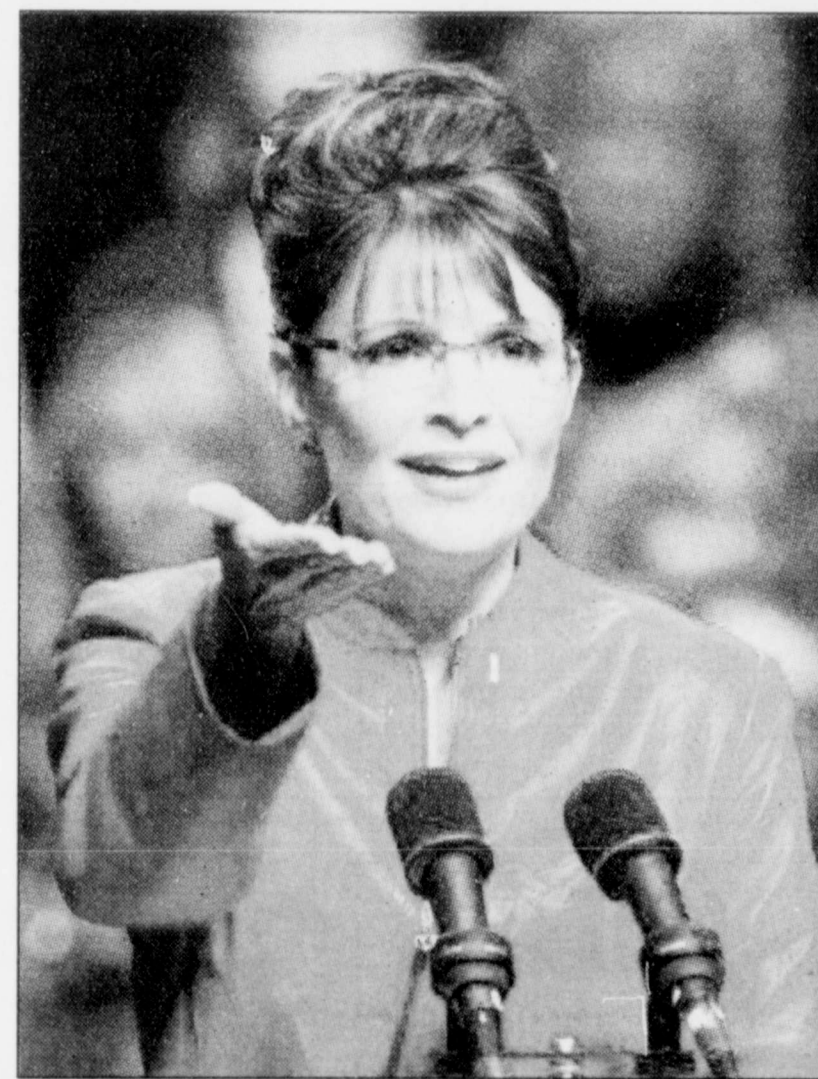
"(The competition) forces you to do your idea," McCann said. "It shows you how to make that idea into something tangible ... some people submit and they don't even have an idea."

Workshops and seminars designed to familiarize participants with the concepts and procedures of writing a business plan will be held prior to the selection of the semifinalists, according to the contest's Web site.

In addition to the potential prize money from the Scherr competition, the contests winner will advance to a regional competition put on by Draper Fisher Jurvetson

see Competition, page 2

## Palin breaks with McCain on gay marriage amendment



LARAMIE BOOMERANG, BEN WOLOSZYN ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin addresses a crowd on Monday Oct. 20, 2008 at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland, Colo.

NEW YORK — Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin says she supports a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, a break with John McCain who has said he believes states should be left to define what marriage is.

In an interview with Christian Broadcasting Network, the Alaska governor said she had voted in 1998 for a state amendment banning same-sex marriage and hoped to see a federal ban on such unions.

"I have voted along with the vast majority of Alaskans who had the opportunity to vote to amend our Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman. I wish on a federal level that's where we would go. I don't support gay marriage," Palin said. She said she believed traditional marriage is the foundation for strong families.

McCain, an Arizona senator, is supporting a ballot initiative in his state this year that would ban gay marriage. But he has consistently and forcefully opposed a federal mar-

see Amendment, page 2

## ASI offers fun from Dusk 'til Dawn



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at last year's Dusk 'til Dawn had the opportunity to compete in a variety of different games including sumo wrestling and an obstacle course.

Rachel Glas

MUSTANG DAILY

It's time for another night of free games, food and live music at the Cal Poly Recreation Center.

The fourth annual Associated Students Inc.-sponsored event, Dusk 'til Dawn is taking place Thursday from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

"It's grown into kind of a phenomenon of excitement for students," ASI Programs Coordinator Michelle Curro said of the event.

There will be a variety of games to play including the ever-popular Super Mega Obstacle course, a 200-foot course spanning the Rec Center plaza, a mechanical bull, a surf simulator and sumo wrestling.

History sophomore Tasha Wilkey who attended the event last year said her favorite parts of the night were "the concert...the blow up obstacle course and the mechanical bull."

One section of the gym will be cordoned off to leave room for a video tournament; there will be both a Rock Band and Guitar Hero competition sponsored by Best Buy. The tournament is one of the event's top attractions according to Curro.

There will be live music in the main gym area where the RX Bandits and The Skafflaws will be playing.

see ASI, page 2



## Competition

continued from page 1

— a large and successful venture capital firm — for a chance at a \$250,000 grand prize.

Making it to the regional competition is not only an honor, but an excellent opportunity to pitch the plan to the numerous venture capitalist companies that will be attending said McCann.

"Even if you don't win that competition there's hundreds of investors there to see your idea," he said.

Tricia Compas, an environmental and civil engineering graduate student, can attest to that.

Compas and her five-person team won the Ray Scherr Business Plan Competition last year and advanced to the Draper Fisher Jurveston competition for their idea H2O 2 GO — a product that would help supply fresh water in times of disaster.

"We continually learned and even through the final presentations we (were) still learning what needs to be addressed when start-

ing a business," Compas said in a telephone interview.

She added that the start-up company has since changed its name to Polytech Waterbag because the original name was widely used by other organizations.

Compas also said the Draper Fisher Jurveston competition provided a real-world opportunity to share and discuss business strategies with other groups as well as venture capitalists looking to invest. Her group did not advance in the competition but she said that experience was beneficial.

"Even though we didn't win, we were still really able to improve and continue with this project," Compas said. "We were fortunate to have had this opportunity."

The competition kicks off on Oct. 28 with an information night that will take place at 7 p.m. in the Sandwich Factory at Cal Poly.

From the information night, groups will move to the second phase of drafting a business plan and judges will pick a select number of groups that will advance to the semi-finals, and eventually the finals before awarding prizes.

## Amendment

continued from page 1

riage amendment, saying it would usurp states' authority on such matters.

As governor, Palin vetoed a bill that would have denied benefits to the partners of gay state employees. In a debate with Democratic rival Joe Biden, Palin said she was "tolerant" of gays and said she supported certain legal protections for same-sex couples, like hospital visitation rights.

In the CBN interview, Palin also said she would speak out if she heard a supporter at a rally yell violent or threatening comments about Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee.

"What we have heard through some mainstream media is that folks have hollered out some atrocious and unacceptable things like 'kill him,'" Palin said, referring to a Washington Post story two weeks ago about angry supporters at a Palin rally in Florida. "If I ever were to hear that standing up there at the podium

with the mike, I would call them out on that, and I would tell these people, no, that's unacceptable."

CBN released excerpts of the interview Monday and planned to broadcast it in its entirety Tuesday.

Palin also claimed religion and God had been "mocked" during the campaign, although she offered no evidence to support that.

"Faith in God in general has been mocked through this campaign, and that breaks my heart and that is unfair for others who share a faith in God and choose to worship our Lord in whatever private manner that they deem fit," she said.

Palin is a conservative Christian who was baptized and grew up attending Pentecostal churches. In September, Obama defended Palin's religious beliefs and said it would be "offensive" to portray her faith as strange or wrong.

Palin also reaffirmed her view that Obama had been "palling around with terrorists" because of his association with Bill Ayers, a 1960s-era radical who helped found the violent Weather Underground group to protest the Vietnam war. The group was responsible for bombings of several government buildings.

"I would say it again," she said.

Ayers and Obama live in the same Chicago neighborhood and have served together on charity boards. Ayers also hosted a house party for Obama when he was first running for the Illinois state Senate.

## ASI

continued from page 1

Dusk 'til Dawn began four years ago as a student-generated idea with the focus on providing late night programming for on-campus residents.

Thanks to its popularity, ASI has brought back the event each successive year and now routinely attracts both on and off-campus residents.

"It's on campus, fun, and safe — really a win-win situation," Curro said.

Food will be provided via sponsors. Woodstock's Pizza will be serving pizza and campus dining will provide late-night snacks including milk and cookies.

Some students already have the event penciled in on their calendar.

"I want to go check it out again to see if it's as fun as last year," Wilkey said.

The event is free for students with a Poly-Card and \$10 for community members.



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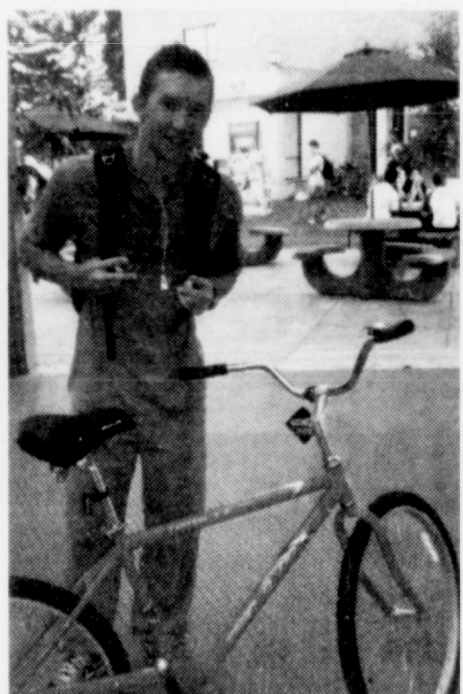


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## Campus Dining Awards Bike

Melissa Montecucollo  
Campus Dining Staff Writer

Cal Poly Campus Dining underwent many renovations during spring and summer quarters. Vista Grande Restaurant became Sage during spring quarter with updates to the interior including new furniture, new facades, an updated menu and improved Sunday Brunch. A wall fountain that greets customers as they arrive was installed over the summer. VG Cafe also has a new look, including a new logo and uniforms. There are also new menu items including wings, baked subs, and a full breakfast at "Late Nite."



The updated menu items developed by the culinary team at Vista Grande are sure to wow and impress.

The Campus Dining Staff was anxious to show off the new improvements, and to kick off the beginning of fall quarter Campus Dining gave away many prizes. During giveaways at VG Cafe and Sage, third year Construction Management major Tyler Pratt won a Fuji Single Speed Cruiser. "It looks pretty sweet," Pratt said as he rang the bell on the handle bar. Esterien Andrade won a Sage brunch for six and Jeremy Wong won an order of six of VG Cafe's new wings.

## Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?



Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study evaluating the effectiveness of investigational, medicated patches for treating the pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle.

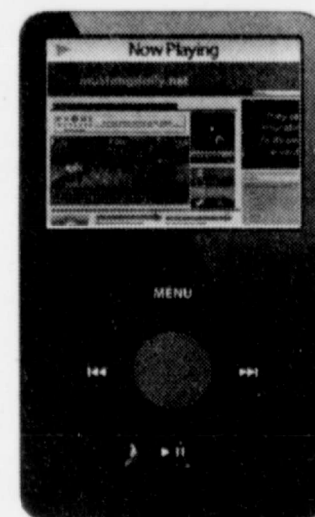
To be eligible for this study, you must:

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To learn more about this local study, please contact:

**Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc.**  
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# Taliban gunmen kill aid worker in Kabul



MUSADEQ SADEQ ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan policeman stands guard, left, as his colleague searches the trunk of a car at a police check post in Kabul after South African woman Gayle Williams was shot to death in the western part of the Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday.

Amir Shah

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban assailants on a motorbike gunned down a Christian aid worker in Kabul on Monday and the militants said she was killed for spreading her religion — a rare targeted killing of a Westerner in the nation's capital.

Gayle Williams, a 34-year-old dual British-South African national who helped handicapped Afghans, was shot to death as she was walking to work about 8 a.m., said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary.

A spokesman for the militants said the Taliban ordered her killed because she was accused of proselytizing.

"This woman came to Afghani-

stan to teach Christianity to the people of Afghanistan," Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press. "Our (leaders) issued a decree to kill this woman."

Britain's secretary of state for international development called the killing a "callous and cowardly act" and said Williams was in Afghanistan to help ease poverty.

"To present her killing as a religious act is as despicable as it is absurd — it was cold blooded murder," Douglas Alexander said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for the aid group, SERVE — Serving Emergency Relief and Vocational Enterprises — said it is a Christian organization but denied it was involved in proselytizing.

## State

**SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)** — Metal thieves are preying on farms and ranches along the Central Coast, hauling away irrigation valves and pipes for sale to recycling centers.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Deputy John McCarthy says four suspected metal thieves were arrested last month. The Rural Crime Unit deputy says most crooks are stealing metal for drug money.

...

**AVALON, Calif. (AP)** — Three people were killed and another person injured when their small plane crashed after takeoff Monday near Catalina Island Airport.

The plane burst into flames, triggering a small brush fire that firefighters contained at under 2 acres, said Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Ron Haralson.

Three people were found dead at the scene and a fourth was hospitalized with undisclosed injuries, Haralson said. The victims' names were not immediately available.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said the Mooney M20J was taking off at about 1:20 p.m. when it crashed about a mile from the end of the runway. It was not immediately clear what caused the crash.

## Briefs

### National

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)** — A popular local TV anchorwoman who had a small part in the Bush biopic "W" was in critical condition Monday after being beaten in her home, and police said they are investigating possible motives.

KATV anchor Anne Pressly, 26, was found about 4:30 a.m. Monday by her mother, who went to the house when her daughter didn't answer a wake-up call, Little Rock police spokesman Cassandra Davis said.

Davis said investigators are talking to Pressly's co-workers to determine whether she "has had any problems."

...

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Investigators interviewed a 6-year-old boy about his nearly four days in captivity in hopes of gaining clues to the identity of gunmen who abducted him last week, police said Monday.

The boy, Cole Puffinburger, was dropped off unharmed Saturday night. Authorities think his kidnappers are still in southern Nevada, said Sgt. John Loretto, a Las Vegas police spokesman.

"We believe the suspects are still here, as evidenced by someone dropping him off on that street," Loretto said.

### International

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canadian opposition Liberal Party Stephen Dion says he'll resign as leader of the once-dominant party after last week's bitter election loss.

Dion said Monday he'll stay on as leader until a new leader is elected by the party.

Dion campaigned for last Tuesday's election on an unpopular environmental tax during slowing economic times. His party suffered a drubbing, dropping to 76 seats in Parliament from 95.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative party won reelection but fell short of the 155 seats it needed to rule without help from the opposition.

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico has agreed to deport Cubans caught trying sneak illegally through Mexican territory to reach the U.S. The agreement with Cuba is a step toward cutting off an increasingly violent and heavily used human trafficking route.

Mexico and Cuba signed the agreement Monday at a ceremony in Mexico City. Mexico rarely sends back Cubans caught entering the country illegally. The U.S. generally allows Cubans who reach U.S. territory to stay, a policy the Cuban government says encourages Cubans to risk dangerous escape routes.

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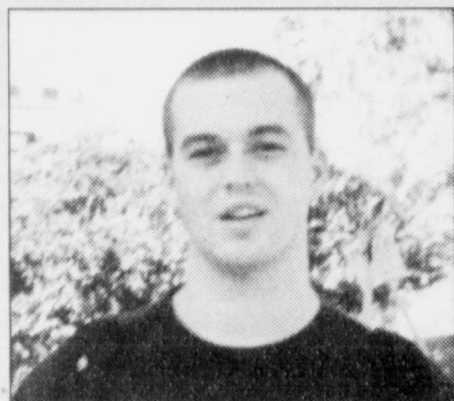
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## WORD ON THE STREET

"What do you think about CP students throwing bottles at the Santa Barbara goalie during at Friday's men's soccer game?"



"It was disrespectful and it was not right. It was dangerous because he had his back to the crowd and couldn't defend himself; we crossed the line."

-Chad Hall  
forestry junior

"I was disappointed to hear it because it was bad sportsmanship and it wasn't appropriate."

-Katie Van Camp  
nutrition senior



"I think it was embarrassing and demonstrates very bad sportsmanship."

-Jennifer Thompson  
environmental engineering  
freshman



"I think it was disrespectful and made Cal Poly look childish."

-Mikey Payumo  
biology sophomore



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEX KACIK

# Gasoline prices tumble despite likely OPEC cuts



SETH PERLMAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gas truck delivery driver Tim Trabue packs away gas lines after unloading gas into underground holding tanks at a gas station in Springfield, Ill., Tuesday, Oct 15, 2008.

Stevenson Jacobs  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Consumers got another break at the gas pump Monday, as prices dropped further below \$3 a gallon and approached year-ago levels even as the near-certainty of an OPEC production cut pushed oil prices marginally higher.

Gasoline has fallen more than a dime a gallon since Friday, hitting a national average of \$2.92 on Monday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Pump prices have fallen 29 percent from their July record high of \$4.114 a gallon and are only 10 cents higher than a year ago. That difference could be bridged this week if gasoline keeps falling at the current

rate.

The pullback at the pump comes amid a dramatic turnaround in crude oil prices.

Chakib Khelil, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said Sunday that members plan to announce a "substantial" output cut at an extraordinary meeting that begins Friday in Vienna.

Analysts say OPEC countries have been alarmed by falling oil prices and want a production cut to prop up members' national budgets that only months ago were bulging with hundreds of billions in petrodollars.

Khelil, who is also Algeria's energy minister, said OPEC may cut output again at a meeting in December, and that the group considers the oil market oversupplied by about 2 million barrels a day.

Light, sweet crude for November delivery rose \$2.40 to settle at \$74.25 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday gained \$1.53 to settle at \$71.38; crude has fallen about 50 percent from its July 11 high of \$147.27.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday he would like prices between \$80 and \$90 a barrel.

On Monday, trader and analyst Stephen Schork called those comments "oddly conciliatory."

"Unfortunately for Venezuela ... and the rest of OPEC, \$80 might not be enough for the bears ... at least in the short run," Schork said in his daily publication, The Schork Report. "After all, the people ... who (initially) denied the existence of the bubble and who have subsequently been telling us since \$110 that the floor in oil is in ... are the same people who are now telling us oil cannot last below \$80."

Americans radically changed their behavior after gasoline prices spiked above \$4 over the summer. And there are signs that emerging economies like China have begun to slow.

Analysts say almost any OPEC action has already been priced in by investors.

"The market is factoring in a big cut. It will likely be as much as 2 million barrels," said Mark Pervan, senior commodity strategist with ANZ Bank in Melbourne. "I think they will go pretty large just to change the sentiment."

Investors largely ignored an OPEC output reduction of about 520,000 barrels a day last month, focusing instead on weakening demand.

## Obama leaving campaign trail to visit grandmother in Hawaii

Jennifer Loven  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is canceling nearly all his campaign events Thursday and Friday to visit his suddenly gravely ill 85-year-old grandmother in Hawaii, a spokesman said.

Robert Gibbs told reporters aboard Obama's plane that Madelyn Payne Dunham, who helped raise Obama, was released from the hospital late last week. But he said

her health had deteriorated "to the point where her situation is very serious."

Events originally planned for Madison, Wis., and Des Moines, Iowa, on Thursday will be replaced by one in Indianapolis before he makes the long flight to Hawaii. On Friday, Obama's wife, Michelle, will sub for Obama at rallies in Akron and Columbus, in Ohio, said campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki. Obama was expected to resume campaigning on Saturday, at an undecided location in

the West, she said.

"Sen. Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, has always been one of the most important people in his life, along with his mother and his grandfather," Gibbs said. "Recently his grandmother has become ill and in the last few weeks her health has deteriorated to the point where her situation is very serious. It is for that reason that Sen. Obama has decided to change his schedule on Thursday and Friday so that he can see her and spend some time with her."

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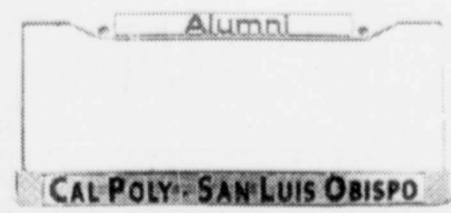
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Best Movie Theater

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club feature

# POLYCON PUTS SOCIAL FACE ON GAMING

Alex Kacik  
MUSTANG DAILY

Those who want to assume the role of an Elven wizard who employs spells to defeat the Paladin of Tyranny or lead an army of orcs into battle can find themselves at home at PolyCon, Cal Poly's gaming club, which provides a relaxed setting for gamers to satiate their alter egos by participating in a variety of games and activities.

"When playing a fantasy game you always have to use your imagination," said Bob Johnston, Cal Poly alumni and PolyCon adviser. "Role-playing games allow you actually take on a persona that may be quite opposite of your own. It gives you a chance to practice being that person and try it on for size."



PolyCon puts on miniature gaming conventions, MiniCons, which emphasize social gaming. Participants pay \$5 to play an array

of games such as the role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons, the card game Magic: The Gathering and video games like Rock Band and Soul Calibur IV. PolyCon also hosts a live action

role-playing game where players physically act out their characters.

"We avoid the games you play online behind a computer because that's not what we are about," said Garrett DeHoyos, PolyCon officer and computer science senior. "We are about any social gaming."

The MiniCons serve as fundraisers for the annual PolyCon summer convention, a three-day gaming event held at San Luis Obispo's Embassy Suites, said Eric Fong, PolyCon treasurer and software engineering junior. Conventions usually draw about 250 gamers from all over the world.

"We try to promote the gaming culture and dispel the stereotype that we are a bunch of nerds sitting in our mother's basement eating Cheetos and drinking Mountain Dew," DeHoyos said. "We are just ordinary

people playing a game together."

As members of PolyCon, gamers learn organizational leadership involved with putting

on events and coordinating activities, a skill set not usually associated with gaming, DeHoyos added.

"It's really good for leadership skills," Fong said. "You have to reserve a room, advertise, provide incen-

tives for participants and fundraise. Members of the club have great experience leading events."

"PolyCon is more involved with the business side as far as planning and facilitating the events," Johnston said. "Individuals develop those skills and learn from each other while alumni mentor younger members."

More importantly, PolyCon events allow students to explore their personality, have relaxing social interaction and recharge while keeping their minds active and creative, Johnston added.

"You get to learn about interacting with people on a personal level," Johnston said. "We try to promote people-to-people games because it gives people a chance to talk and learn about others."

Cal Poly alumni and faculty members provide insight and experience to strengthen the club and its events.

"Some ex-PolyCon members, who are now Cal Poly professors, help organize and plan events," Fong said. "We have weekly din-

ner where we can learn about some of the professors and the workings of the school from their perspective. It puts a different light on professors."

Fong acknowledges the old-school approach, but also recognizes the need to integrate electronic video games to the conventions.

"Most times events are dominated by role-playing games, board games and card games," Fong said. "As a big video gamer, we are starting to add those to the mix."

Yet, PolyCon had humble beginnings. Previously known as Saga, the club began 26 years ago when students would rent out the dorms and spend a few nights to play games, Johnston said.

PolyCon meets every Wednesday night to stay current with the gaming scene and plan upcoming conventions in the Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering building, room 121.

During the meetings, they develop projects such as customizing their own arcade stick. The arcade stick is fashioned after real arcade games, equipped with a joystick and large round buttons. Fong disassembled the XBOX 360 arcade stick, imported buttons from Japan, scanned a high-resolution graphic from a magazine and altered it in Photoshop.

"We do everything

we can to make anyone feel comfortable playing a game regardless of personal background and interests," he added.

PolyCon will host the Super Winter Mini-Con Jan. 17 and 18 of next year. More information is available at [www.polycon.org](http://www.polycon.org).



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# Katie Holmes and 'All My Sons' debuts on Broadway

Jake Coyle

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The curtain officially went up on Katie Holmes' Broadway debut Thursday as the revival of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" made its much anticipated premiere.

After a month of previews, opening night was somewhat muted on a blustery New York evening.

A gaggle of reporters lined the red carpet while about 100 stargazers watched from the sidewalk, which was patrolled by at least 30 police officers.

As it did on the first night of previews, the group Anonymous again protested against Scientology, because Holmes is wed to its biggest icon, Tom Cruise. About 35 protesters carried signs reading "Run, Katie, Run" and chanted "Scientology kills" from a cordoned-off area down the block from the Gerald Schoenfeld Theater.

Joni Vitale and husband George drove up from Pomona, N.J. for three reasons: "Tom, Tom and Tom." But they were disappointed as there was no sign of Cruise, who attended the first preview and cheerfully called the production "extraordinary."

Among the celebrities strolling the red carpet: Patricia Clarkson (who played Holmes' mother in the 2003 film "Pieces of April"), Barbara Walters, Dennis Farina and Isabella Rossellini.

Rebecca Miller, the playwright's daughter, came to see the latest version of her father's play, which was first performed on Broadway in 1947.

"The thing about Katie Holmes is that she's so right for the part," said Miller, a filmmaker and wife of Academy Award-winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis.

Hollywood stars such as Julia Roberts and Sean Combs have in recent years tried their talents on the New York stage and brought huge buzz to their productions. Holmes' Broadway entree was no different; "All My Sons" was the

highest-grossing play on Broadway in its first full week of previews, taking in \$684,002.

Still, Holmes simply is a supporting player in the drama. "All My Sons" is about businessman Joe Keller, played by John Lithgow, whose factory supplied defective cylinder parts to the military, resulting in the deaths of 21 pilots during World War II. Diane Wiest plays Keller's wife; Patrick Wilson his idealistic son; and Holmes the son's fiancée and daughter of Keller's disgraced partner.

For theatergoer Marra Gad, the play was the thing — and a performer besides Holmes.

"I realize that people are really excited about Katie Holmes making her debut and obviously the stargazing that's going on, but Patrick Wilson is a remarkable actor and I'm thrilled to see him on stage again," Gad said. "I love theater, so I'm excited to see a show like 'All My Sons' brought back to Broadway."

Producer Eric Falkenstein said the play is "ultra-relevant" considering the Iraq War, and praised Holmes and the cast.

"She was never difficult, always interested," said Falkenstein.

Referring to the media attention brought on by her celebrity, he added, "She handles it so well. The other cast members handle it so well."

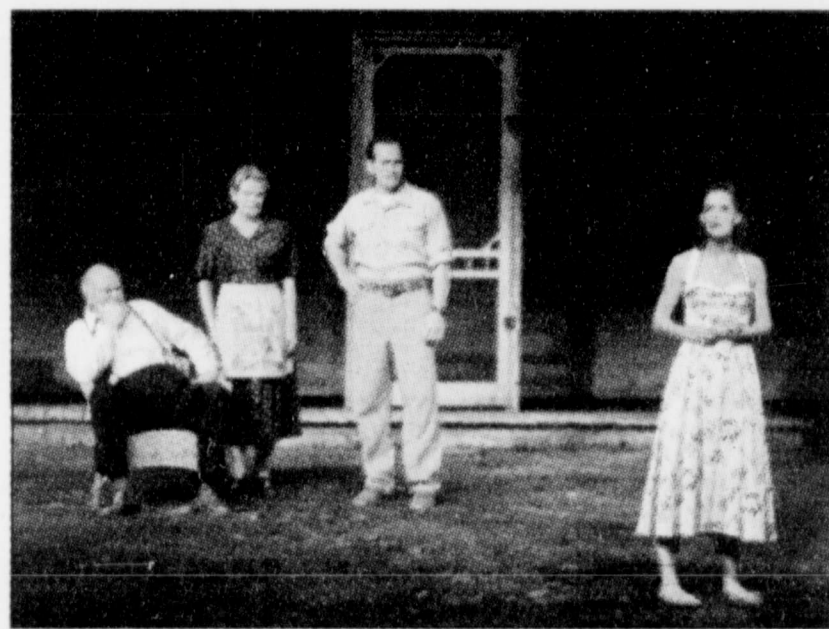
Of course, the protesters had a different perspective. The mostly young demonstrators, many wearing masks like those in the film "V for Vendetta," said they wanted to save Holmes from Scientology. Anonymous is a group connected by the Web that protests monthly outside Scientology buildings.

"We're here to just protest Scientology in general," said 22-year-old Alex Vanino. "But our main focus right now is getting Katie out of Scientology. There's been news going around the tabloids saying she would like to get out. It's unverified, but it would be nice to encourage that."

Vanino said they wouldn't likely return to the theater for further protests.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS



## 'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3' MOVES TO BIG SCREEN WITH EASE

Clare Sayas

DAILY TROJAN (USC)

It opens with the flash of a light bulb. Then another.

Then back to black. And then, with sudden clarity, an extreme close-up on a sweating, slow-motion Zac Efron, mid-game, turning his head melodramatically to a ticking basketball scoreboard. The big game that decides whether or not East High School's seniors win their second championship.

Director Kenny Ortega knows how to plunge an audience right back into the lives of Troy Bolton (Zac Efron), Gabriella Montez (Vanessa Hudgens) and all their eerily diverse high school friends.

His palette, though, is far more flexible this time. Throwing large amounts of money at a project, in this case, works beautifully. "High School Musical 3," the third installment in Disney's current premiere franchise, takes the premise of the first two TV movies and engorges it with a bigger budget, cinematic shots, flashier fantasy numbers and new characters.

The soaring, slow movie walks the audience through a conflicted senior year for all the characters, to the tune of the same catchy kid-pop that hammered songs like "We're All in This Together" and "You Are the Music in Me" into every grade school in America. High-energy numbers such as "The Boys Are Back" (an intricate boys number that involves a junkyard and breakdancing) and "I Want It All" (a decadently outrageous number that involves lots and lots of Fosse) keep the film fun. Committed performances from Efron, Corbin Bleu (jock Chad Danforth) and Lucas Grabeel (effeminate Ryan Evans) really glue the epic musical together.

Think Zeigfeld-like panoramas of a posing chorus, modern hip-hop breakdowns, intricate ballroom partner routines and lots of dream sequences (no really, a LOT). Musical theater geeks will revel in the blatant references to Fred Astaire, "Chicago," "Singin' in the Rain" and "Grease." The eclectic, vibrant choreography, thanks to Bonnie Story and Charles Klapow, will not be an easy one to break down for the Dance Along DVD.

But this is a kids movie; cheesy simplicity, along with tweeny melodrama, must make its way to the screen somehow.

Uncomfortably present in the film are the gratuitous moments where Efron and Hudgens make saccharine looks at one another, eyes sparkling, arms wrapped around each other, noses touching — yet they never kiss.

There are enough romantic fantasy scenes to make sure everyone understands that

Troy and Gabriella like each other. Troy feeds her chocolate covered strawberries during a picnic and asks her to prom on a flower-filled rooftop with a waltz (and then it starts to rain — very "Sixteen Going on Seventeen").

The pair also has chances to perform their own songs. While Hudgens' solos fall flat, Efron's soliloquy shines far brighter than his ill-conceived and cheap Kevin Bacon impression "Bet on It" from "HSM 2." "Scream," though not as strong as Bacon's furious warehouse gymnastics in "Footloose," reminds us that Efron may have star power after all. This time around, his intense stares and even wardrobe more closely echo the '80s hunk's role as dancing bad boy Ren, who Efron is slated to play in 2010.

"HSM 3's" star gets a lot of intimate time with the camera in the film. Ortega seems to have made Efron's distracting, pulsating tricep vein and rippling back muscles stars in the film as well, making parts of the film seem oddly like a cologne commercial — or maybe it's his sneaky gift to the moms and babysitters forced to take their braces-grashing, shrieking children to consume a brand that has proliferated children's rooms, closets and toy boxes since 2006.

Despite Disney's tactically aggressive branding (last time I checked, "HSM" lip gloss, karaoke, backpacks and bed sheets were available at Target), it teaches children to sing, dance and "break free" just like their favorite stars. Every single character, even the diva-liciously bitchy Sharpay Evans (Ashley Tisdale) has dreams and goals and fights to achieve those desires through school involvement, a refreshing change of pace to the fluffy cartoons and other programs that fill kid media.

There's even a Disney version of the real senior year. Issues of identity, separation anxiety and insane amounts of college name-dropping give pause between the singing and dancing. It can be laboriously dizzying at times though — so much goes on in the 112 minutes, which might be Ortega's last chance to milk the "HSM" franchise.

At its core, "HSM 3" is a ludicrous, extravagant fantasy that gives musical-hungry kids an escapist session of fluffy fun, disguised morals and flashing colors to the tune of catchy pop — a welcome release from an era of economic uncertainty. Musical-driven escapism, though, is an old American tradition, and though "HSM" might not secure a place in cinematic halls of fame in the centuries to come, it is a financial and cultural phenomenon that has infiltrated not just the hearts and rooms of children, but adults ashamed to admit that they know every single word to all three soundtracks.

Sure, the last thing the world needs is another sequel, but like the last number, the graduation scene, blares, "It's not meant to last forever." However, rest assured that you'll be humming "We're All in This Together" until Armageddon.



# Joe Meno brings variety, creativity to new collection

I discovered Joe Meno rather accidentally when I was lured toward a green novel with a picture of a pink spiky hairdo on the front. I'll admit I read it solely because of the amazingly cool cover, but more importantly, I discovered a fresh writer who incorporates life's hilarity with just the right amount of depth. Recently, the aforementioned cool-cover book "Hairstyles of the Damned" popped back into my mind as I was searching for a good read, and I was pleased to find that Meno had just come out with a collection of short stories.

"Demons in the Spring" is Meno's latest creation, and aside from the array of wonderful short stories gracing the pages, this book is like nothing I have ever seen. Each story is accompanied by a different artist's illustration, giving the book itself a whimsical, fairytale feel. It is reminiscent of a child's storybook, if children's books dealt with heavy topics such as miscarriages and bank robberies. With 20 stories riding on no particular theme, each page is a surprise. I found this book to be very refreshing, as it was something you could pick up for 10 minutes, get your fix and put it down, having consumed an entire, quality story. It was amazing to me that Meno, in only a few short pages, could provide the reader with enough characterization, and emotion to bring me in and then spit me out feeling fully gratified.

From the first story, I knew I had come across something special. "Frances the Ghost" told the brief tale of a young girl who found solace in dressing as a ghost every day, much to the dismay of her mother. Through her



story, we are able to see into the mind of her worried and exhausted mother, unhappy with her marriage, as well as witness the trials of a struggling childhood. It was like looking at a snapshot of a day, barely scratching the surface, yet somehow telling more than what was on the page.

Moving on from Frances, we travel to Stockholm and are entertained by a bank robbery gone awry. I was delighted by this unpredictable tale, oddly because it felt so normal. It was as though this situation could happen to any of us, even though it was a rather strange happening. Observing the robbers showed how the human mind is able to rationalize things, even beyond the point of no return.

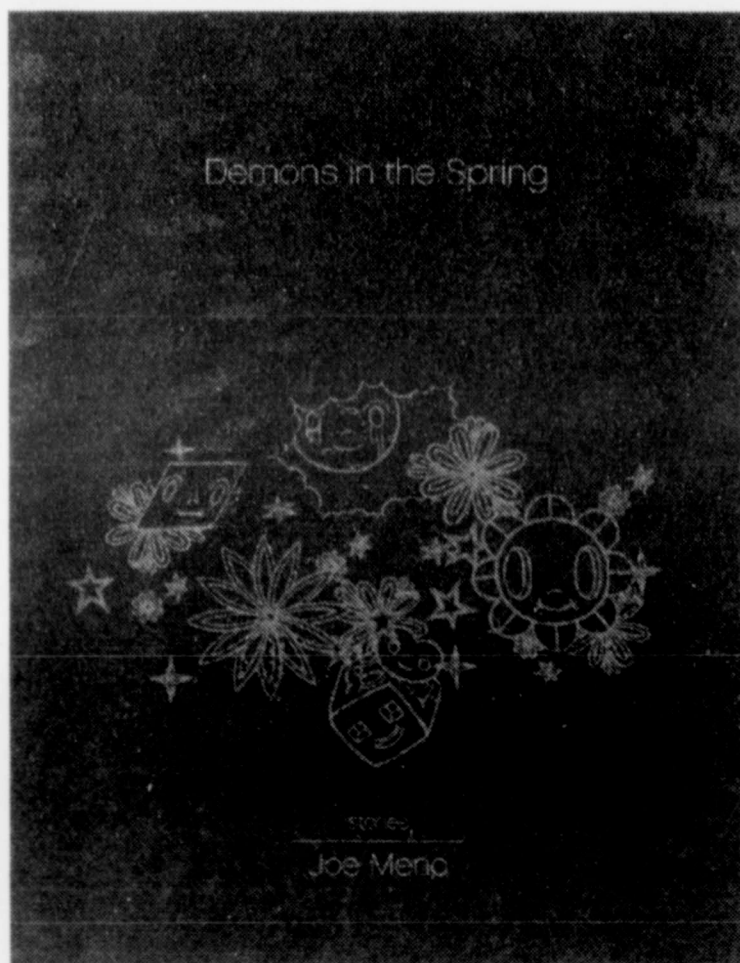
My favorite of the eclectic bunch, "I Want the Quiet Moments of a Party Girl," is one of the longer stories. It deals with a couple who becomes pregnant, and their journey through their personal struggles and ultimate hardship. Although it was sad, it was a beautiful portrayal of love and tragedy told through the honest voice of the boyfriend. Through minute details and descriptions, Meno opens windows to the characters' souls that force the reader to connect with the story, place and time. When I finished this story I had to just breath it in for a moment, because it truly was a grand piece of work.

Meno's contemporary tales made me feel like I was spying on the characters, suddenly comprehending what dwells in the deepest corner of their minds. Some of the stories take on a fantastic fable-like tone, with people turning into clouds, and wild animals parading around neighborhoods. I usually like to stick to reality, but the way the stories present themselves, it doesn't seem like anything is out of the ordinary. I enjoyed the realistic stories more however, and was completely amused by the pretentious art student Audrey in "Art School is Boring So."

Overall, I was completely amazed by Meno's ability as a writer, and his range. Some of the components in this collection are so wonderfully bizarre and gorgeous that each story gleams with an originality that you just don't see everyday. I have never read anything like this before and I loved the variety. It has caused me to think harder about my surroundings and the people inhabiting them. What are they thinking about, what story consumes their lives? I think Meno must wonder those things too, and with "Demons in the Spring," he is able to put his interpretation into writing.

Some stories are action filled and some are not. Either way, the beauty that it is simply life will undoubtedly affect you. "Demons in the Spring" is at times uplifting, occasionally heart-breaking and always wonderful. Read this! You will not be let down. Besides, with titles like "Miniature Elephants are Popular," you really can't lose.

Next week's book will be international bestseller "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson.



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### New DVDs:

**"Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" (PG)**  
starring Ben Stein, John Deonarine, Richard Sternberg, Guillermo Gonzalez and Christopher Hitchens

**"The Incredible Hulk" (PG-13)**  
starring Edward Norton, Liv Tyler, Tim Roth, William Hurt and Christina Cabot

**"The Strangers" (R)**  
starring Liv Tyler, Gemma Ward, Scott Speedman, Kip Weeks and Laura Margolis

### New Books

**"Extreme Measures: A Thriller"**  
by Vince Flynn

**"The Way I Am"**  
by Eminem

### New Music:

**"Black Ice"**  
by AC/DC

**"Berlin: Live at St. Ann S Ware"**  
by Lou Reed

**"Is It the Sea?"**  
by Bonnie Prince Billy

**"Mushroom Jazz Vol. 6"**  
by Mark Farina

**"Hope For the Helpless"**  
by Brett Dennenn

**"Surfing"**  
by Megapuss

**"Los De Atras Vienen Conmigo"**  
by Calle 13

**"Skeletal Lamping"**  
by Of Montreal

**"Missiles"**  
by Dears

**"Devils in My Details"**  
by Ohgr

**"Born Into This"**  
by Doom

**"Recivers"**  
by Parts & Labor

**"The Young Disciples"**  
by Eccentric Soul

**"High Time"**  
by Pit er Pat

**"Flashy"**  
by Electric Six

**"Xs on Your Eyes"**  
by Plus/Minus

**"Saint Dymphna"**  
by Gang Gang Dance

**"Car Alarm"**  
by Sea & the Cake

**"Damn Right Rebel Proud"**  
by Hank Williams III

**"Remixes"**  
by Sebastian

**"Of All Things"**  
by Jazzanova

**"Clutch of the Tiger"**  
by Shawn Lee & Clutchy Hopkins

**"Back to Now"**  
by Labelle

**"Everything/Everything"**  
by Simon Bookish

**"1218 Part II"**  
by Lil Rob

**"High School Musical 3 Soundtrack"**



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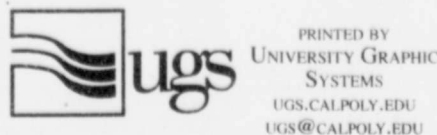
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Mustang Daily

"Whoever proposes to me better present me with a hand-carved Scrabble board. I want that more than a ring."

# MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Editor in chief: Marlice van Romburgh  
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

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[www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net)

## Green is good but blue is better

Throughout history, consumer movements have been central to revolutions. The French Revolution was brought to a boiling point over the demand for bread. On Feb. 1, 1960, four African American students made history by sitting at a segregated lunch counter at a North Carolina Woolworth's store in the seats reserved for white customers. Gandhi rallied the Indian nation against imperial British rule and their salt monopoly with the simple and radical call for the Indians to march to the sea to make their own salt.

Do not underestimate the power of the consumer. Private consumption expenditures in the United States represent about 70 percent of the GDP. We live in a consumer-driven economy. We can choose to either deny it or to put all of that leverage to good use.

Today, we live and work in a world of vast complexity, where the apparently simple acts of buying and selling have repercussions on people's lives around the world and the ethics of our livelihoods must be accordingly re-evaluated. The implications of even driving a car or drinking a cup of coffee have social, environmental and economic consequences far beyond the limits of our immediate experience, which we are morally obligated to take into account. It is time to re-examine some of the deeply held notions that underlie our lifestyles.

Corporations and consumerism can be vehicles for change. The question is what type of change that will be. Green is good, but it frequently breaks down as a strategy when it hits the marketplace. Not surprisingly, there's a sense of green fatigue amongst many consumers, largely because it's being promoted as a cure-all in ways it doesn't deliver. The common definition of environmental sustainability is mainly concerned with the fate of the planet and how that affects our lives. To many, "green" means choosing the environment, nature and the atmosphere over all things. But I've come to believe that changing the way people look at the world is more important in the long run than focusing only on the seemingly marginal ecological impact of the individual actions they take. We need to meet most people where they're at today: as busy, complex humans looking to do the best thing for their family and themselves.

Our primary challenge is to inspire people to make better choices. We need to invest more time in making a difference through our routine activities and the things we buy every day. To achieve this we need a broader platform than 'green.' That's where Adam Werbach steps in. We've all got our role models, and he's one of mine. Werbach is an environmental activist who was elected as the youngest-ever national president of the Sierra Club in 1996 when he was just 23 years old. In late 2004, he wrote and presented the now-infamous speech "Is Environmentalism Dead?" This widely-circulated speech suggested that advances in environmentalism had stalled, due to outdated thinking and approaches. He challenged the environmental

establishment to tackle the issues differently, by linking environmental goals with other broad social and economic goals. Werbach also formed a company, Act Now Productions, to consult non-profits and work with corporations that wished to green their enterprise, including clients such as Procter & Gamble, Cisco Systems and General Mills. In 2006, he controversially began to work with Wal-Mart to help lead their efforts in sustainability. His company, Act Now, has merged with the global advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi, which has over 7,000 employees in 84 countries and strives to be the world's most powerful sustainability advocate.

As Werbach puts it, "I'm not asking you to give up on green — far from it. Green is the beating heart of the emerging 'blue' movement. Green represents the simple and inarguable wisdom of ecology: that all things are connected. Blue brings

Green is the beating heart of  
the emerging 'blue'  
movement.

—Adam Werbach  
Act Now

together a broader set of human concerns, from practice to price, from nature to society. Blue integrates all four streams of sustainability: social, cultural, economic and environmental. Blue puts the way we treat ourselves and each other at the center of our focus."

There are three desired outcomes for the blue movement. First, to measurably improve the quality of life of the people who join. Second, to engage as many people as possible in the effort, and third, to increase the effectiveness of their activism.

But how do we bring our aspirations for the world into what we buy? Nano-practices are the thousands of tiny things you do each day that make up your lifestyle. What you eat for breakfast, the type of shoes you wear, your daily commute, etc. Instead of trying to change the big things about your identity, start by finding daily or recurring practices that can express your values. A personal sustainability practice, at its most basic level, is a repeatable action that's good for you, your community and the planet. A lifestyle movement requires the construction of a set of practices that make up the way we wish to live our lives.

The primary goal of the blue movement is to inspire one billion people to invent their own 'personal sustainability practices' (a.k.a. PSP).

We live on a planet full of consumer choices and yet we largely fail to choose well. Start by setting your own PSPs if you don't have already. It can start as simple as committing yourself to buying locally-grown produce at Farmers' Market every Thursday. The process of personal improvement is never-ending, and if you already have a practice, recommit to it or begin another. Once you have your PSP, share them with a friend. The possibilities for PSPs are endless.

Blue needs you to invent it. No one owns it; it's a platform. Everyone is welcome to catalyze action around it, as long as it improves life at a personal, community and planetary level. Start now.

Ben Eckold is a business senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.



I agree that Palin is simply using rhetoric to inspire the rural voters who put importance on the buzz words that matter most in those areas. And sure, everyone's entitled to their own version of the word patriotism. But in the end, it is

no different that the rhetorical buzz words the Obama campaign has used to inspire voters in metropolitan areas. This issue overall just displays the lack of intellect our country's voters have; choosing emotion over logic.

—Ryan R

Response to "Is patriotism partisan?"

I agree with the message to vote, but I believe that only the third-party presidential candidates offer meaningful change. Obama voted for the \$700 billion bailout of banks, the

renewal of the PATRIOT Act, and retroactive immunity for telecommunication companies who helped spy on U.S. citizens, and supports continued war with Afghanistan, a possible war with Iran, and no reforms for the inflationary Federal Reserve system. This is change? Note that this is not an endorsement of McCain; he voted the same way in these decisions (except for the retroactive immunity vote; he was absent), and his administration will be just a continuation of the Bush presidency.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Taxpayers aren't responsible for your health and happiness

Dustin Stone, did you read what the definition of a right is in the article you cited? The right to life means that nobody can take someone's life away! That in no way means that the government (read: taxpayers) are responsible for paying for the health care of others.

I am saying you are wrong for thinking that health care falls under the right to life. For example, your right to life means that it is illegal for someone to kill you, but I have no obligation to pay for your health care. Your health care is your responsibility, not mine.

Universal child health care was already tried in Hawaii. It lasted seven months, after which it ended because people who could afford health care for their children took advantage of the "free" (paid for by taxpayers) health care from the state. I'd imagine that the entitlement mentality of this country would lead to a similar situation on a federal level if universal health care were available nationwide.

Oh, I'm glad you didn't get started on the "pursuit of happiness," because it seems to me that by your definition of a right, the government should buy me a nice house, a Ferrari, a ski boat and a motorcycle so that I can be happy! You and I both know that such an idea is absurd, so take some responsibility and work hard to take care of yourself and live a happy life. The government will protect your life, not make it more comfortable!

David Lewis

mechanical engineering junior

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words or less and are subject  
to editing for spelling,  
grammar and style.



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I believe that voters should see what Bob Barr, Cynthia McKinney, and Ralph Nader have to offer before they choose their presidential candidate. These three candidates are anti-war, against bailouts, and believe in reforms in the Federal Reserve system; very important issues in these economically bad times. I'm voting for change this election. I'm voting for a third party candidate.

—Michael McThrow

Response to "Today's the day: make sure  
your voice is heard"



# MUSTANG DAILY comics and games

## BLUNDERGRADS

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)

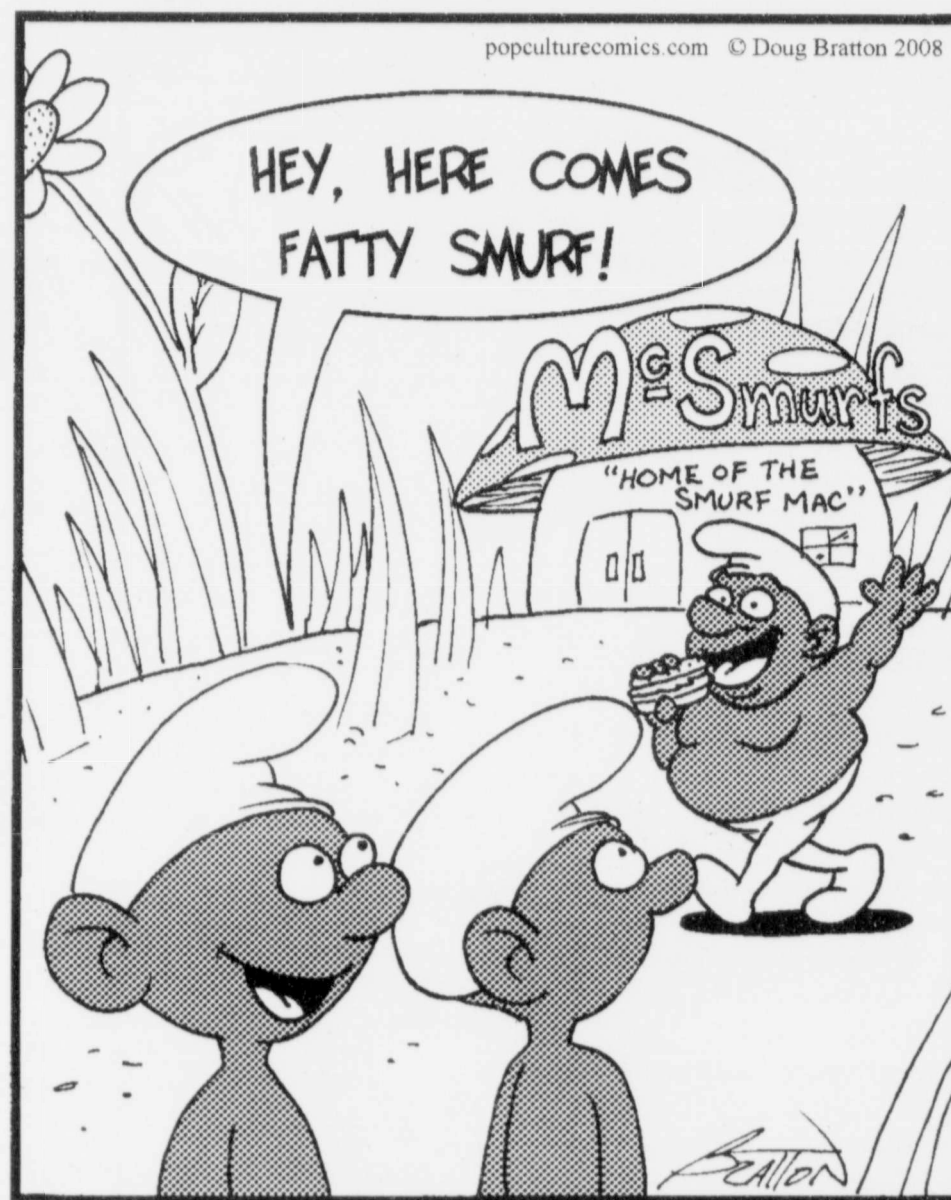


## Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



## Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

popculturecomics.com © Doug Bratton 2008



How the Epidemic Spreads

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	4	1					7	9

V. EASY

# 77

## The New York Times Crossword

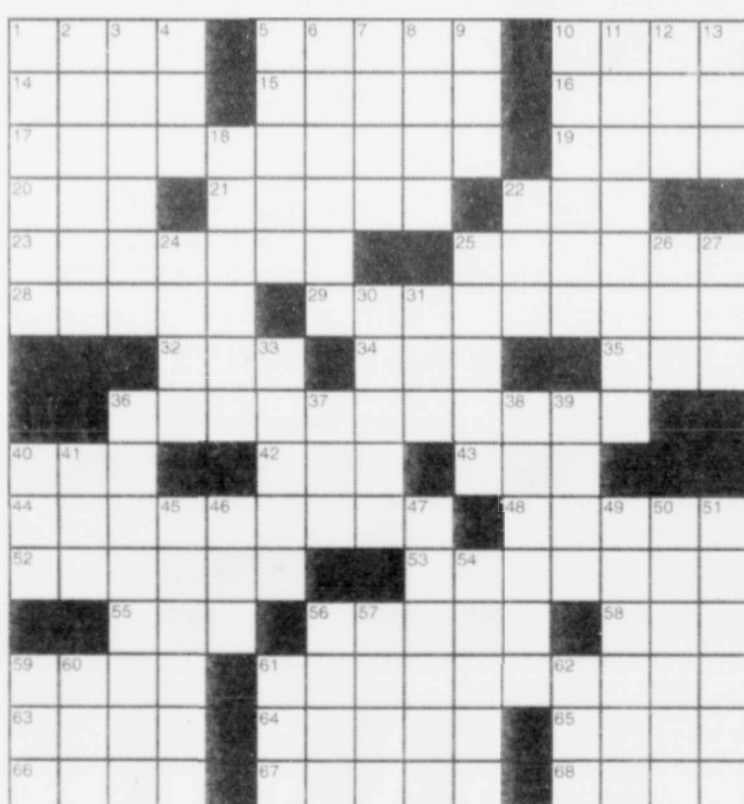
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0923

- Across**
- In-box clogger
  - Secluded valleys
  - Intent look
  - To boot
  - Race with handoffs
  - Barrel of laughs
  - One risking arrest
  - Environ
  - "\_\_\_ pig's eye!"
  - Farm size measure
  - One of eight Eng. kings
  - The "V" in K.J.V.
  - Trousers feature
  - Madison Ave. worker
  - Some seers read them
  - In medias \_\_\_
  - Gun lobby org.
  - Phone no. abbr.
  - Sink items
  - Geol. or astron.
  - Stephen of "Michael Collins"
  - \_\_\_ polloi
  - Trattoria offering
  - Twist, as a wet cloth or a neck
  - Beat but good
  - Had for dinner
  - Part of an iceberg that's visible
  - "Like me"
  - Egg cells
  - Frame of mind
  - Where 17-, 29-, 36- and 44-Across often wind up
  - Author Rice
  - Santa \_\_\_ Derby (annual horse race)
  - Stretch out on a sofa, say
  - Razz
  - Note on a Chinese menu
  - Nosegay
- Down**
- Drool, basically
  - Made smooth
  - Teeming, as with bees
  - Group with enforcers, with "the"
  - Painter El \_\_\_
  - Found out, British-style
  - Actress Sommer
  - Glasgow denials
  - Neighbor of Isr.
  - First-class
  - Radio hosts' medium
  - Actress Caldwell
  - When a flight is due in: Abbr.
  - Two-time Oscar winner Luise
  - Bard's "before"
  - Calcutta wrap
  - Lock horns
  - \_\_\_ sells
  - Superlative finish
  - Conclude by
  - "Exodus" hero
  - Throat ailment
  - Sound after a hang-up

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	A	N	I	C	O	M	A	H	A	T	H	E
E	N	O	L	A	C	A	N	O	N	R	O	M
M	O	T	E	T	C	R	A	M	S	O	R	A
O	N	A	C	R	U	I	S	E	A	L	O	N
S	A	H	A	R	A	P	R	O	P	S		
A	R	A	R	A	T	S	O	A	R			
R	E	B	E	L	I	N	O	R	E	C	O	N
E	E	L	L	U	G	N	U	T	S	A	V	A
A	L	E	C	N	O	E	L	N	A	M	E	S
A	M	U	R		C	O	V	E	R	T		
A	P	R	E	S		T	R	O	W	E	L	
I	L	L	B	E	A	R	O	U	N	D	A	R
N	E	A	T	B	O	N	E		A	R	T	I
E	R	N		U	L	N	A	R		Y	I	E
Z	O		P	E	A	L	S		S	O	R	E



Puzzle by Richard Chisholm

- So far
- Query to a brown cow
- Home of County Clare
- N.Y.C.-to-Miami dir.
- Balancer of the books, for short
- Quiet aircraft
- Bygone school dance
- Numbskulls
- "Same goes for me"
- Dickens output
- Very cool, in slang
- Dog collar attachment
- Domini
- It keeps things on the level
- Capt.'s superior person
- Unnamed person
- Author McEwan
- Peak seen from Zurich

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# Dally

continued from page 12

out passes where he consistently was making the right decision with the ball," Ellerson recalls. "He's not just a cog here. He's a make-it-happen guy."

This season, he's one of just seven FCS quarterbacks to have thrown no more than one interception, and has been at the helm of an offense that is fourth in the FCS in fewest fumbles lost, with two.

"With our style of play, with what we do, that's unique," Ellerson said of Dally's lack of turnovers at the controls of a scheme with so many opportunities for mistakes.

The only FCS quarterback to commit fewer last season, Johnson, was chosen by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the fifth round of April's NFL Draft.

The last signal caller from Cal Poly to be selected was Seth Burford, who was taken by the San Diego Chargers in 2002's seventh round.

Could Dally make the transi-

tion, as well?

"I don't even like talking about it right now because my job is to lead the Cal Poly Mustangs to a national championship," he says. "But afterward, it'd be comforting to know I had a chance. If someone gives me a chance, I know I wouldn't do them wrong by it. I know that I'll make believers out of them."

One thing he always had figured out was why he kept at it.

"If not, I've made great friends and I wouldn't change anything," he says. "I've had a lot of fun."

getmore  
ONLINE 

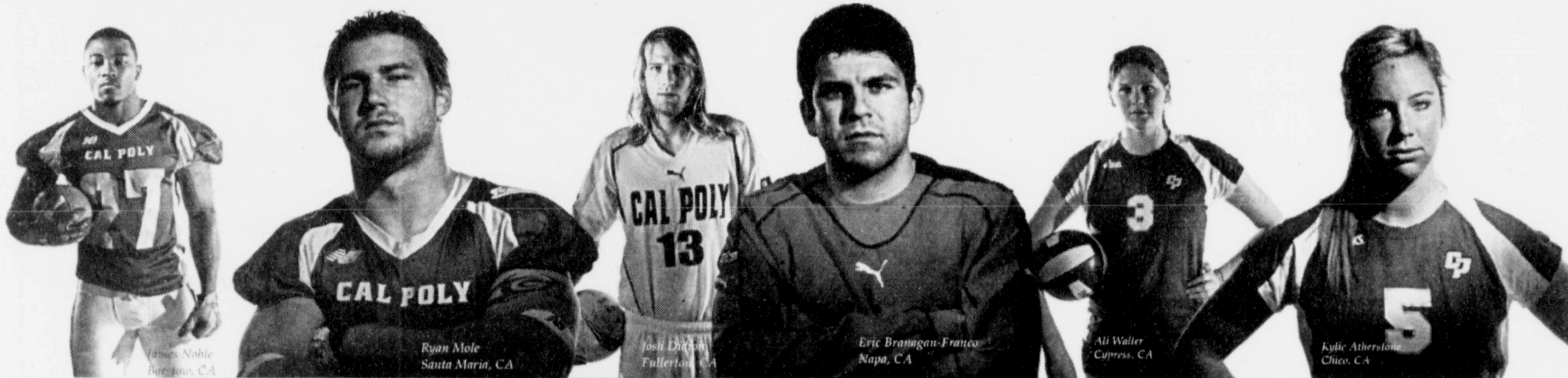
Which NFL team may be most interested in Cal Poly senior wide receiver Ramses Barden? Find out at the Mustang Daily Off the Page blog at:

apps.mustangdaily.net/offthepage

su | do | ku  
Today's SOLUTIONS

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

## THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS



### FOOTBALL

SATURDAY OCT. 25  
VS. SOUTHERN UTAH  
6:00 PM

ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

Open Tailgate in lot H-12  
opens at 3:00 p.m.

Parents' Weekend  
FREE seat cushions for  
the first 1,000 fans in the  
Stampede Club Tailgate

### MUSTANG FOOTBALL

#### STUDENT TAILGATE

SATURDAY OCT. 25  
4:00PM MOTT LAWN

PICK UP YOUR MUSTANG MANIAC  
SHIRT, EAT, HAVE FUN AND HEAD  
DOWN TO THE GAME!

GET YOUR PRE-GAME MEAL  
BURGERS, HOT DOGS, SALADS,  
CHIPS, DRINKS, AND DESSERT  
USING: DINING CREDIT, CAMPUS  
EXPRESS, PLUS DOLLARS OR CASH

MUSIC • FACE PAINTING •  
DANCE AND STUNT TEAM •  
GAMES AND FUN!

### MEN'S SOCCER

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22  
VS. UC IRVINE  
ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM  
7:00 PM

### VOLLEYBALL

FRIDAY OCT. 24  
VS. CS NORTHRIDGE  
7:00 PM

SATURDAY OCT. 25  
VS. CS FULLERTON  
7:00 PM  
MOTT GYM

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL CAL POLY STUDENTS!

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# The No. 1 option

**When Cal Poly quarterback Jonathan Dally came out of high school, no Division I schools wanted him. Now, he's the top-rated passer in all of the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA).**

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

Without a doubt, Jonathan Dally has one of the strangest "personal" entries of any player biography in the 2008 Cal Poly football media guide.

Most list activities like surfing, watching movies or playing video games among off-field pursuits.

Then there's Dally's.

"Has solved Einstein's Riddle," it reads. "Can finish Rubik's Cube in under two minutes."

It might not be all that strange to Dally, though. He's always been about figuring things out.

Like how to fit in with his new varsity teammates entering his freshman year at Righetti High in Santa Maria when they didn't know he was actually from the Pacific Northwest (where he had settled after being born in Fairbanks, Alaska and living in Las Vegas and Sacramento).

"Everyone was from Orcutt or Lakeview," the senior quarterback remembers. "And I was from Seattle."

Or how lettering as a guard in basketball at the prep level could contribute to his football mobility, which he used in 2007 to rush for 763 yards and 12 touchdowns — both team highs.

"You've got to know where to move and what's around you," he says. "It's a lot faster game; the play never stops."

Or heading into 2007, how to translate his leadership at Allan Hancock College, also in Santa Maria, to a four-year program two years removed from making an appearance in the quarterfinals of the Football Championship Subdivision (then Division I-AA) playoffs.

"When I jumped (to Cal Poly)," he says,

"athletes were a little more bought-in because it's four years; it's not just everybody for themselves. They buy into a program."

Or how to take advantage of arguably the FCS' best supporting cast — one that he coordinated in 2007 to 487.1 yards of total offense per game, trailing only national champion Appalachian State.

"I've trained myself in pre-game (preparation) and in film (study) to focus on what's happening around me," he explains. "I know (6-foot-6, senior receiver Ramses Barden's) guy is 5-10 and if I throw it at a certain height, there's a margin for error that way. I know Tre'dale (Tolver, a senior receiver and NCAA West Regional 100-meter dash qualifier) is a lot faster than the guy on him, so there's a margin for error over there."

Occasionally, he's even been able to figure out exactly what his coaches are thinking.

"He's so much on the same wavelength with (offensive coordinator) Ian (Shields) and myself," Mustangs head coach Rich Ellerson says, "we'll be getting ready to say something to him coming off the field and he'll answer the question before we can even get it out. He's that much in sync."

Such praise wasn't always a given, though.

"Everybody throughout high school and junior college would say, 'There's this D-III school in Oregon — you'd do great up there,' or 'Occidental, you'd be able to play in their offense,'" Dally remembers.

"I just wanted a little bit more. I knew if I wasn't going to go to a D-I football program, football probably wasn't it for me."

A connection closer to home sparked the possibility of playing at Cal Poly.

Mustangs senior running back Ryan Mole, an Orcutt native who was a year ahead of Dally when the two played together at Righetti from 2001 to 2003, broached the idea after transferring to Cal Poly from Sacramento State.

Because Mole switched schools within the same subdivision, he had to sit out 2006, when he spent the time earning an associate degree at Allan Hancock, where his friendship with Dally grew.

"He was like, 'Where are you going to go?' " Dally says. "I said, 'Cal Poly, they're kind of interested' and he goes, 'I'll play for them.' I was like, 'You play for them, I play for them?' and he was all, 'Perfect!' Ever since then it's been a dream come true."

Dally's upbeat temperament seems the perfect complement to Mole.

"He's a character," Mole says. "He always puts a smile on your face, always makes you laugh."

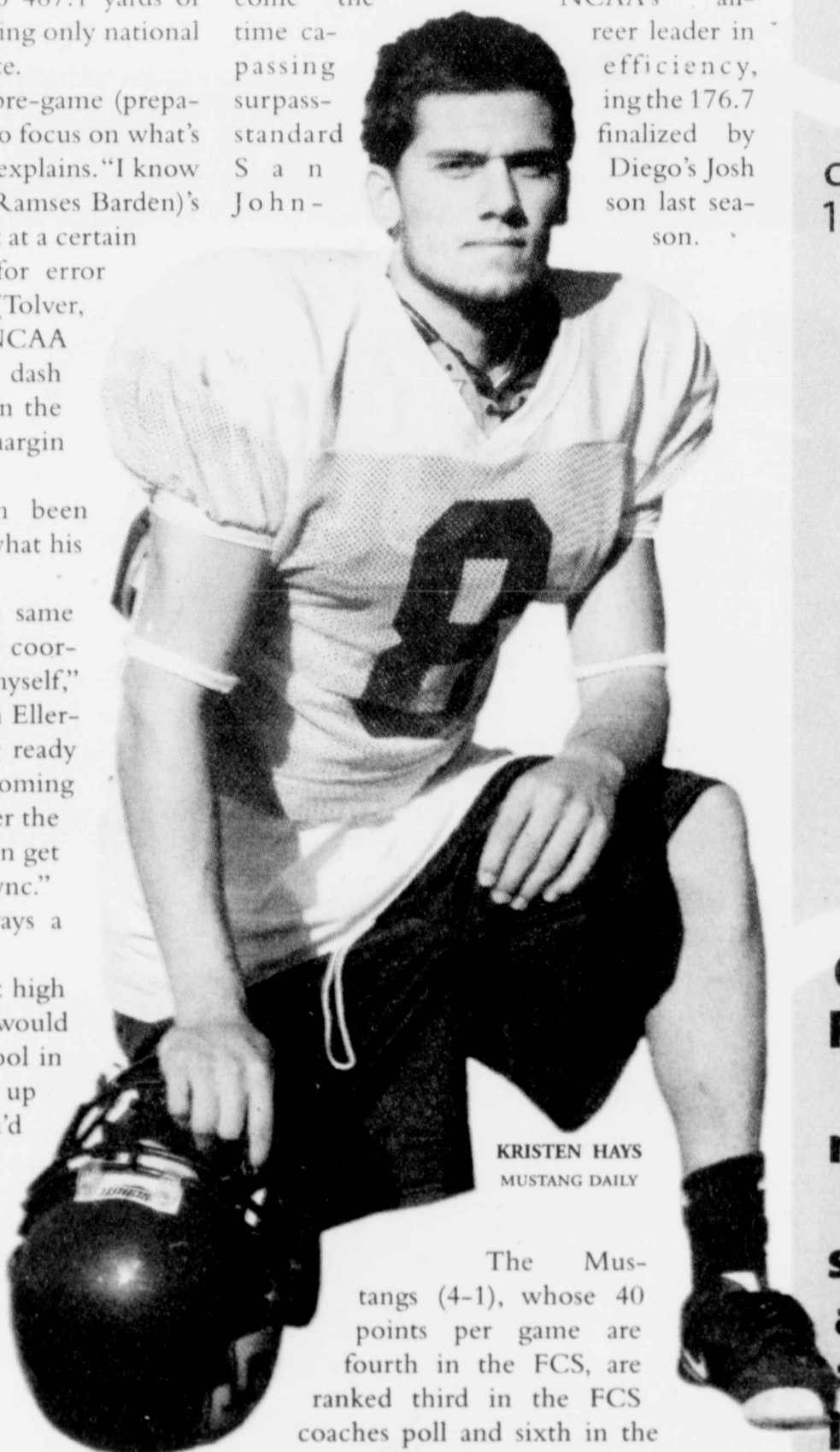
While that may be, his play has been no joke.

After completing 54.2 percent of his 192 passes for 2,238 yards and a school-record 29 touchdowns with just five interceptions in 2007, the 6-foot, 190-pound Dally was named by The Sports Network as the fifth-best quarterback in the FCS heading into this season.

He hasn't disappointed, improving his accuracy and completing 62.9 percent of his

89 passes for 986 yards and nine scores with just one interception.

His efficiency rating of 187.1 is the best in the FCS. Coupled with his second-best 196.7 mark last season, he's on pace to become the NCAA's all-time career leader in passing efficiency, finishing the 176.7 finalized by Diego's Josh Johnson last season.



KRISTEN HAYS  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Mustangs (4-1), whose 40 points per game are fourth in the FCS, are ranked third in the FCS coaches poll and sixth in the Sports Network media poll.

Cal Poly's triple-option attack has been so diverse that Dally's 250 rushing yards (and five touchdowns on 67 carries) make him one of five Mustangs to have rushed for at least 149 yards.

"It's not a matter of keeping them happy because they're happy winning," Dally emphasizes of his teammates. "We've done a great job recruiting people who don't want the ball, but are ready when they get the ball."

While Dally's selflessness may not have needed any development, his awareness was carefully honed by Allan Hancock head coach Kris Dutra.

"He really taught me how to throw on the run," Dally says. "He taught me how to be patient and taught me if the play's not right, calm down, because we're going to run more plays."

That composure was evident early at Cal Poly.

"He's always focused," Mole says. "He's really cautious. He's not going to make a pitch if he doesn't think he can make it. He's not going to make mistakes. If there's nothing there, he's not going to force it. He's a really smart quarterback."

It didn't take long for Ellerson to notice. "I remember in June (of 2007) — strikingly — him being on the perimeter over and over again on bootleg passes and sprint-

see Dally, page 11

**No. 1 in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) in passing efficiency**

His rating of 187.1, coupled with last year's 196.7, puts him on pace to surpass the 176.7 career record of San Diego's Josh Johnson

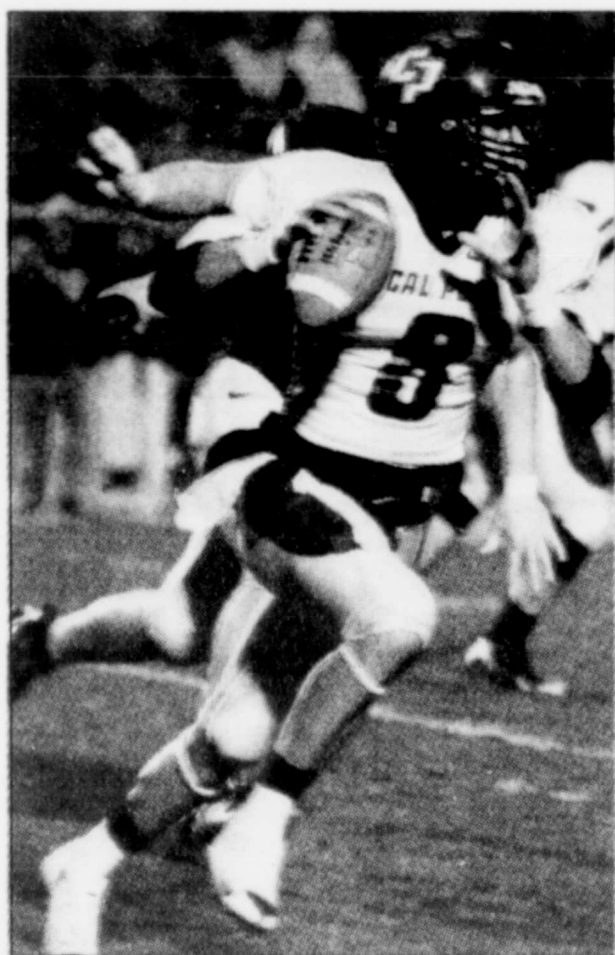
**Named by The Sports Network as the fifth-best FCS quarterback entering this season**

**One of just seven FCS quarterbacks to have thrown no more than one interception this season, and leads an offense that is fourth in the FCS in fewest fumbles lost**

**2007 All-Great West Football Conference Second Team member**

**College Sporting News National Player of the Week — Oct. 29, 2007**

For amassing 572 yards of total offense and accounting for six touchdowns in a 48-28 win at Idaho State



STEPHEN BRUA SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly senior quarterback Jonathan Dally looks for an open man during the Mustangs' 42-28 win at South Dakota State on Saturday.