

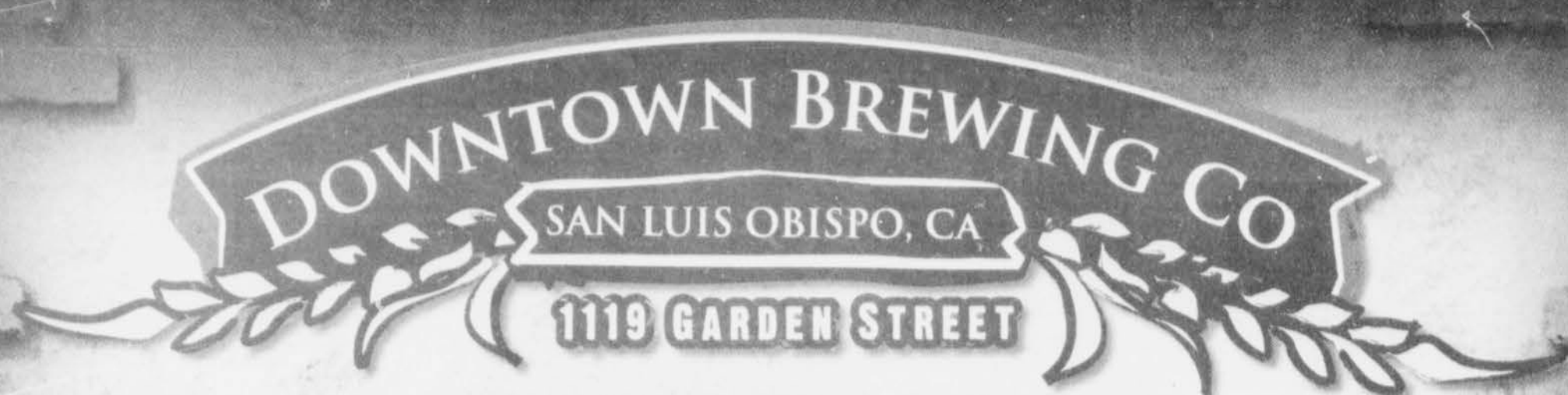
MUSTANG DAILY

Monday, March 30, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

Volume LXXII, No. 113

back
to school



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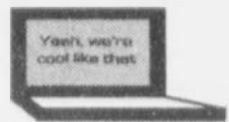
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New quarter brings upgrades to Blackboard

Chris Jagger
MUSTANG DAILY

Students and faculty checking out their new classes on Blackboard this quarter may notice some new applications and features on Cal Poly's learning management system.

One of the biggest upgrades will be the ability to receive information posted on Blackboard without having to actually access the system. Faculty will now have the option to e-mail announcements to students, making communication more efficient. Students will also have the ability to subscribe to a forum via RSS Feeds. Blackboard, which is accessed through the Cal Poly Portal, will automatically e-mail out reminders whenever a new thread is added.

Discussion boards will be more user-friendly. Students will be able to perform a search for specific threads in discussion boards instead of filtering through them. They will also be able to save posts as drafts and run spellcheck.

A new and improved grading center will help both students and faculty. For faculty, the grading center will act more like Excel, making it easier to calculate grades. They will also have the option of providing written feedback to clarify grades. Before, students would not know why they got certain scores on assignments or exams because they would only see a number and nothing else.

"With the new Blackboard, students will hopefully be a little more connected," ITS consultant Tina Malone "I know that students will be on a computer off and on all day, but for them to have to go to Blackboard every single time can be a tedious thing. I know for sure that they are in their e-mail all the time."

In order for Information Technology Services to upgrade to the new Blackboard 8 system, the program will be unavailable between Tuesday,

March 24 and Sunday, March 29. Fortunately these dates coincide with spring break.

"If students want to see what is coming up for spring, they will not be able to access their spring blackboard courses until the blackboard system is done with the upgrade and it's up again, but a lot of faculty will either e-mail students before the quarter starts or they'll wait until the first day of class," said Malone.

ITS needs more time than usual to finalize this particular upgrade because both Blackboard's software and hardware are being updated.

"We do have regular version updates and we do get better functionality, security and all those normal things that come with the software upgrade," said Terri Bruns, coordinator of Collaboration Support for ITS. "But in this case we're also bringing the hardware into a more modern state where we can manage it with more flexibility to ensure the best performance."

According to ITS statistics, 1,149 faculty members had Blackboard turned on during winter quarter and 18,447 students were enrolled in at least one course that used it.

Blackboard gives faculty the ability to post learning resources online in a centralized location specific to class sections. Students can use the system to take online exams and quizzes, participate in discussion forums, read PDF files and view grades. Blackboard is eco-friendly as well because teachers can post resources instead of printing them.

"I think the concept of Blackboard is necessary," said Malone. "Not necessarily Blackboard itself, but the ability for faculty to share resources with students is definitely something that needs to be available."

The Blackboard support Web site, accessed through the My Cal Poly portal, has a comprehensive list of upgrades for spring.

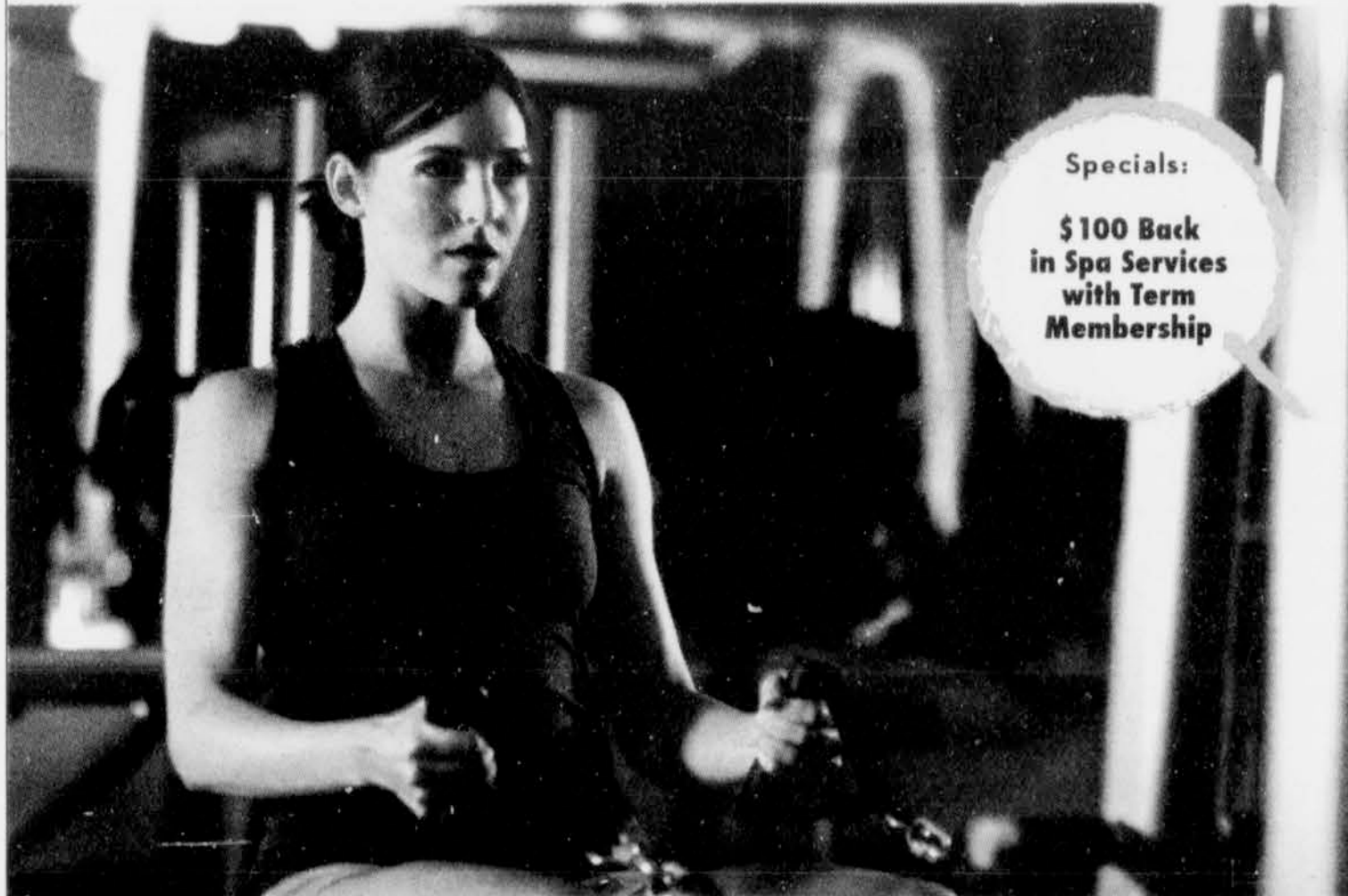
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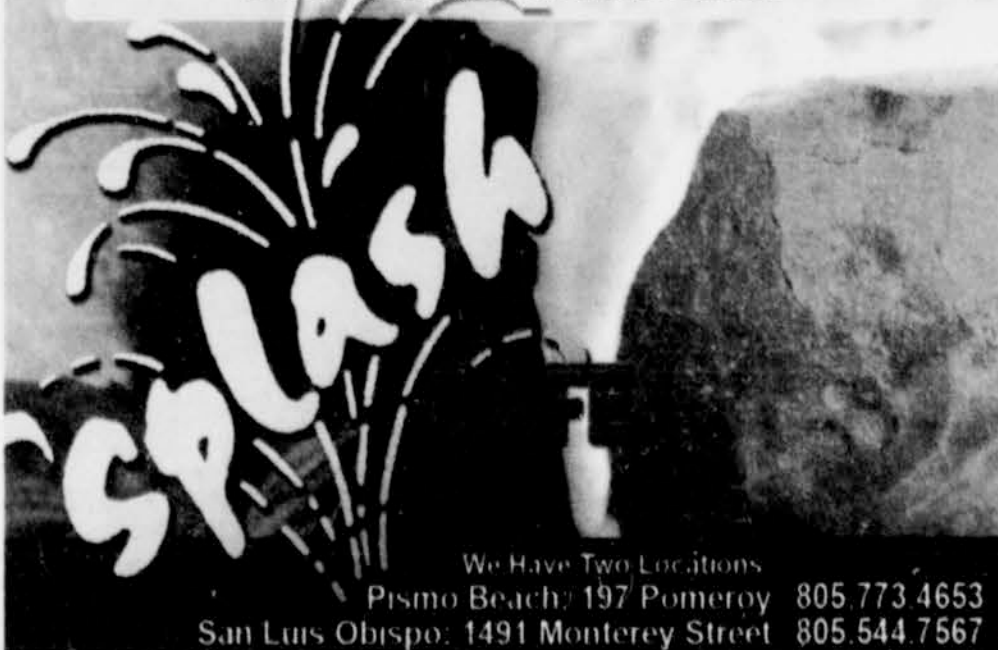
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Unemployed workers start flood of volunteerism

Heather Lalley

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) — After getting pink-slipped from his cement-plant job a week before Christmas, Nick Maloney indulged in some moping.

For a week or two, the 27-year-old from Fairborn, Ohio, watched TV, played video games and slept until noon. But then he began to consider more meaningful ways to spend his newfound downtime: volunteering with a suicide-prevention organization.

"It's very rewarding," said Maloney, who lost both his stepbrother and his sister to suicide. He is now considering making his volunteer job permanent. "There's a definite possibility of getting into this full-time. I just have to see what doors this opens."

Nonprofit groups around the country are reporting record-setting volunteer interest, helped in part by high unemployment that has given people more free time and resume gaps to fill. Charity groups also attribute the rise to President Barack Obama's call to community service and a general sense of wanting to help others through tough economic times.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that tracks volunteer numbers, does not have statistics from the most recent months. Typically volunteer ranks shrink in a recession, but an estimated 1 million people participated in January's Martin Luther King Day of Service, twice as many as in 2008, said spokesman Sandy Scott.

His group and others are seeing evidence of a volunteer surge:

— Second Harvest Heartland, the St. Paul-based hunger-relief organization, signed up 4,000 volunteers in the last four months,

more than it had in the previous year and a half, said spokeswoman Joan Wadkins.

— Applications to AmeriCorps, the national service group, more than tripled to about 9,700 applications this February compared to last, and applications for the Peace Corps spiked 37 percent during the days surrounding Obama's inauguration.

— Twice as many volunteers as usual signed up in January for Chicago Cares, a group that links volunteers with hundreds of projects across the city, and affiliate New York Cares also doubled its number of new volunteers year-to-year.

"We can't open the doors wide enough," said Gary Bagley, executive director of New York Cares. "Everything we're doing is full. Our orientations are booked three weeks in advance."

Bagley's group has started surveying new volunteers about the reasons for their interest. Some 30 percent say they've had a change in their work situation. An equal number report being unemployed. About 25 percent say they're heeding Obama's call to service. And the others say they want to help those hit hard by the financial crisis.

"It's an interesting sort of harmonic convergence," Bagley said.

The flood of volunteers has been so great that Second Harvest Heartland set up an all-volunteer "executive council" to come up with ways to mobilize all its new workers. Chicago Cares has added more daytime programs, a good fit for unemployed volunteers. And Bagley admits feeling the squeeze as his group tries to find work for the flood of new helpers.

He fears losing good volunteers if he can't make the experi-

ence a positive one for them.

"You'll get a lot of people in the door and then they're going to be done," Bagley said.

Anne Abbott is part of Second Harvest Heartland's council of volunteers — a good fit for the organizational effectiveness specialist from Bloomington, Minn.

Abbott, 57, had tutored and mentored kids for years but decided to step up her volunteerism after work at her own business slowed to a trickle and she closed up shop at the end of December.

"It's such good work. It's so

meaningful," she said. "I found myself trying to get the corporate full-time work, turning myself into a pretzel to meet their needs. And I thought to myself, 'What am I doing this for? Go with the nonprofit.'"

Now, Abbott is using her volunteer work, in part, to "re-network."

"Even though I don't have anything, I know I'll get something. I just know it," she said.

It may not be their primary motivation, but volunteering is a savvy move for those who are

unemployed or underemployed, Scott said.

"It's a way to stay active, connected, hone your professional skills or learn new ones. Or have a door opened to potential jobs," he said.

Abbott has no regrets about closing her business. In fact, she said, "I sleep better."

"There is such a need and I don't even have a clue as to what the need is, it's so big and it's so tremendous. It's overwhelming," she said. "So, if I can make a small difference, then it's all worth it."



SCOTT APPLEWHITE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Michelle Obama, center back, shakes hands with students of the YouthBuild AmeriCorps community service program who gathered on the National Mall in Washington on March 17 to celebrate their 30th anniversary by building an affordable, energy-efficient house.

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Wine flows through Central Coast and Cal Poly

Chris Jagger
MUSTANG DAILY

Wine is big on the Central Coast. Really big. So big that even Cal Poly has its own wine program—and wine. The wine industry is enormous along the Central Coast and Cal Poly is in the heart of it, surrounded by luscious vineyards in all directions.

Whether you dabble in it or drink a lot of it, wine's presence in San Luis Obispo is undeniable. World-renowned wineries pop up everywhere you look, including one on campus. Various wine tasting rooms dot the landscape of downtown. Wine is even sold at the downtown Cal Poly merchandise store, not too shabby for a dry campus.

It's not surprising that all this wine-love has trickled down to the local college students. Business senior Ryan McKinley has grown quite fond of wine since coming to Cal Poly.

"I'm a cabernet sauvignon man," McKinley said. "I like the full body, the rich flavor. It's not sweet like a lot of whites."

Like most college students, McKinley is on a relatively tight budget, and doesn't want to spend precious cash on expensive wines. He prefers to purchase cheaper wines at Trader Joe's and Cost Plus World Market. These stores sell bottles from \$4 to \$12 and offer excellent deals on Central

Coast wines. McKinley notes that wine is popular amongst students, but isn't your typical party drink like beer, and probably never will be.

"People drink wine when they want to have a nice, classy time," McKinley said. "It's good for dates and celebrations. It's not really an everyday type of thing cause nobody has that type of budget."

San Luis Obispo wine country is capable of influencing even the most seasoned wine drinkers. Physics senior Florian Mettetal grew up in France and has been drinking wine with meals since he was young, yet he still considers San Luis Obispo a wine-drinker's paradise.

"There are a lot of amazing wineries around here," Mettetal said. "I've been on a couple wine tours and those have always been great. When I go to a winery, I'm willing to spend \$50 dollars on a bottle."

One way students experience the Central Coast wine culture is through wine-tasting. Going on weekend wine-touring excursions is a great way to spend a sunny afternoon while becoming familiar with the local wine culture. Grace Keggel, the tasting room manager at Per Bacco Cellars, a San Luis Obispo winery and vineyard, said she has noticed a recent increase in wine-tasting popularity amongst students, who tend to prefer white wines.

While wine discounts are not offered to all Cal Poly students, Per Bacco Cellars lends support to wine and viticulture students.

"For wine and viticulture majors we comp the tasting fee," Keggel said. "We give them a free tasting and then a 25 percent discount because we consider them part of the industry."

At local vineyard Domaine Alfred, tasting room manager Andrea Chan has no-

ticed similar trends in student wine tasting. "They like all of our wines," Chan said. "There's one that is a little less expensive that they seem to be drawn to."

Often students will organize classy winery tours, sometimes renting limos and dressing formally.

"I see a lot more students here, but we've always had students come through,"

see Wine, page 2



PATRICK FINA MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly wine program recently started bottling three different types of wine.

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Wines

continued from page 7

Chan said. "We'll usually get a group of students every Saturday. Usually it's because someone's turning 21."

An increasing number of wine connoisseurs have found their niche in Cal Poly's wine and viticulture major.

Wine and viticulture officially became a degree program spring quarter of 2004, although it had been evolving through Cal Poly's viticulture program for 20 years. The major was developed in response to a growing wine industry, particularly in the Central Coast.

"The feeling was that we needed a strong program to support the industry and there was also a sense that

the scope of the program needed to be more than just grape growing and making wine literally," said John Peterson, head of the horticulture and crop sciences department.

Students enrolled in the wine and viticulture program learn about all aspects of the wine industry. It is a major that has high student interest and currently has 300 students enrolled. It combines information and educational coursework in viticulture, the process of growing wine grapes and enology, the process of making wine and agricultural business. Students choose one of these components as a concentration.

"The major is very popular and we are already an impacted program," Peterson said. "There is a lot of support and interest from the wine and viticulture industry, so we are in a

good position. Job opportunities are really extraordinary."

Cal Poly recently installed a new pilot winery on campus, located near the horticulture unit. At the winery, students experiment with different varieties of grapes and actually make wine. The pilot winery made its first crush of grapes this fall.

The grapes produced by Cal Poly's vineyards are made into four different Cal Poly wines: a Pinot noir, Chardonnay, Syrah and a special blend called Mustang Red. The wine is manufactured at Orchid Road Cellars, a company located in San Luis Obispo.

Interested parties can purchase this wine online, at the Cal Poly store downtown and Taste, a local wine tasting room.

"Wine and viticulture is a great major because I am training for a

something that won't be a desk job for the rest of my life," said wine and viticulture junior Steven Dempsey. "I want to be out where I can feel like my hands are getting something done. You get to literally see the fruits of your labor."

In his three years at Cal Poly, Dempsey has witnessed the growth and evolution of the wine and viticulture program.

"I joined the third year of the program. It's new, but it has snowballed in popularity. It's become a much stronger program even since I have been here."

Some students have put their wine and viticulture knowledge to practical use. Wine and viticulture senior Chip Forsythe has already built his own vineyard on top of a large mountain in Santa Maria. Forsythe partnered

with the man who owns the land to build the vineyard.

Forsythe spent a lot of time figuring out the perfect location for his vineyard, which spans about two acres.

"Grapes will grow anywhere," Forsythe said. "They're like friggin' weeds. The thing is you need lots of sunlight and lots of water. They will grow in anything. You want it to be warm and not windy. The area I found is 10 degrees warmer than anything around there and it gets sun for most of the day."

Once Forsythe found the right spot, he spent lots of time and money getting the vineyard up and running. All of his expenses were reimbursed by the owner who wanted a vineyard up on the mountain for nothing other than bragging rights, according to Forsythe.

Forsythe has more humanitarian reasons for building and operating the vineyard. His vineyard is basically a trial run. For his senior project, he plans to move to Stellenbosch, South Africa with a friend and medical student from Louisville. There, Forsythe will build a winery and vineyard. The money he earns selling wine will be used to help subsidize expenses for his friend's neighboring hospital.

Forsythe is working on a grant proposal to receive money that will help pay for the project. He has pieced together half of a business proposal as well, which includes information regarding the vineyard, winery and hospital.

"We decided we wanted to help people and be remembered permanently by changing people's lives," said Forsythe. "Africa was a good place to start."



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Alternative Spring Breaks



ED HONDA SIERRA VISTA HERALD/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luis Gonzalez picks up trash above Brown Canyon in Hereford, Ariz. on Monday, March 16, 2009. Ten students at Cochise College's Douglas campus were participating in an alternative spring break program. They helped collect trash, mostly left behind by illegal immigrants traveling into Arizona.

UC San Diego named nation's top surfing campus

The University of California, San Diego has been named the top campus in the nation for catching a wave.

The Web site surfline.com says the university's

proximity and access to surf, most notably Black's Beach, its nationally ranked surf team, surf classes and collection of surfing professors and alumni put it at

see Surfing, page 11

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How an iPod can be a poor man's iPhone

Andrew Vanacore

ASSOCIATED PRESS

I try to keep a stiff upper lip about not having an iPhone. Just couldn't afford it — not with the \$75 a month or so AT&T charges for service on top of the \$199 upfront cost for the device.

I could, however, afford the \$229 iPod Touch — and got it as a gift, as it happened. It has most of the same goodies: a Web browser, e-mail, YouTube. And it stores way more music than the iPhone. (Ha!)

Plus, the other day I used it to call China.

Yup, a call around the world — on a device that doesn't have a phone. A handful of applications on Apple Inc.'s iTunes store will let you do this, as long as you're in a Wi-Fi hot spot.

My iPhone complex hasn't disappeared, but at least now I have a device that looks just like it, has no monthly service fees, and lets me make free or cheap phone calls.

see iPhone, page 10

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Glimmer of hope for student aid in a bad economy

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

True, it's not a great time financially to be going or sending a kid to college. But from the success of a bailout to the federal student loan system, to the tuition "deals" some colleges are offering, there's more good news out there on college costs and financial aid than some families recognize.

A look at the good and the bad for the college-bound:

TUITION

BAD: State budgets are still in flux, but when they're done, many public universities are likely to impose sharp tuition increases. During the last decade, tuition at public colleges has been rising at a rate of 4 percent per year — above overall inflation.

GOOD: With help from federal stimulus money, some public colleges will manage more modest

price increases as they drastically cut spending. Maryland will try to freeze in-state tuition for a fourth straight year. Others will keep it closer to their usual increases, like Kentucky, with increases set for between 3 and 5 percent.

Many private colleges have announced their smallest increases in years. Becker and Merrimack colleges in Massachusetts are among those freezing tuition, room and board. William Jessup University in California will cut tuition 2.5 percent.

Some are offering "specials." Laid-off employees get one-time tuition and application fee waivers at Kent State-Trumbull in Ohio. Mercer University in Georgia and Manchester College in Indiana promise to cover the costs of additional time if students stay on track but are unable to graduate in four years. Manchester will even refund a year's tuition if you don't have a job or a slot in grad school within six months of graduation.

FINANCIAL AID FROM COLLEGES

BAD: The average college endowment is down around one-fourth. Many colleges, particularly regional universities, will be unable to offer as much scholarship support.

GOOD: The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities says more than 90 percent of private colleges will increase aid next year. The group recently surveyed about 200 institutions and found they planned average tuition increases of 4 percent, but aid increases of 9.8 percent.

In recent years, some of the priciest colleges have announced significant increases in aid. Many are determined to keep their promises. Harvard, for example, will increase total fees 3.5 percent to \$48,868 next year, but expects to spend 18 percent more on fi-

nancial aid, which in some cases goes to families earning as much as \$200,000.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

BAD: State budget cuts will hit a range of programs that support students at both public and private colleges. Criteria for merit scholarships in some states have already tightened.

GOOD: The federal government is expanding college aid, particularly for low-income students. The stimulus package raises the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,731 to \$5,350 starting July 1, and \$5,550 in 2010-2011. An extra 800,000 students are expected to get Pell funding.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

BAD: There are two major components of the giant federal loan program — direct lending by the government and the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Under the latter, lenders including banks and non-profits provide student loans that are guaranteed by the federal government. The program accounts for more than \$50 billion in new student loans annually to more than 10 million students, but hundreds of lenders have dropped out.

GOOD: Considering the upheaval in family loan program, the flow of federal loans has held up remarkably well. In fact, if the system that lends money to businesses, homes and automobiles had held up half as well as the one that provides government-backed loans to students, the economy might not be in such a mess.

Since last year, the federal government has bought up nearly \$25 billion in student loan securities to provide lenders with capital for new loans. That helped keep the family loan program moving. Even as lenders dropped out of the

program, the volume of loans is up this year and some loan providers are returning to the market. The direct lending program has picked up slack with an additional \$7 billion in lending so far this academic year as more colleges sign up.

PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS

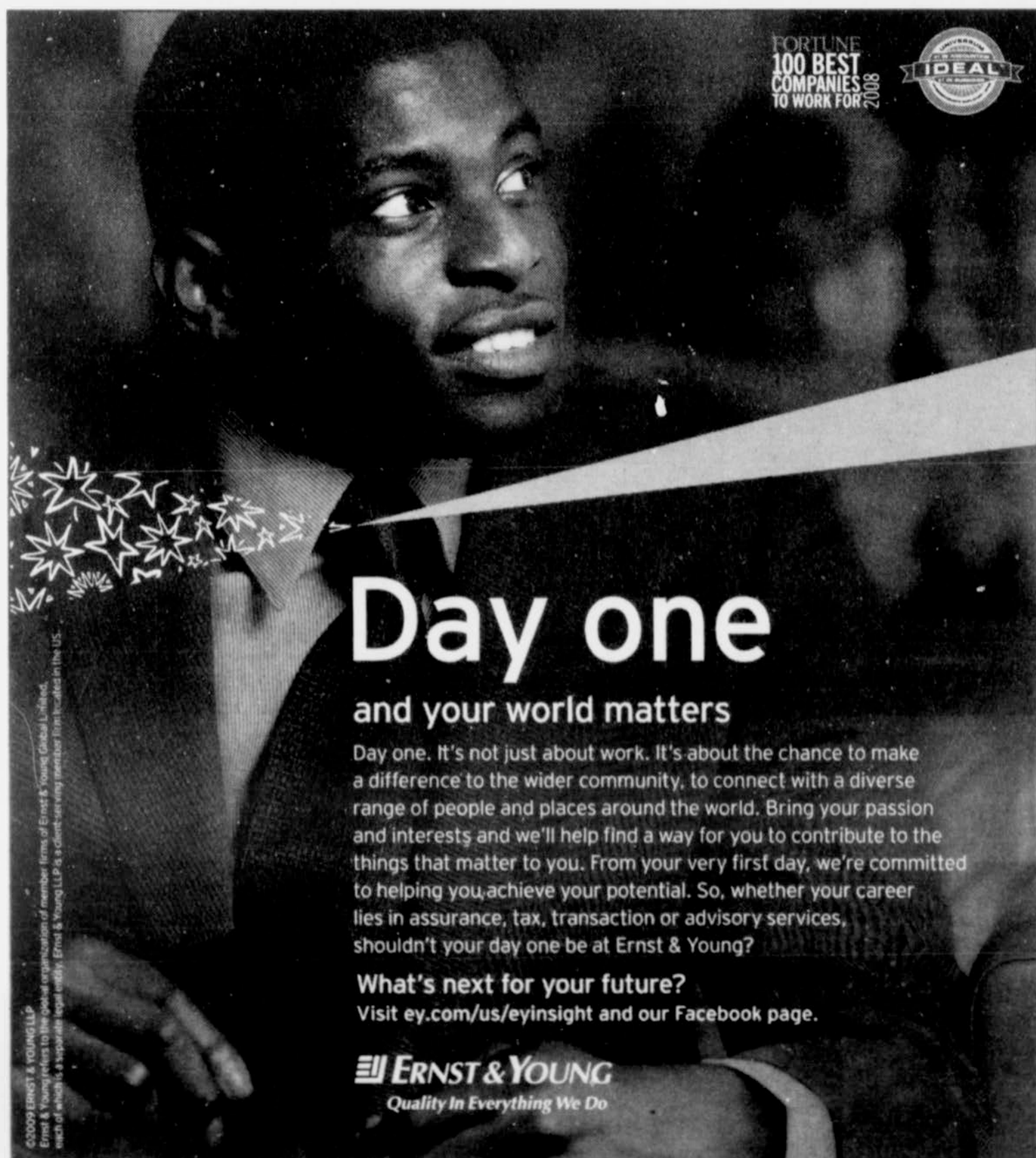
BAD: When students max out on their eligibility for federal loans and still need more money, many turn to private loans that don't have government guarantees and are usually more expensive. This year, there is less money available. Tim Ranzetta from Student Lending Analytics estimates the "supply" of loan capital from private lenders has declined by around one-third, or between about \$6 billion and \$7 billion.

Predictably, getting that money is harder — particularly if you plan to attend a for-profit college, have bad credit or can't get someone to co-sign a loan.

GOOD: The federal government accounts for five times as much student aid as do private loans. Increased limits for federal programs like Stafford loans have lessened students' need for private ones.

True, if you still need a private loan and can't get one, you may have to choose a cheaper school (or one with a higher graduation rate). But that may not be such a bad thing. Clearly, some students were borrowing too much. It's even becoming clear that some students, seduced by advertising, were taking out private loans before maxing out on federal ones. The current surge in demand for federal loans suggests they've now realized their error.

For more info, contact your college financial aid office, or go to www.ed.gov.



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iPhone

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The best part of these applications — which require the second-generation iPod Touch that came out last year — is that they are free to download, and calls to other people using the same app won't cost you anything.

Two of the services I've tried, Truphone and Fring, will also let you make free calls to Google Talk users and type instant messages to friends online. Both automatically queue up

a list of buddies from different services you might have, including Gmail chat, AIM and MSN Messenger, once you log in.

But it's Truphone's pay feature that puts it ahead of the others. Truphone charges you to make calls to landlines or regular cell phones, but generally at better rates than most wireless carriers. And it's upfront about what you pay.

Your balance — which you can add to with a credit card, either on the device or on your computer browser — pops up with the dial screen. Calls in the U.S. are all 5 cents per

see iPhone, page 11

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House backs bill to increase service opportunities

Ann Sanner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tens of thousands of Americans could see more opportunities to mentor children, help rebuild homes and participate in other national service under a measure passed by the House on March 18.

The House voted 321-105 to expand AmeriCorps and other national service programs by 175,000 participants. It would also create new groups to help poor communities with education, clean energy, health and services for veterans.

Supporters say the effort comes at a time when more people are interested in serving their communities and more people could use the extra help.

The bill "reaches out to all Americans from all walks of life and asks them to commit to service," said Jared Polis, D-Colo. "During these difficult times, our nation needs the help of each and every one of us more than ever."

A Senate committee approved an expansion Wednesday that was somewhat similar, adding 175,000 positions to the AmeriCorps alone. That bill, which triples the size of the program, could reach the Senate floor next week.

President Barack Obama said he was pleased by the House's action and was eager for the Senate to pass the bill so he can sign it.

"At this moment of economic crisis, when so many people are in need of help and so much needs to be done, this could not be more urgent," said Obama, who pledged during the campaign to provide government support for national service programs.

The House measure would also create fellowships for people 55 and older and a separate Summer of Service program for middle and high school student volunteers, who would earn a \$500 education award to help cover college costs. It also looks for ways to get scientists and veterans more involved in community service.

Some Republicans have expressed concern the government would be taking over work that's done voluntarily by people who are not paid.

"Well, I think it's important that we encourage volunteers, but this is a paid job," said Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C. "This is a government-authorized charity."

The House measure is slated to cost \$6 billion over five years. Obama's proposed budget for next

year calls for more than \$1.1 billion for national service programs, an increase of more than \$210 million.

Some AmeriCorps participants get a living stipend while they are working for 10 to 12 months. The stipend ranges from \$11,400 to \$22,800 for the year. Most participants, who are predominantly 18 to 26 years old, get \$11,800.

After completing the program, they can receive up to \$4,725 to help pay for college or pay off student loans. The bill would increase the education award to \$5,350 and requires that it match any future increases in Pell Grant scholarships.

Members of AmeriCorps work for nonprofit, faith-based or national organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity. They provide a variety of services, such as teaching young people or responding to disasters.

Over the last year, AmeriCorps has received three applications for every slot, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the agency that oversees the program.

iPhone

continued from page 10

minute (2 cents if you sign up to pay a \$4 monthly fee).

Rates outside the U.S. vary wildly but you can check in the application before you dial. To call cell phones in China, for instance, is only 5 cents per minute, while France is 25 cents. Antarctica? A whopping \$2.25.

You can make regular calls with Fring using a Skype account, but that's another layer to deal with.

The calls on these services sound pretty good, a little tinny but clearer than my regular cell phone connection. iPod Touch users will need Apple's \$29 ear buds that have a tiny microphone on the back of the volume control along the cord.

The most serious drawback is the most obvious: While the iPhone uses AT&T's wireless network to provide Internet access anywhere, on the iPod Touch you'll need to stick to Wi-Fi hot spots. For rural or suburban dwellers who don't encounter lots of free Wi-Fi zones, that may very well mean limiting yourself to your house, or other places where there's a computer with the same Internet phone call capabilities anyway.



PAUL SAKUMA ASSOCIATED PRESS

A shopper looks at two new second generation Apple iPod Touches at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif. A handful of applications on Apple Inc.'s iTunes store will let you make phone calls with the second generation iPod Touch, as long as you're in a Wi-Fi hot spot and have Apple's new ear buds, which have a tiny microphone on the back of the volume control along the cord.

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Surfing

continued from page 9

the top of the list, the school announced Tuesday.

UCSD was followed by UC Santa Cruz, California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, University of Hawaii, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, University of Rhode Island, Pepperdine University, Humboldt State University and the Florida Institute of Technology.

-Associated Press



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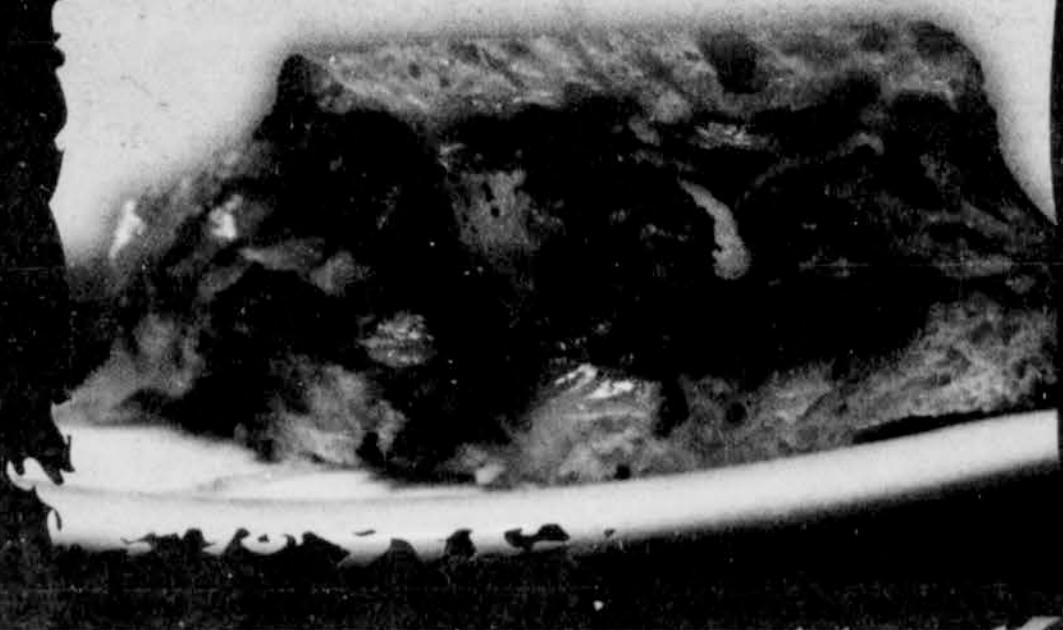
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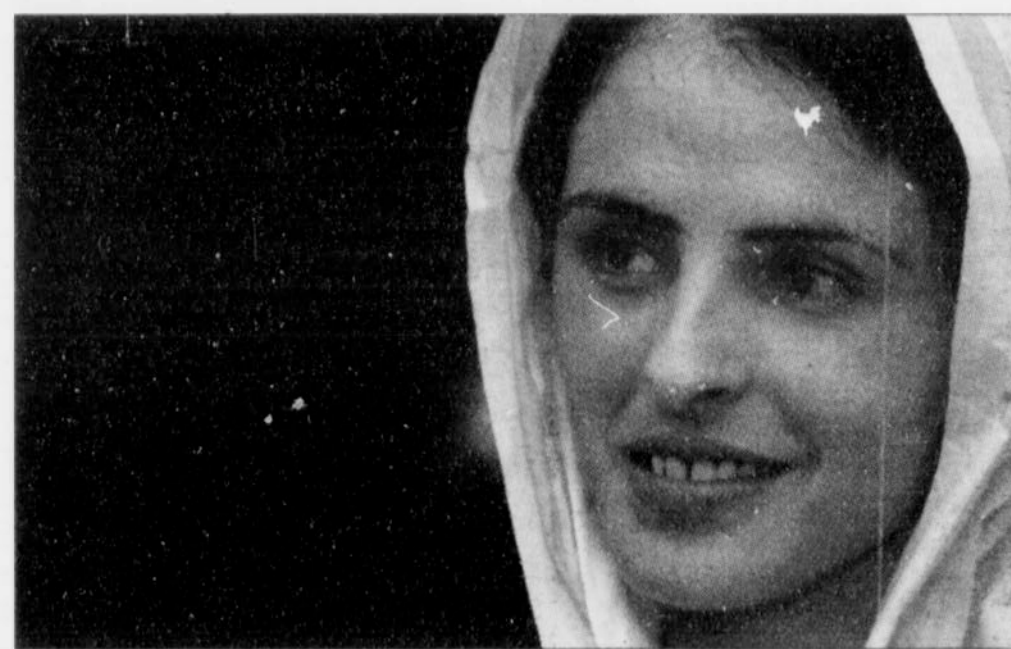
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ANJUM NAVEED ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani gang-rape victim Mukhtar Mai speaks to the Associated Press in Islamabad, Pakistan. Mai, who gained global fame by speaking out about her case, has defied another local taboo by getting married. Mai is now the second wife of Nasir Abbas Gabol, a police officer who has helped protect her. Gabol told the AP on March 18, 2009 that he was enraptured by Mai's "extreme courage."

Famed Pakistani gang-rape victim gets married

Khalid Tanveer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani gang-rape victim who shunned custom and rose to global fame by speaking out about her case has defied another local taboo — she just got married.

Mukhtar Mai is now the second wife of Nasir Abbas Gabol, a police officer who was assigned to protect her as her case gained notoriety. He said she was reluctant to accept his offer and that he threatened suicide when she turned him down.

Mai was gang raped at the order of a tribal council in the eastern province of Punjab in 2002 to punish her family for her brother's alleged affair with a woman from a higher-caste family. There were also allegations that the boy had been molested by members of the other family, and that the accusations of the affair were used to cover up the crime.

Rape victims in Pakistan face severe social stigma and diminished marriage prospects, prompting many to commit suicide.

But Mai went public and challenged her alleged attackers in court, attracting international attention and becoming a women's rights activist.

She was named Glamour magazine's Woman of the Year, and now runs a school in her southern Punjab province village of Meerwala. The case against her attackers is still in the court system.

Mai told AP Television News after the nuptials that she'd never completely ruled out marriage.

"When you do marriage you have to have faith in your partner," she said.

Her new husband told the AP on Wednesday that he was enraptured by Mai's "extreme courage."

"I will do whatever is possible to help my wife in her efforts aimed at raising her voice for the rights of women," he said.

Mai initially refused his offer because Gabol was already married and discouraged him from divorcing his first wife. Pakistan is a majority Muslim nation, and Islamic law allows men to have up to four wives.

Gabol said he was so desperate to marry Mai that he threatened to kill himself unless she relented. Fearing he would carry out his threat, Gabol's first wife met with Mai and persuaded her to marry.

The wedding took place March 15, 2009 and a reception is planned for the weekend.

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March 30, 2009

Volume LXXII, No. 113 ©2009

Mustang Daily

"I brought Hoegarden because this room is a garden of has."

MUSTANG DAILY

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Monday, March 30, 2009

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

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14

humor column

Alicia Silverstone's not the only one that's clueless

As with much of the college vernacular, the term "clueless" has evolved during the last decade. In the '90s, "clueless" referred to a girl who knew nothing about the real world, a girl we would now classify as a princess.

Today, the term "clueless" refers to a boy who knows nothing about what to do when it comes to girls. The Asian protagonist in "Gran Torino" for example. These boys usually have the best of intentions, and would make really great boyfriends, but it really doesn't matter how great their flight would be if their plane never leaves the ground.

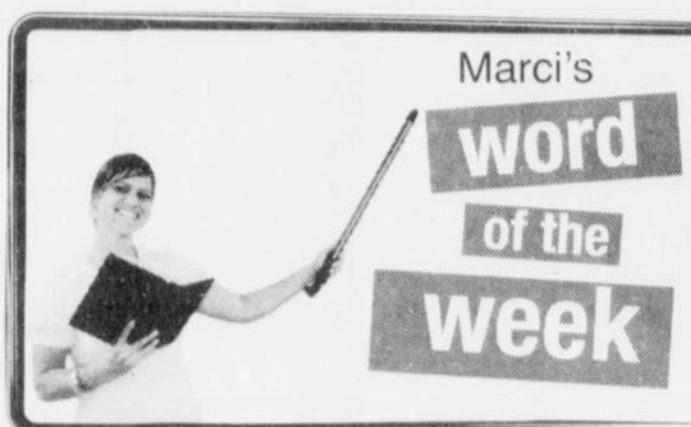
For the sake of these endearing young men, and the poor girls who hope and pray for them to make a move, this article will not only provide ways to recognize a clueless boy, but will provide some helpful hints for those of you who need to get a clue.

He wonders why the douchebag always gets the girl.

"I mean, what does he have that I don't?" Balls? Seriously, most girls do not prefer douchebags, but those cocky sons of bitches are the only ones that make it clear they are interested, and girls have to assume that boys who do not take any initiative are just not that into them.

He cannot discern if a girl likes him.

Just ask one of your friends (a girl, or a boy with a girlfriend, not one of your clueless buddies) to observe you two together. Trust me, they'll know.



He gives awkward side hugs.

Hugs provide a great opportunity for some much needed physical contact, but hugs for girls are like handshakes for boys; you need to have a firm, not too long, not too short, grip. So plant yourself securely in front of your favorite girl and use both arms to give her a warm embrace.

He is unable to complete a phone number exchange.

Just invite her to some casual event (i.e. a pint night or Cal Poly athletic event) you have mutual friends attending. When she agrees to go, offer to walk, ride or drive with her to the event. After she agrees to that, tell her you will call to let her know what time you will come by.

Follow this with a, "Wait, I don't think I have your phone number." Basically, have a plan that provides multiple questions to lead up to the phone number exchange; this prepares her for the big exchange and gives you an opportunity to test the waters.

Hopefully this knowledge helps all those nice boys who have difficulty getting past the "just friends" stage and all those nice girls who are still waiting for them to stop acting so clueless.

Marci Palla is a public policy graduate student and a Mustang Daily humor columnist. "Marci's Word of the Week" explores some of the more important vernacular of college life, one word at a time.

Keep infotainment out of textbooks

Imran Syed

MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

When I saw a small, unfamiliar textbook lying on the coffee table at home a couple of weeks ago, I didn't think too much of it. My mother is a sociology professor and honestly, I've seen too many editions of too many sociology texts lying around the house. But this book was different.

I can describe it to you, but to really know what I'm talking about, go to Amazon.com and look it up: "SOC" by Jon Witt. With a flashy cover that's more "Teen Vogue" than any textbook in your school bag, the book even had those little blurbs that magazine covers have about the stories inside. Sure, instead of "20 bright beauty ideas to try" or "Spring fashion at every price!" this cover had bits like "Sociology is a verb," but exciting nonetheless. Right?

Falling for the gimmick, I began flipping through the book. Introducing the author was a fill-in-the-blanks questionnaire with scribbly answers, similar to the American Express magazine ads featuring celebs like Jerry Seinfeld. Every so often, features like "Pop Soc" and "At the Movies" crop up, just in case you can't understand, for example, the concept of "The Individual and Society" without a Harry Potter reference. Capping it all off was a back cover inviting students to check out the author's blog.

Dude's got a blog!

Why would a publisher feel the need to make a textbook that resembles a magazine? Luckily, the book's inside flap had the answer,

which I'll relay by paraphrasing it in the language the publisher clearly supposes students are always using: Being totally hip to modern trends, the straight-up phat publisher rocked the illest research, and, like, kicked it with some student interviews and what not.

How very dope.

The publisher's research indicated that students feel textbooks are "boring," "outdated" and "irrelevant to me." But throw in some Beyoncé, "Juno" and Kanye, and boom — relevance city. The publisher is just trying to understand its consumers and give them what they want. What could ever be wrong with that?

Well, plenty — not the least of which is that a college education simply must not devolve to the studied consumerization of cable news or designer handbags. Dictating what you already understand kind of defeats the purpose of an education, no? Simply put, as a college stu-

dent, I felt insulted by the assumptions at work in the creation of "SOC."

I don't need gimmicks to read my textbooks, and I definitely don't need Diddy or iPhone references every other page to stay engaged. I know publishing is a business and selling is the game, but we'd all be better off if education didn't go the way of a Mr. Alan's "\$29-or-two-for-\$50" sale.

The central question is simple: Is education something we bring down to our level, or should we work up to its level? If education is about the betterment of individuals, then surely the latter is the smarter choice. The philosophy at work in "SOC," however, is clearly the former, because publishers have incentives to advertise their products as responsive to students' needs. Professors and students must not falter in our duty to decide which products

see Books, page 16

Q-tips: friend or foe?

What the 'uses' on the box don't tell you

Lewis Lehe

THE PITT NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

Have you ever thought Big Tobacco was wicked for helping people unwittingly kill themselves? Legend has it that at Big Tobacco HQ in Virginia, there is a smoking patio — but no one smokes. Turns out the people that sell you the coffin nails know better than anyone how your favorite way to kill five minutes will kill you.

In fact, I hear right at the top of the agenda when you get hired for a job at Big Tobacco — even a custodial position — is a week of Japanese brainwashing that immunizes you to both the allure of cigarettes and the cancer troubles of others. They fix you with that “let them eat cigarettes” attitude.

That's old news. Let's consider a more shocking revelation. The most nefarious schemes to enable your self-destructive impulses are not to be found at Big Tobacco, but at Big Q-tip, which acts like it doesn't know why you're buying those Q-tips. Everyone knows the real reason: You want to stick them in your ears.

It feels great to stick a Q-tip in your ear, to twirl it around, to scratch the sides of your ear canal, to unblock the earwax and let the summer breeze reach in. Sticking a Q-tip in your ear combines the satisfaction of a back scratch and eating a peppermint pattie into one experience. That's why everyone knows you are buying those Q-tips to stick in your ears.

The uncomfortable truth is manifest in the great precautions Big Q-tip takes to cover its tracks. On the back of the Q-tip box is a list titled “A Houseful of Uses.” There is no mention of ears in that houseful, although the box does recommend using Q-tips to “delicately care for newborn's umbilical cord.” A smokescreen.

Another use is described under the heading “Sparkling Eyes.” You're supposed to get the Q-tips wet, put them in your freezer, and then, when your eyes get puffy, take the

Q-tips out like little popsicles and dab your eyelids. I followed the Sparkling Eyes plan, and it is not as satisfying as the standard operating procedure. Anyway, it's hard to argue that poking icicles at your eyes is an exercise wholly free of risk. You could deafen yourself with one end of the Q-tip and then turn it around and blind yourself — a two-pronged attack.

In any case, the Houseful of Uses rings less than sincere. The idea of a common bathroom staple telling you what to do with it is pretty suspicious. Does toilet paper try to explain what it's good for? Big Tobacco, at least, never acts shocked that people are outright lighting its products on fire and sucking on them like wild men when the things are really meant for building tiny cabins.

It might interest the empiricist in you to know I did an experiment comparing a Q-tip box side by side with a bag of cotton balls. The Q-tip box suggests 1,400 percent more uses than the cotton balls bag, and this is only after I generously tallied “great for sensitive skin” as a suggested use in the cotton balls column. What's really noteworthy is that consumers seem to know what to do with cotton balls, but once the cotton migrates to the end of a little stick, we're at a loss.

The whole affair masks a deep insecurity, a thin cotton coating over an abysmal well of moral evasion. Maybe Big Q-tip isn't so much telling us, the customers, what we're going to do with the Q-tips. It's telling itself — assuaging its conscience, trying to rationalize what it knows deep down is

cardinally wrong. The old “we're just enablers” line doesn't pass muster for fat-cat Q-tip execs anymore, so they've taken to flights of fancy that, in proportion to their infantilism, center on umbilical cords.

Or maybe — and this is the really disturbing angle — the lie is manufactured part-and-parcel for our own sakes. Without the Houseful of Uses, we'd feel an indignant outrage —

who would buy from people who sell to people who buy a product just to stick in their ears? It lets you face the cashier without feeling like an idiot; it lets you face yourself: “If I do stick the Q-tip in my ears now and then, on a lazy afternoon, it was spur of the moment. I'm out to clean violins.” The Houseful of Uses is a lie bought and sold, and we are the willing buyers.

Once, as a guest in someone's home, I found a sort of Q-tip dispenser by the sink.

Lifting the chrome lid revealed a delectable spiral of Q-tips not unlike a “Bloomin' Onion” at Outback Steakhouse. Later, when I told the lady of the house how much I loved sticking Q-tips in my ears, she warned it would break my eardrums. But what else could she have had in mind for those Q-tips? Applying hot glue and wiping away excess? I guess the immaculate chrome dispenser, like the fine champagne at a “gentlemen's club,” is supposed to somehow redeem what is going to take place. But can anything really wipe away such excess?

This column was previously published in The Pitt News.

political cartoon

CHRIS VAN ES NEWSART



Morality's role in policy shown in stem cell debate

Carolyn Pippen

VANDERBILT HUSTLER (VANDERBILT)

A few weeks ago, President Obama signed an executive order overturning a Bush-era restriction on the federal funding of stem cell research. As the easiest way to gain public favor these days is to sign anything that includes the terms “Bush-era” and “overturn,” the decision was quickly and eagerly applauded by our nation's liberal base, as well as by the Hustler. While I agree that the decision shows a promising amount of proactivity on the part of our new leader and opens doors to significant scientific advancement, it is important that we take the time to completely dissect this issue before jumping to dramatic conclusions.

First of all, scientists have not been living in a “dark period” over the last eight years. Bush's 2001 policy did not stop research using adult stem cells, and it did not stop the use of the 60 pre-existing lines of embryonic stem cells; it simply denied federal funding to the development of new lines. In other words, it temporarily removed the governmental stamp of approval from the expansion of that particular subset of research to which a large portion of

our country has strong moral objections.

Oh, crap. I wasn't supposed to use that word. Moral. According to Vanderbilt student Aimee Sobhani's editorial, the government should not hold the right to ban things on the grounds that they are inherently “immoral.” You know, things like theft and murder.

The fact is that the vast majority of our nation's legal policies have grounds in human morality, which is why anytime I see the word “immoral” in quotes like that, I get nervous. The ability of our nation's citizens to determine right from wrong makes up the very foundation of our democracy, and that power cannot and should not be invalidated.

For the record, the destruction of human embryos, and thereby the destruction of human life, is not an “extreme” form of the pro-life movement, it's pretty much right smack in the center of it. As Sobhani pointed out, however, even some of us stubborn, ignorant “anti-abortion people” understand the complexities of such a debate.

see Research, page 16

Research

continued from page 15

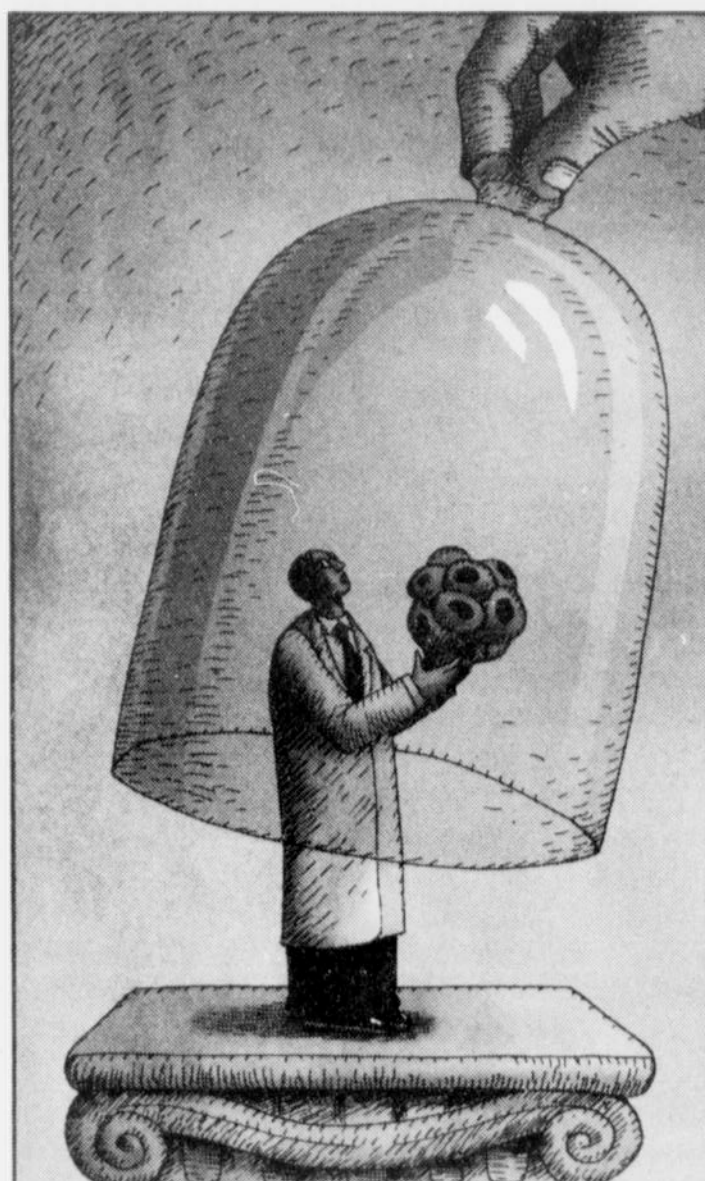
Personally, I agree that the cost of an embryo that will most likely go unused in exchange for invaluable scientific discovery is an admissible one, but it wasn't an easy decision to make, and quite frankly I'm tired of people acting like I just showed up late to the party where everyone else was smart enough to get to first.

The expansion of stem cell research is not a black and white issue, and the reason I know this is because Obama promised his decision would not lead to human cloning, a process Sobhani deemed "obviously immoral."

Laying aside the sheer hypocrisy of that statement, this consensus tells me that all of us have a sort of moral breaking point at which we decide the costs have outweighed the benefits, and the inherent respect for human life wins out. This point comes at different times for everyone, and we will most likely never all agree, which is why I thank God for the two-party system in moments like this.

Disagreement is good, it means we're asking the hard questions, and changing policies is even better; it means we will never move too far too fast in one direction. Was I excited when I saw that Obama had finally reopened the gates to new and unprecedented medical advancements? Of course. But my excitement was cautious, and yours should be too.

PAUL LACHINE NEWSART



Books

continued from page 14

improve the educational experience and which ones are simply ploys to feign responsiveness for the sake of better book sales.

There's an old book in my basement that I took from my elementary school years ago when the book was about to be thrown out. Printed in 1937, "Where Our Ways of Living Come From" is a sociology text of sorts. In the introduction, it says it provides a new approach to grade school social studies that eliminates older materials that students found meaningless. Sound familiar?

Flipping through the old book, I found that the thinking that went into it isn't so different from "SOC." The authors of "Our Ways of Living" also tried to target their audience better by making the book more appealing and interesting.

The difference is that they did it by rewriting the material, by broadening the perspectives presented and by suggesting and tying in classroom activities. "SOC" doesn't seem to do any of those: It's simply a repackaging of the same textual material with snazzy celeb photos and multiple uses of the word "blog."

Nevertheless, "SOC" may still be as competently written a textbook as any that I've recycled for my mother. It's simply that I worry about the philosophy behind its creation. While we benefit from the personalization of many things, I'm not sure Twitterizing education is going to work out so well for any of us.

And, in case you're interested, I too am still trying to figure out how sociology is a verb.

This column was previously published in the Michigan Daily.

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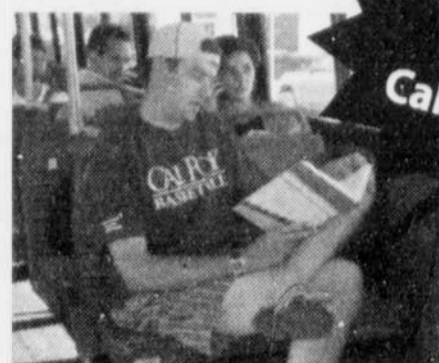
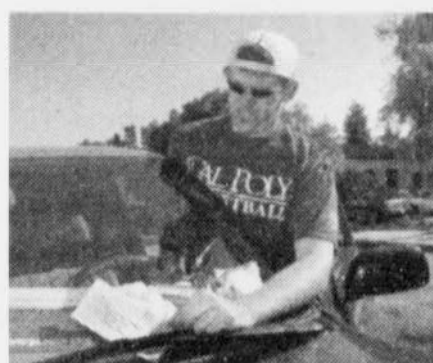
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6:50 PM	6:56 PM	x	7:03 PM	7:08 PM	7:18 PM	Becomes the Route 3
7:50 PM	7:56 PM	x	8:03 PM	8:08 PM	8:18 PM	Becomes the Route 3
8:50 PM	8:56 PM	x	9:03 PM	9:08 PM	9:18 PM	Becomes the Route 3
9:50 PM	9:56 PM	x	10:03 PM	10:08 PM	10:18 PM	Becomes the Route 3

Note: Elks Lane and Prado Road are not served by the evening service

Route 3 Evening Service

Transit Center Depart	Johnson @ Lizzie	Orcutt @ Laurel	Marigold Center	Transit Center Arrive	
6:18 PM	6:22 PM	6:28 PM	6:34 PM	6:45 PM	Becomes the Route 2
7:18 PM	7:22 PM	7:28 PM	7:34 PM	7:45 PM	Becomes the Route 2
8:18 PM	8:22 PM	8:28 PM	8:34 PM	8:45 PM	Becomes the Route 2
9:18 PM	9:22 PM	9:28 PM	9:34 PM	9:45 PM	Becomes the Route 2
9:18 PM	10:22 PM	10:28 PM	10:34 PM	x	

Service ends at Marigold Center.

Route 4 Evening Service

Cal Poly Depart	Transit Center Arrive	Transit Center Depart	South @ Parker	Promenade	Irish Hills Plaza	Laguna Village	Descanso @ LOVR	Romona @ Palomar	Cal Poly Arrive
6:10 PM	6:15 PM	6:20 PM	6:27 PM	6:32 PM	6:38 PM	6:44 PM	x	6:54 PM	7:03 PM
7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:20 PM	7:27 PM	7:32 PM	7:38 PM	7:44 PM	x	7:54 PM	8:03 PM
8:10 PM	8:15 PM	8:20 PM	8:27 PM	8:32 PM	8:38 PM	8:44 PM	x	8:54 PM	9:03 PM
9:10 PM	9:15 PM	9:20 PM	9:27 PM	9:32 PM	9:38 PM	9:44 PM	x	9:54 PM	10:03 PM
10:10 PM	10:15 PM	10:20 PM	10:27 PM	10:32 PM	10:38 PM	10:44 PM	10:48 PM	x	x

Route 6A/6B Evening Services

Route 6A						Route 6B			
Cal Poly Depart	Ag Science	Patricia @ Foothill	Romona @ Palomar	Cal Poly Arrive	Cal Poly Depart	Transit Center Arrive	Transit Center Depart	California @ Taft	Cal Poly Arrive
6:10 PM	6:15 PM	6:21 PM	6:24 PM	6:34 PM	6:40 PM	6:45 PM	6:51 PM	6:56 PM	7:02 PM
7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:21 PM	7:24 PM	7:34 PM	7:40 PM	7:45 PM	7:51 PM	7:56 PM	8:02 PM
8:10 PM	8:15 PM	8:21 PM	8:24 PM	8:34 PM	8:40 PM	8:45 PM	8:51 PM	8:56 PM	9:02 PM
9:10 PM	9:15 PM	9:21 PM	9:24 PM	9:34 PM	9:40 PM	9:45 PM	9:51 PM	9:56 PM	10:02 PM
10:10 PM	10:15 PM	10:21 PM	10:24 PM						

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arts and entertainment

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emilie Egger
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Getting back into the groove

vinyl records make a comeback

TIMOTHY MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE
MUSTANG DAILY

Chris "Fresh" Goth looks through the vinyl section at Boo Boo Records in San Luis Obispo (right). Many music fans are returning to vinyl, which they say allows for better sound quality than CDs or MP3 downloads. Record companies are following suit, releasing new albums on vinyl as well.



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Timothy Miller
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Flipping past the dusty John Denver and Pat Boone records, Chris "Fresh" Goth is looking for an album that has real style. He digs through the milk box marked \$1 LPs on the floor of Boo Boo Records, occasionally pulling out a record showing off the cover art or commenting on the value of Eddie Murphy on vinyl.

"You get a lot of this ghet-to shit like Barbara Streisand and Bette Midler," he said. "No one wants to be holding on to that."

Satisfied with finding Grand Master Flash's "White Lines (Don't Do It)," he readjusts his fedora and heads for the counter.

Goth, a Cal Poly senior, bought a turntable at a garage sale for \$5 along with a copy of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and has been adding to his collection ever since.

He rummages through his aunt and uncle's garage looking for classics.

"They will have the records, but not a working player. I just kinda take 'em," he said.

The sale of vinyl records nearly doubled in 2008 from 990,000 to 1.88 million, according to Neilson SoundScan. Despite growing digital music sales on iTunes and other music downloading sites. However, the rise of digital downloads has not been enough to balance out the decline of

CD sales. This makes the resurging vinyl sales a relevant part of the music industry by cushioning the overall decline of music sales. Amazon.com now has an entire vinyl store of new and used records and Best Buy will start selling vinyl in select locations.

Rolling Stone magazine contributes the dramatic rise in vinyl sales to Capital Records and other labels decision to reissue many of their most famous albums.

The rise of vinyl has helped out independent music stores like Boo Boo Records, located in downtown San Luis Obispo, which has seen a drop in CD sales but a growing number of people interested in vinyl. All sorts of people are buying all sorts of records, said Miguel Avila, an employee at Boo Boo Records.

"Some people come in and buy 30 \$1 albums and other people just get the newer stuff," he said.

People who had stopped collecting vinyl in favor of CDs are getting back into the older format, he said. He attributes the switch to the tactile feeling of touching vinyl, digging through it and building a collection. People are moving away from CDs because they lose their value as soon as they are opened. Also, vinyl can be bought cheaply and can appreciate in value, he added.

Ryan Tucker, who has been buying vinyl for five years, started collecting because the

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Vinyl

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music he was interested was only released on vinyl.

"It's a hobby, or a habit. I'm not sure which," he said.

The sound of vinyl, as long as you take care of your records, is better than listening to music on your computer, he added.

Record labels are releasing new albums on vinyl as well as re-releasing classics to meet increased demands. Labels are even including digital download coupons with some records so that the music can be played on a turntable and on a computer or iPod. This bundling of convenience and style could be the ultimate recording format, wrote Eliot Van Buskirk for Wired Magazine in late 2007.

Optimal Media Production has created a CD that takes advantage of the renewed interest in vinyl. The product is a CD that is normal on the bottom but the top has a groove in it that can be played on a record player. It only has room for one song but it is a signal of the lengths that companies are going to in taking advantage of the trend.

The price of turntables is going down as more companies are making them again; the price of a new turntable starts

at around \$80. Some newer ones include all the features of a new stereo system, an alarm clock, AM/FM radio, even a MP3 hookup.

KCPR, Cal Poly's radio station, is one of a dozen stations in the country that receives seven-inch discs from K Records in Olympia, Wash. The 7-inch records are singles that bands exclusively release on vinyl. Even the mention of these rarities is hard to come by on the Internet.

Brian Hildebrand, the general manager for KCPR, started his radio show, "The Vinyl Frontier," to take advantage of the radio station's vinyl collection. The station has been growing its stacks for decades and some of the vinyl copies are the only versions left. Some of the music that he played he was hearing for the first time on air, he said.

He finds the vinyl experience much different from CDs because you have to go out and search for it in stores that still carry the old medium.

"Everyone in our generation grew up downloading music," he said. "If you are going to buy a CD you might as well just download it. Vinyl's not the same thing, they're big; you feel like you get your money's worth."

Using a turntable, going through a collection of records



TIMOTHY MILLER SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

and making sure the speed is set correctly makes him more conscious of what he is listening to.

"Listening to vinyl is a ritual, it forces me to slow down," he said. "You have get up and change the sides."

Groth said that listening to vinyl makes the music more tangible. He also sees it as a way to fill in his knowledge of

older musicians. He is exclusively interested in older records, in accessing a time that he never experience. Instead of having only a few songs by classic artists he has two whole sides to discover them.

"The best thing about it is that you can really discover old bands," he said. "You are forced to listen to the whole thing."

The difference in sound

quality between CDs and vinyl is debated often. The difference comes down to the amount of information that is captured in the recording process. Digital recordings do not record the entire sound wave but captures the sound in steps. Vinyl recordings are made by taking the exact sound wave and carving it into the groove of the record.

see Vinyl, page 20

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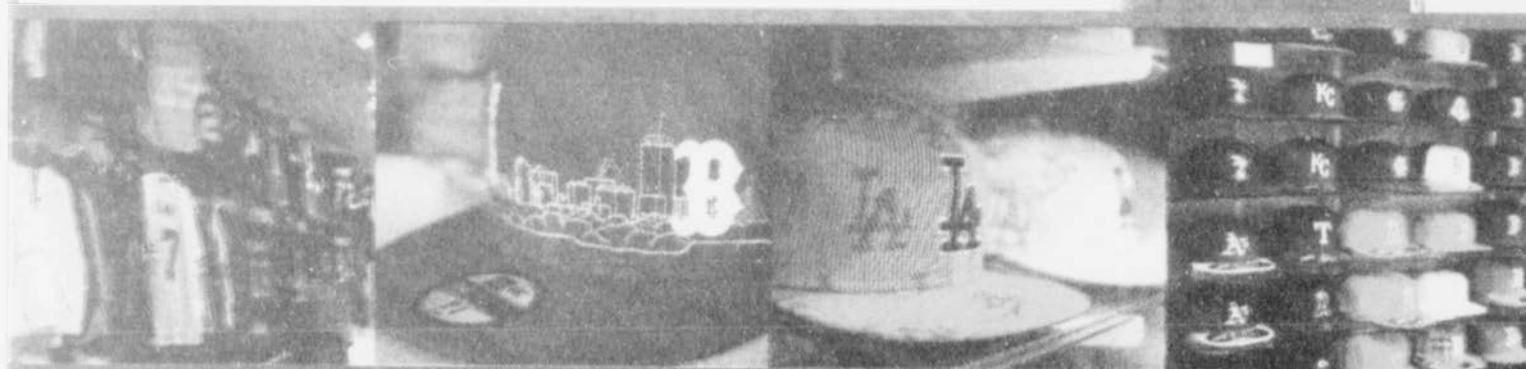
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Vinyl

continued from page 19

The quality of both CDs and vinyl is superior to MP3s and other compressed music formats that are played by computers and MP3 players. By compressing the music as much as 90 percent of the sound is lost, wrote Corey Binns in Popular Science.

Listeners say it is difficult to detect the difference between the analogue sound of vinyl and the digital sound of CDs.

The difference is a moot point if you do not have a good enough stereo system to hear it, Avila said. Buying a used record will also make a lot of difference as the groove will wear down and dust will distort the sound. However, this distortion is sometimes mistaken as a benefit.

Sound quality does not seem to be the main factor for the people that listen to vinyl. People seem to be interested in it for a variety of reasons. Groth said that his attraction to it was in part a reaction to having so much music that he could not touch. Hildebrand said that the musicians who produce their music on vinyl have put more care into what they were making. Avila sees people that collect records as pursuing a hobby.



TIMOTHY MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

The people that listen to vinyl are saying something about themselves. They can carry around hundreds of albums in their pockets but they choose to take the time to unplug their ear buds and spend time with the music they are listening to.

"The controls are shitty, the sound is shitty, but that's not the point," Groth said about his setup. "Everyone really digs it. Everyone's into the retro thing. It's fun to have people over and throw stuff on."

Vinyl sales may not continue to increase. The bubble might burst like many other collectables Avila said. This would be a good thing for collectors because it will lower the price of rare albums, he added.



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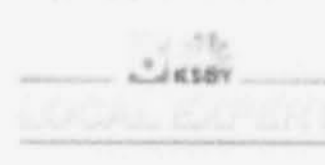
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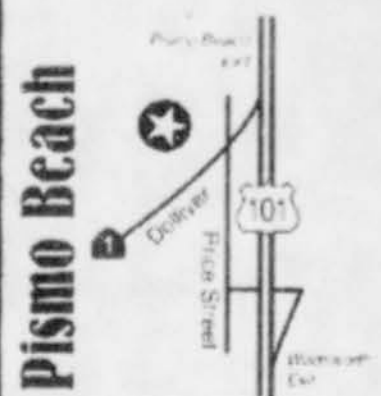


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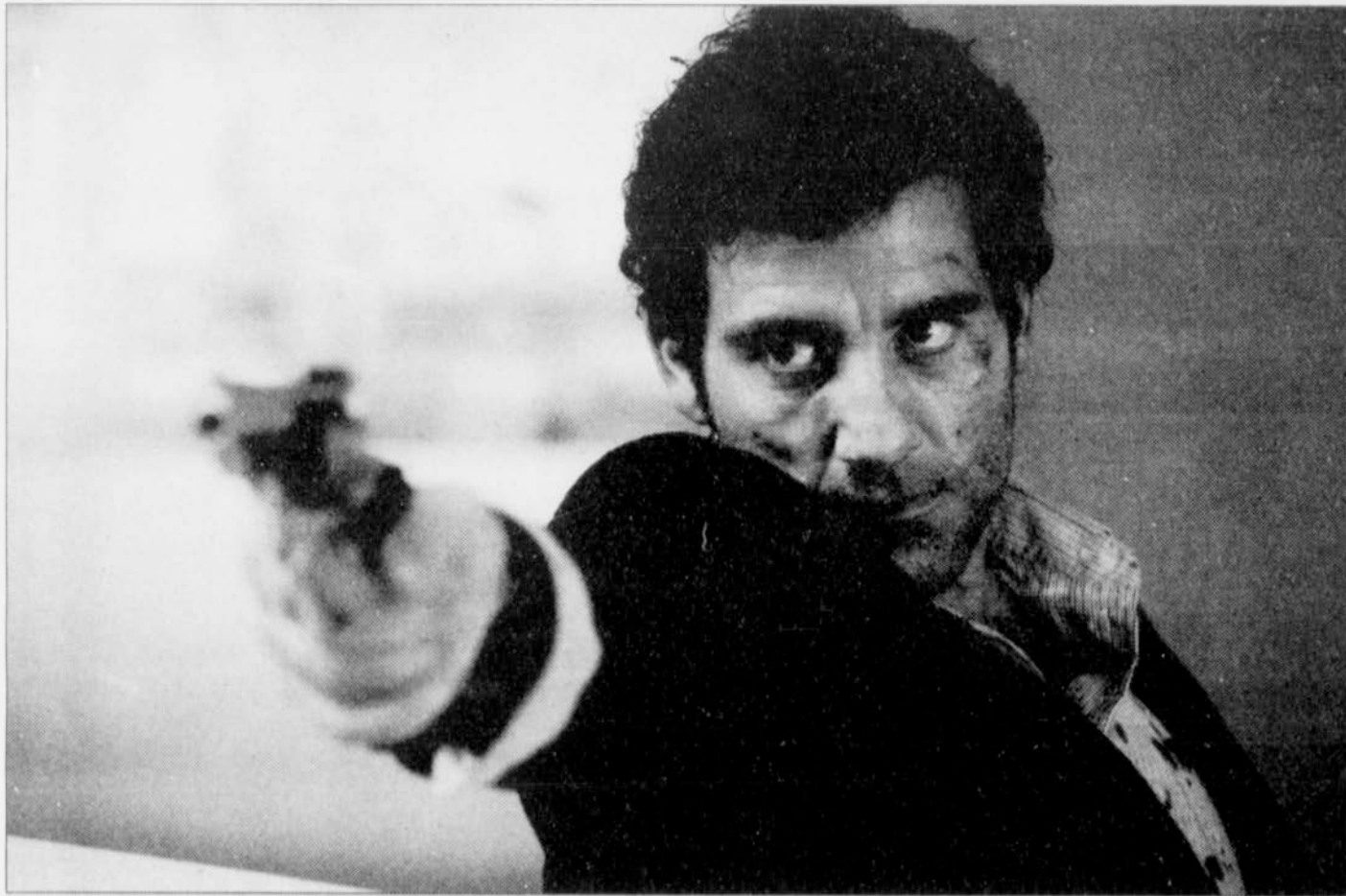
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movie column

"The International:" not your ordinary action film



COURTESY PHOTO

Review: The International - 2009 (***)

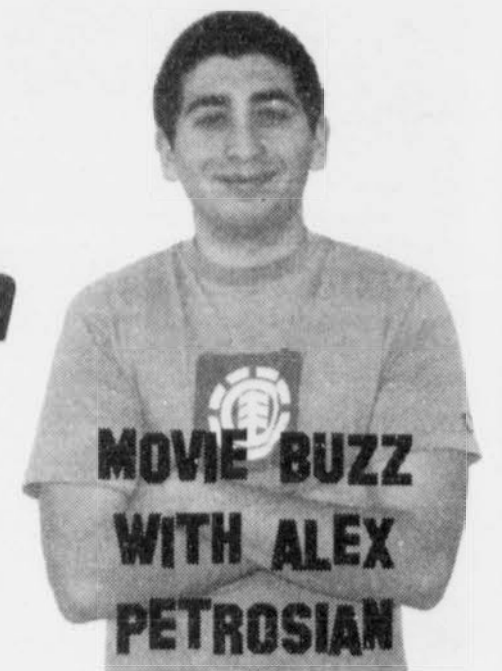
Director: Tom Tykwer

Written By: Eric Singer

Starring: Clive Owen, Naomi Watts,
Armin Mueller-Stahl

Acclaimed indie director Tom Tykwer's "The International" is unlike many other corruption-based action films I have had the pleasure of viewing in recent memory. Clive Owen ("Closer," "Inside Man") stars as Louis Salinger, a sloppy, emotionally challenged Interpol agent who is working with assistant district attorney Eleanor Whitman, played by Naomi Watts ("King Kong," "The Ring"), to bring down a shady powerhouse bank that participates in a number of unlawful acts including money laundering and weapons trafficking. To put it simply, it's a syndicate that readily profits off political anarchy, and its sole purpose is the enslavement of world populations through debt and intimidation.

It's been a while since corporate officials have been so convincingly depicted as ruthless villains, and it's a plot line that, when effective, I have missed. Sitting at the head of the table in this deceitful outfit based in Luxembourg is veteran German actor Armin Mueller-Stahl ("Eastern Promises"), whose double dealing bank has been assassinating anyone nosy enough to interfere with their operations (which again include investing in rebels, nuclear technology and fooling both parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict).



see International, page 23

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International

continued from page 22

The story opens with the introduction of Owen's character, Salinger, mediating an encounter

between his partner and a bank informant. This exchange culminates in the unaccountable murder of his accomplice, which, as expected, now makes the case personal for Louis. Salinger is later joined by Naomi Watts' New York-based dis-

trict attorney character, Whitman, for rather obscure reasons; it's essential to have an attractive but determined woman somewhere in the plot, and in this story's case it most certainly helps.

The film's most satisfying scene

involves a gun battle throughout the ramps of the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Why there? Because visually it is both innovative and astonishing. Most of the remainder of the movie involves witty dialogue and scheming plotters shifting through several recognizable and intriguing landscapes including Istanbul, Berlin and Milan (my personal favorite). As the plot began to unfold, however, I was surprised and relieved to see that this film did not rely on its climactic shootout or impressive cinematography to carry the weight. In fact, it was more interesting then I had initially anticipated, and the escalating wickedness and lack of remorse of this truly "international" bank presented itself through several unpredictable and clever situations.

While it is definitely not a must-see, I thoroughly enjoyed "The International." The film's three key characters are expertly portrayed by three Oscar nominated actors. Owen shines as an almost conceivable hero, not participating in too many unbelievable physical feats, but still taking care of business. In his performance, it seems as if he may be channeling 007, a possible message to the filmmakers behind

"Casino Royale," who passed on Owen in favor of the likewise exceptional Daniel Craig to take the reigns as the new James Bond. Any heroic characteristics that Owen may display in this film are effectively counteracted by a marvelous and villainous performance by Armin Mueller-Stahl. Naomi Watts is also exceptional as usual as the DA, and another respectable aspect of the film is the focus on her character's wit and conviction, downplaying the idea of a love affair between the two main characters.

Tom Tykwer ("Perfume: The Story of a Murderer") succeeds in presenting an entertaining and somewhat believable story that involves admirable action along with the proper use of intelligence. The film's idea was inspired partly by the factual "Bank of Credit and Commerce International" scandal, a fact that instills the idea that there still may be a number of organizations in existence who have been affective in keeping their affairs secret, committing fraud on a massive scale and avoiding detection. Scary thought, isn't it?

Alex Petrosian is a biological sciences freshman and the Mustang Daily's film reviewer.



COURTESY PHOTO

'Dark Was The Night' compilation showcases who's who of indie rock

Mike Kuntz
MICHIGAN DAILY (L. MICHIGAN)

Charity compilation albums just aren't what they used to be — and thankfully so. Gone are the over-the-top "We Are The World" sing-a-longs with celebrities-turned-philanthropists, phony promo videos and all that jazz. Charity albums of late have been strikingly relevant, from the annual Bridge School and War Child compilations to last month's "Dark Was The Night," which tops them all.

Released as the 20th compilation benefiting the Red Hot Organization, an international charity battling HIV/AIDS, "Dark Was The Night" features some of the most engaging and creative voices in contemporary music. These artists lend their efforts and skills to help a noble cause — and Bono is nowhere to be found. With production left to the deft hands of Bryce and Aaron Dessner of The National, "Dark Was The Night" features a who's who of folk-leaning indie acts compiled on one startlingly fluid album.

Aided by a daily song leak on the album's MySpace page, the hype for "Dark" started early and grew into a huge buzz. Separated between two discs — aptly named "THIS DISC" and "THAT DISC" — the compilation includes a total of 31 tracks (with one extra for iTunes shoppers, who are treated with Beach House's take on Queen's "Play the Game"). Other notable covers include Jose Gonzalez and the Books' take on Nick Drake's "Cello Song," Antony (of Antony and the Johnsons) and Bryce Dessner's take on Bob Dylan's "I Was Young When I Left

Home" and Sufjan Stevens's experimental pop rendering of Castanets's "You Are the Blood."

But what makes "Dark Was The Night" stand out from other compilations — aside from its vast amount of indie star power — is how amazingly well each collaboration between artists came together. "Train Song," an intimate duet between Feist and Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard, is rivaled only by Conor Oberst's reinterpretation of his own "Lua" with the help of strong and smoky tenor of Gillian Welch. Feist reappears later with Brooklyn heroes Grizzly Bear on the late-night bedroom hush of "Service Bell."

A few songs on the album dip into the more obscure catalogs of its artists, such as Spoon's "Well-Alright" and Arcade Fire's live favorite "Lenin," but several tracks are either newly written or newly collaborated on. Many of these were specially recorded for "Dark," including The National's "So Far Around the Bend," Yeasayer's yelp-some "Tightrope" and Grizzly Bear's rousing full-band version of their own "Deep Blue Sea."

While charity albums of the past relied on traditional covers, a hit single or mediocre songs thrown together at the last minute, this compilation shows considerable care and precision. It presents an exceptionally well-crafted and winning interpretation of modern, guitar-driven indie rock. With nearly every track worthy of considerable praise, there is seldom a weak moment on either disc. Sporting such an arresting and eclectic mix of artists, "Dark Was The Night" is assuredly just as safe on a Starbucks music rack as in a trendy Manhattan apartment.


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The right hand man

Omar Sanchez
MUSTANG DAILY

Overlooking the final details being applied to his new martial arts school, The Pit owner and chief instructor John Hackleman stepped back and took a deep breath.

The location in Arroyo Grande, which marks the headquarters for The Pit franchise, has come a long way from the 600 square foot backyard where it started decades ago.

Today, The Pit's martial arts style of Hawaiian Kempo, which was developed by Hackleman, is adopted by many schools and gyms around the nation. The style that evolved from the teachings of his childhood instructor Walter Godin: Kajukenbo (a mixture of karate, judo, jujutsu, kempo, and boxing) which originated in 1947.

At his latest school in Arroyo Grande, the atmosphere around the site is calm and quiet on a Friday afternoon. But inside its hustle and bustle, fighters like Chuck Liddell, Antonio Banuelos and Luke Riddering train with

the world renowned "Pit Master," a nickname Hackleman has acquired over the years at his gym.

Hackleman is perhaps most famous for producing elite fighters, most notably former Ultimate Fighting Championships light-heavyweight champion Liddell, a San Luis Obispo native and Cal Poly alumnus.

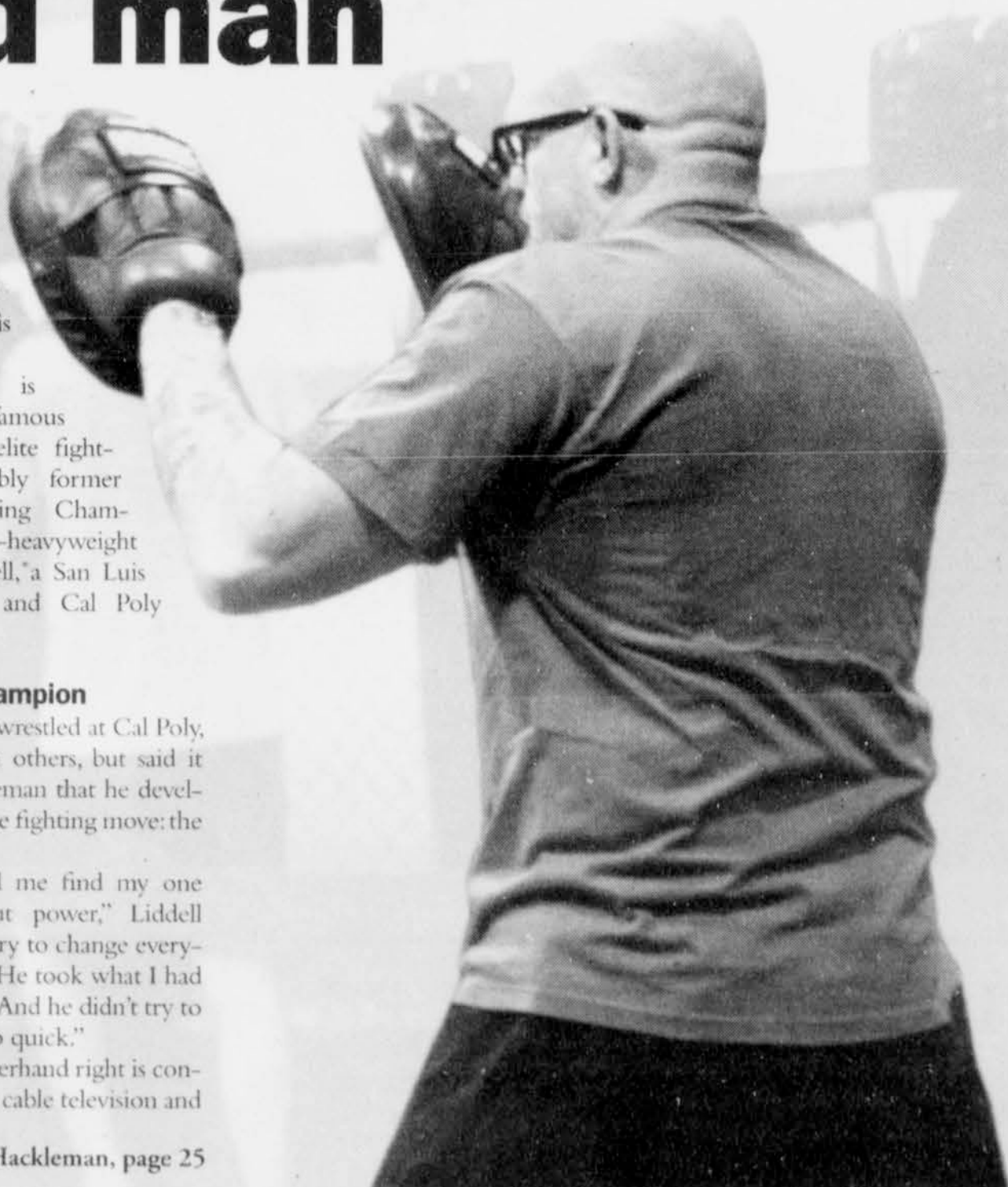
Training a champion

Liddell, who wrestled at Cal Poly, has trained with others, but said it was with Hackleman that he developed his signature fighting move: the overhand right.

"John helped me find my one strike knock-out power," Liddell said. "He didn't try to change everything about me. He took what I had and improved it. And he didn't try to do too much too quick."

Today, that overhand right is constantly played on cable television and

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Hackleman

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the Internet all over the world.

"Chuck is not only a local hero, he's an international celebrity," Hackleman said. "People look at what The Pit has done for him and they think it can do the same for them."

Through his unique fighting system, Hackleman himself has found fame. As one of the most sought-after trainers, he's easy to spot with his shaved head, thick beard, heavy build, and black framed glasses.

But times haven't always been this good for Hackleman. He's been fighting to get ahead his whole life.

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger

The relentless streets of Honolulu, Hawaii compelled Hackleman to learn self-defense at the age of 9. What started as a means for protection developed into a life passion.

In high school he became a golden gloves boxer and won many martial arts tournaments. An event after highschool led him to take up a different kind of fighting from what he'd been accustomed to.

In 1979, he enlisted in the Army after Iranian militants took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held more than 70 U.S. diplomats hostage. Hackleman went on to box for the Army team where he won numerous titles.

Out of the Army, famous boxing promoter Don King picked up the young Hackleman. Together, John accumulated a boxing record of 17-3, 15 of those wins by knockout. But it's the losses that vastly affect a fighter, Hackleman said.

"When you lose a football game, you lose a football game," Hackleman said. "When you lose a fight, you lose the fight. You get beat up more physically and emotionally."

From one hat to another

Today Hackleman is revered as a top striking technician.

"John is the best at training guys. He knows fighting. He's good at picking apart opponents," Banuelos said. "John's stand up is ridiculous; it's the best in the world."

However, striking isn't the only arsenal Hackleman packs. To become a "Pit Master" he had to go beyond

the one-two punch.

In the '80s he entered kickboxing, and at one point was rated No. 1 in the nation. Kickboxing has never been a prominent sport, so for the young parent, he needed to find another source of income to support his family.

"I started having kids early, and I knew fighting probably wouldn't pay all the bills, so I decided in my 20s to go to college," Hackleman said. "Nursing was a good job with a lot of opportunities so I jumped into nursing to supplement my income while fighting."

After he retired from fighting, Hackleman worked full-time as a nurse until he opened his first gym in Woodland Hills, Calif.

The Pit is born

Hackleman's first Pit was created in 1986. Over 20 years later, it's more popular than ever.

Even in this rough economy, people as young as 3 and up to 70 years of age incessantly sign up and retain their membership to learn and workout with The Pit instructors.

"People realize that you can become a champion by training here, or you can get in great shape, or you can become a black belt," Hackleman said. "No other gym is this crowded and has a family feel. They see the value of this program and they don't want to let it go."

At The Pit they practice the martial art Hackleman founded in 1985, Hawaiian Kempo.

"We use what works and discard what doesn't," Hackleman explained. "We adopt new techniques and training methods all the time. But overall the philosophy has been the same: train hard, train smart, a lot of discipline, but have fun and be goofy too."

The style has gained much recognition after it was displayed on primetime television and pay-per-view by Liddell's knockout power and takedown defense.

Fighting for respect

The growth of the sport is proof that it is being accepted more by Americans and the world, a trend Hackleman did not foresee.

"Americans: they like baseball, basketball, football, tennis, golf," Hackleman said. "They just don't adopt new sports. They don't like professional soccer, rugby, kickboxing, and I didn't think mixed martial arts (MMA) would take off like it is."

"But (MMA) had great PR, mar-

Hackleman admits "It looked a lot like cockfighting for a while." He acknowledged that the UFC has done the most to put the sport in a positive light with new regulations.

"The Fertitta Brothers, Dana White, they've done it," Hackleman said.

The sport has seen substantial growth in the last decade, and the growth of his gym is indication of its expansion.

"We turn down interviews now," Hackleman said. "In the old days we would do every single one we can. Chuck turned down David Letterman. Their schedule didn't fit ours so I said 'No.' But they pushed, pushed, pushed and they readjusted their schedule."

Now that people accommodate him, he's found more time to focus on his fighters and schools.

Switching roles

Riddering was introduced to The Pit early on by his father. He now fights for the gym's team and is 2-0 in his young MMA career.

When he fights, Hackleman is nervous, but calm.

"His nurse side comes out; he slowly explains things to you. He knows what he's doing," Riddering said.

Hackleman admits he gets the jitters before his fighters compete because he wants to keep them safe.

"It's a different kind of nervous. I'm more of a father to my students. I want them to win, but I want to protect them first," he said. "So not

only do they win, but they don't get hurt."

Safety is why he went into martial arts in the first place; to protect himself from harm when he was a youth. Now he wants teach his young students to do the same, while mentoring them at the same time.

"It's changing so many lives in a positive way. We teach against drugs, alcohol, laziness, and we push school. We check their grades a lot and stay in touch with their teachers. Before they get their next belt, we check with their teacher and make sure they're behaving in class," he said.

It's a side of Hackleman seldom heard and a side hidden behind his tough exterior.

"It's a perception, so it's a hat I wear. I don't think (I'm mean) but most people do," he said.

That label doesn't fit the Hackleman who enjoys spending time with his wife.

"We hit the beach once in a while, watch a movie, watch a show and I'm good to go," he said.

Nor does it fit the Hackleman who comforted one of his crying young students, Nicholas, during a practice fight.

Those that work with him frequently see the side the cameras don't catch when he's in his fighters' corners.

The side that "cares about his fighters," said Banuelos. "He loves us. We're really tight; he's like my dad."

For a man that has learned and achieved so much with Hackleman, it's not his teachings that he appreciates the most.

"The greatest thing I've gained from John is his friendship," said Liddell.



OMAR SANCHEZ, MUSTANG DAILY

John Hackleman, right, watches as members of The Pit go through punching drills in his gym.

keting, and a great team behind them and now it's the fastest growing sport in the world."

"(MMA) has gone from human cock-fighting to the second most popular sport in the country," Hackleman continued, referring to a remark Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) made in a 1995 interview when the congressman was working on legislation to ban the sport.

When McCain made the comment, MMA was a dying sport and

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Dogs are dying, and it's not Michael Vick's fault

Tim Dahlberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two dogs died in the name of sport last week, and this time it wasn't Michael Vick's fault.

Dizzy and Grasshopper were their names, and they met their demise in the Alaska wilderness as the wind howled, temperatures dropped to 45 degrees below, and their owner began worrying about his own survival.

They were sled dogs, part of a pack of 15 ferrying musher Lou Packer through his first Iditarod, an 1,100-mile trek made even more grueling by high winds and deep snow. One other dog also perished in this year's race.

Listen to race supporters and they'll tell you that, unlike Vick's dogs, the 5-year-old huskies died doing what they loved. Read the official Iditarod Web site and you'll find out that sled dogs are pampered and loved by their masters.

They call it "The Last Great Race on Earth" and last Wednesday it was great for Lance Mackey, who had easy sledding as he drove into Nome to win his third straight Iditarod and the \$69,000 plus new pickup that goes with it. Mackey celebrated by hugging two of his dogs and giving them treats.

Packer didn't win anything, didn't even finish. By the time searchers found him, the Alaskan doctor was on foot leading his dogs instead of the other way around as he struggled to find the trail.

Dizzy and Grasshopper were al-

ready dead.

"I think those two guys probably froze to death in the high winds," Packer told the Anchorage Daily News. "I didn't think it possible."

The story Packer told the newspaper of his ordeal is just another that will live in folklore. These are hardy people who brave the sometimes brutal outdoors because they've chosen it as their way of life.

They don't have a problem with chaining up big packs of dogs and running them to within an inch of their life for sport. They accept the fact that the Iditarod is a part of the state's heritage, and its biggest sporting event.

A lot of us in the Lower 48, though, just don't get it.

As a dog owner, my first reaction on hearing that two more dogs died in this year's race was one of sadness. My second was wondering why PETA wasn't up there making a fuss about it all.

The animal rights organization, after all, seems to launch a protest every time Vick's name is mentioned, and last month went to the absurd length of dressing up in KKK outfits at the Westminster Dog Show to protest what it said were attempts to create a "master race" of dogs.

Maybe they have an excuse. The event was outside of New York City, and they may not have had proper fake fur coats.

Barbara Hodges wasn't in Alaska, either. But the California veterinarian was doing something she thought was more valuable, drafting a letter on



Lance Mackey celebrates with two of his dogs after winning the Iditarod in Alaska on March 18.

behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association to Iditarod sponsors like Exxon Mobil Corp. and Wells Fargo, asking them to withdraw their support from the race.

Hodges treats dogs and cats for a living, so she's seen a lot of animal suffering up close. She's also seen the studies that show sled dogs have abnormal lung changes due to prolonged heavy breathing, gastric ulcers from the stress of racing, and arthritis and other injuries that leave them crippled if they are fortunate to live long.

"We believe that this particular race compromises the health and welfare of the canine participants," Hodges said. "The race would violate animal cruelty laws against overworking or overdriving dogs in 38 states and

the District of Columbia. Of course, Alaska has no such law."

Alaska isn't about to get one, either. Short of an entire team of dogs dying, there's not much that will change the opinion of most Alaskans that the Iditarod is a good thing and that dogs are, well, dogs.

Organizers have become savvy in recent years about how to deal with bleeding hearts when it comes to treatment of the dogs. They employ a team of veterinarians to keep the dogs healthy, give them checkups at key points in the race, and do autopsies for cause of death.

Two years ago, they suspended a top musher who was seen hitting and kicking his dogs after they refused to keep going on a stretch of ice. And

just the other day, planes were called in to airlift dogs whose mushers had gotten stuck in the storm that snared Packer.

Still, how many dog deaths are reasonable? How many more must die before the fun is finally sucked out of the sport?

Yes, the race is a tradition, one of the last great tests of endurance for dogs and their masters. There's something to be said for that, even if the dogs, unlike humans, have no choice about competing.

Unfortunately for Dizzy and Grasshopper, this was one test they couldn't pass.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press.



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The age question again haunts China

John Leicester
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — If you believe — and many don't — that Chinese officials have been truthful about the age of their tiny Olympic gymnasts, then the latest reports out of China might give you pause.

Authorities in the south of the country, using X-ray bone analysis because official ID cards seemingly cannot be trusted, have unmasked 2,113 young athletes — or perhaps not so young — who may have been fibbing about their age. China's official Xinhua News Agency tells us. That's a failure rate of 15 percent, because Xinhua says 13,864 athletes were tested in all.

There's no indication that any of

the female gymnasts who won gold for China at last year's Beijing Olympics were among those tested.

Nevertheless, the suggestion of widespread age-fakery in China is yet more food for thought for Andre Guesbuhler, who as general secretary of the International Gymnastics Federation has been fielding the multitude of questions about whether China has competed with girls who were too young.

"Very interesting," Guesbuhler said of this week's revelations from the southern province of Guangdong. "It certainly proves that our doubts as to the age (of Chinese competitors) have a certain — how do you say? — have a certain reality."

Age-fraud is not unique to China.

The physically fit likely have been passing themselves off as younger or older than they are since the Romans started conscripting armies. Major League Baseball is investigating 42 Dominican Republic prospects suspected of lying about their age when they signed professional contracts. As elsewhere, cheating in China is motivated by the desire to win medals and make money.

But the really disturbing question with the Guangdong cases is why authorities there felt they needed X-rays to get to the truth.

What does that say about authorities' trust in their own documentation? Does that mean official ID cards, the new anti-fraud kind with an embedded computer chip, that Guangdong athletes were told to present aren't always reliable? Maybe, because authorities also ordered athletes to submit to fingerprinting.

The same standards weren't applied with China's Olympic gymnasts. The International Gymnastics Federation had to take at face value the passports.

see China, page 28

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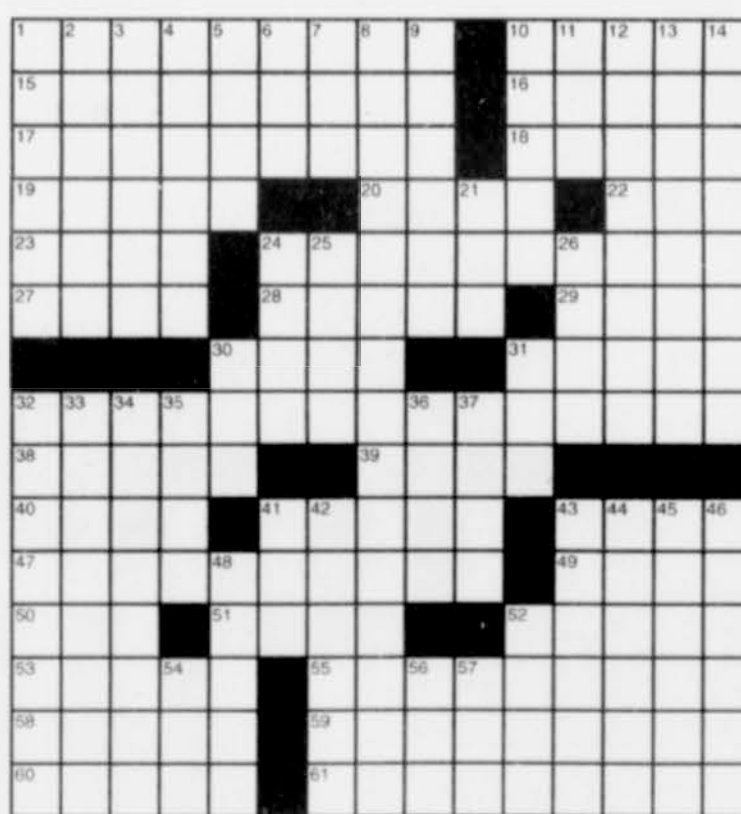


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0213

- Across**
- 1 Activity involving a needle
 - 10 Expression of praise
 - 15 Household help?
 - 16 Flavor of Calvados brandy
 - 17 Wave measurement
 - 18 Unusually high 17-Across
 - 19 Closest to nil
 - 20 Potential sucker
 - 22 Wretched
 - 23 Gallimaufry
 - 24 One getting pinned?
 - 27 Even's counterpart
 - 28 It's hard to penetrate
 - 29 "Desperate Housewives" housewife
 - 30 "Point taken"
 - 31 Out-of-the-way spots
 - 32 Big draw of early Broadway
 - 38 Putters
 - 39 Ray in pictures
 - 40 Dispensary stock, for short
 - 41 Cat's-eye alternative
 - 43 Furry sci-fi figure
 - 47 Self-starter's equipment?
 - 49 Something that's picked up
 - 50 Field of field workers: Abbr.
 - 51 Small dabbler
 - 52 Grinder in an Italian restaurant
 - 53 Indication of a job well done
 - 55 Getting ready to make one's move?
 - 58 Crane, e.g.
 - 59 Command
 - 60 Act unprofessionally
 - 61 Merrie Melodies regular
- Down**
- 1 Peace
 - 2 Thick-skinned fruit
 - 3 Debilitate
 - 4 "The Simpsons" bully
 - 5 Set down
 - 6 Choosing method
 - 7 19th of 24
 - 8 Locale of Krypton in the Superman saga
 - 9 Feigned
 - 10 Madrid's del Prado
 - 11 Useful piece of code, briefly
 - 12 Series kickoff
 - 13 1955 A.L. batting champ
 - 14 Gratuitous
 - 21 Part of N.Y.C.: Abbr.
 - 24 Boughpot
 - 25 City liberated during the Battle of Kursk
 - 26 Hollow
 - 30 Hypotheticals
 - 31 Worm (1980s light-up toy)
 - 32 Victoria Falls forms part of its border



Puzzle by Doug Peterson

- 33 "No smoking" symbol, e.g.
- 34 Poe poem about a knight's lifelong quest
- 35 Exploit
- 36 Disrespectful
- 37 Expressions of praise
- 41 Bolted things down
- 42 Balsamic vinegar source
- 43 Composition of some chains
- 44 Ad-lib
- 45 Thick
- 46 Big-enough catch
- 48 Browser setting?
- 52 Very serious
- 54 Clinic worker
- 56 Person in the fourth grade: Abbr.
- 57 "The Wonder Years" teen who loved Winnie

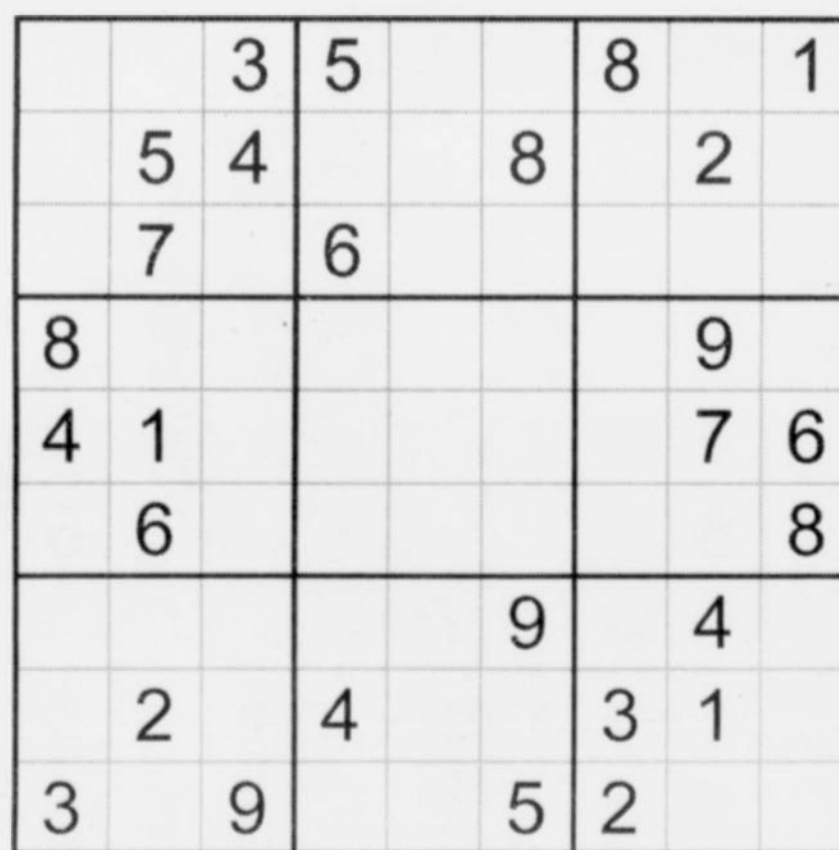
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LENIN ATOM SPA
SNEAK IN LA
CHARLES DARWIN
PLOTART BEAME
AIWA SNACK AFEW
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China

continued from page 26

ID cards and other paperwork that China turned over in answer to persistent doubts that some of its girls at the games may not have met the minimum age requirement of 16.

Gueisbuhler, who spoke to The Associated Press by phone, said that "for legal reasons" his governing body of world gymnastics is "simply not authorized to use X-rays or to use other scientific ways to check on the age" of competitors who raise doubts.

All it can do is verify their paperwork, and if there is "no contradiction between any of these documents there's absolutely nothing we can do. So in this sense we have to trust the government."

Perhaps so. But trust has clearly been getting shortchanged in the government-controlled world of Chinese sports. Only after the Beijing Games, when the international focus of attention had shifted elsewhere, did authorities there begin in earnest to expose the extent of age-fakery in sports.

In December, the basketball association said it found 36 players in China's professional basketball league who were older than they originally stated. National head coach Li Yongbo said in October that it is a problem in badminton, too, and has "reached the point where we must speak about, discuss and resolve it," the Changjiang Times quoted him as saying.

Guangdong conducted the bone-age analyses last year, Xinhua says. In some cases, tests suggested that athletes were six or seven years over the limit for the age-group in which they competed. Based on the findings, sports officials are revising results from youth

competitions in Guangdong in 2008, Xinhua added.

In fact, bone X-rays don't provide a perfectly accurate measure of real age and, with adolescents, readings can be off by months or even years, which makes Guangdong's decision to employ them doubly curious. One can only guess that officials there must have had genuine misgivings about athletes' ages to go to such trouble and expense.

Xinhua left no doubt that age-changing is a real problem. "As many people in the sports world know, fakery is becoming increasingly intense and spreading greatly in youth competitions in our country," it said.

Shanghai Sports University professor Liu Qingzao says the problem is most prevalent in provincial-level competitions in China and he suggested that the Guangdong cases may just be the tip of the iceberg. "It's a good thing that they caught some of those athletes. But actually, they can catch even more," he said.

Perhaps gymnasts will be next.

China's girls at the Beijing Games were all cleared by their paperwork. But the gymnastics federation is still investigating two members of China's 2000 squad — Dong Fangxiao and Yang Yun. Discrepancies in Dong's paperwork have suggested that she might have been 14 at the Sydney Games, and Yang told Chinese state TV in 2007 that she was 14 at those Olympics.

Yang has subsequently said that she misspoke. Gueisbuhler doesn't seem convinced. The probe could take several more months.

"We do have our doubts and we have good reasons to doubt," he said.

John Leicester is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press

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20-somethings find new disappointment with layoffs

Megan K. Scott
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Molly Stach thought she was doing everything right until she got laid off from her public relations job in December. Since then, the 26-year-old has been struggling with self-doubt.

"Why don't they want to hire me?" she asked of the companies not responding to the resumes she sends out each week. "I went through four years of college, graduated. You get praised while you are working and then all the sudden you are not employable."

For 20-somethings who are losing their first or second jobs because of the recession, the economic downturn has been an especially bitter pill. Many of them have been raised to believe they can do anything and be anything, and are finding their high expectations dashed.

"Many were raised to believe that the world was their oyster," said Alexandra Robbins, author of "Conquering Your Quarterlife Crisis." "And in this kind of econ-

omy, that's just not the case."

The national unemployment rate for people ages 20 to 24 was 12.9 percent in February, up from 9 percent a year ago and higher than the overall unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. For those ages 25 to 29, the rate — not seasonally adjusted — was 10.6 percent.

Getting laid-off is a humbling experience for Gen Yers, many of whom have never experienced real financial hardship or big disappointment, said Nancy Molitor, a clinical psychologist in Wilmette, Ill. She said many of her young adult patients feel depressed, devastated and uneasy about their future.

"A lot of these kids grew up thinking they were going to be able to have it all," she said. "They feel frozen just when they should feel excited and hopeful about the future."

While 20-somethings don't generally have the responsibilities of older workers, getting laid off is in other ways a harder blow be-

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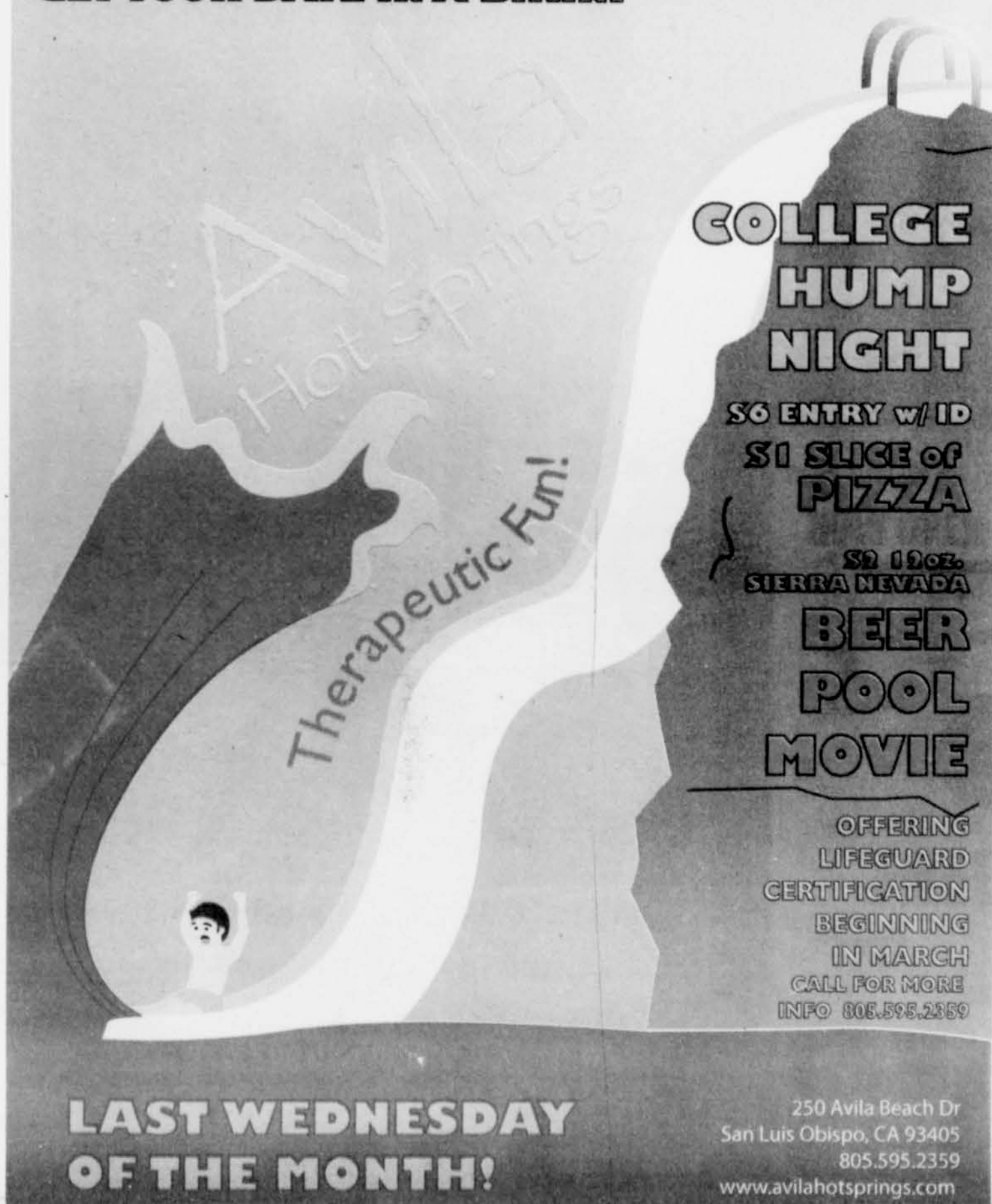
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cause they are still trying to figure out what to do with their lives and are "ardent about doing something meaningful for a living," Robbins said.

Craig Hengel, 27, of St. Cloud, Minn., was surprised to be let go from his job at a printing company.

"Losing my job is something I never thought about because I am educated, very hard working ... and have never had to deal with something like this," he said. "I don't really know what to do next and I'm not finding much answers."

In previous recessions, companies tended to let go of more senior workers because of their high salaries, said Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. But he said younger workers are faring worse this time around as employers hold on to the workers who have knowledge, experience and better work habits.

A growing number of workers over age 60 have also been returning to the work force and capturing jobs that would have gone to young adults, he added.

Brianna D'Amico, 23, was the first to go at the high-end retail group where she landed a job in Washington, D.C. She had been there six months when the company restructured; everyone else had five or more years of experience.

"It really hurts to lose a job that you really like, that you were good at, that you were praised for being good at," said D'Amico, who is collecting unemployment. "For a while I felt so embarrassed I was laid off."

In some ways, growing up in a time of plenty has made it harder for 20-somethings to adjust because they have to learn new skills, such as budgeting, living frugally and staying out of debt, said Dr. Judith Orloff, author of "Emotional Freedom: Liberate Yourself From Negative Emotions and Transform

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Your Life."

Still, she added, many have a youthful outlook that there's plenty of time to fix things and get back on track.

Some are hitting up the bank of mom and dad, though mom and dad are experiencing their own financial struggles. Others are looking at the situation as an opportunity.

Hengel has taken an unpaid internship in music PR while he searches for another job. He is also moving closer to the Twin Cities, where there are more career opportunities. Darnell Holloway, 24, who was let go from an investment bank in San Francisco, is considering graduate school. He's already started studying for the GMAT.

Stach, of Wakefield, R.I., is using her free time to blog. And D'Amico, who has cut out shopping sprees, has rented four seasons of her favorite melodrama "The O.C." She also spends hours look-

By The Numbers

12.9%

percent of people ages 20 to 24 that were unemployed in February

9%

percent that unemployment rate has gone up over the previous year

8.1%

national overall unemployment rate in February

ing for jobs and hits the gym five times a week.

"I know something will come for me, something good is around the corner," she said. "Until then, I'm taking suggestions."

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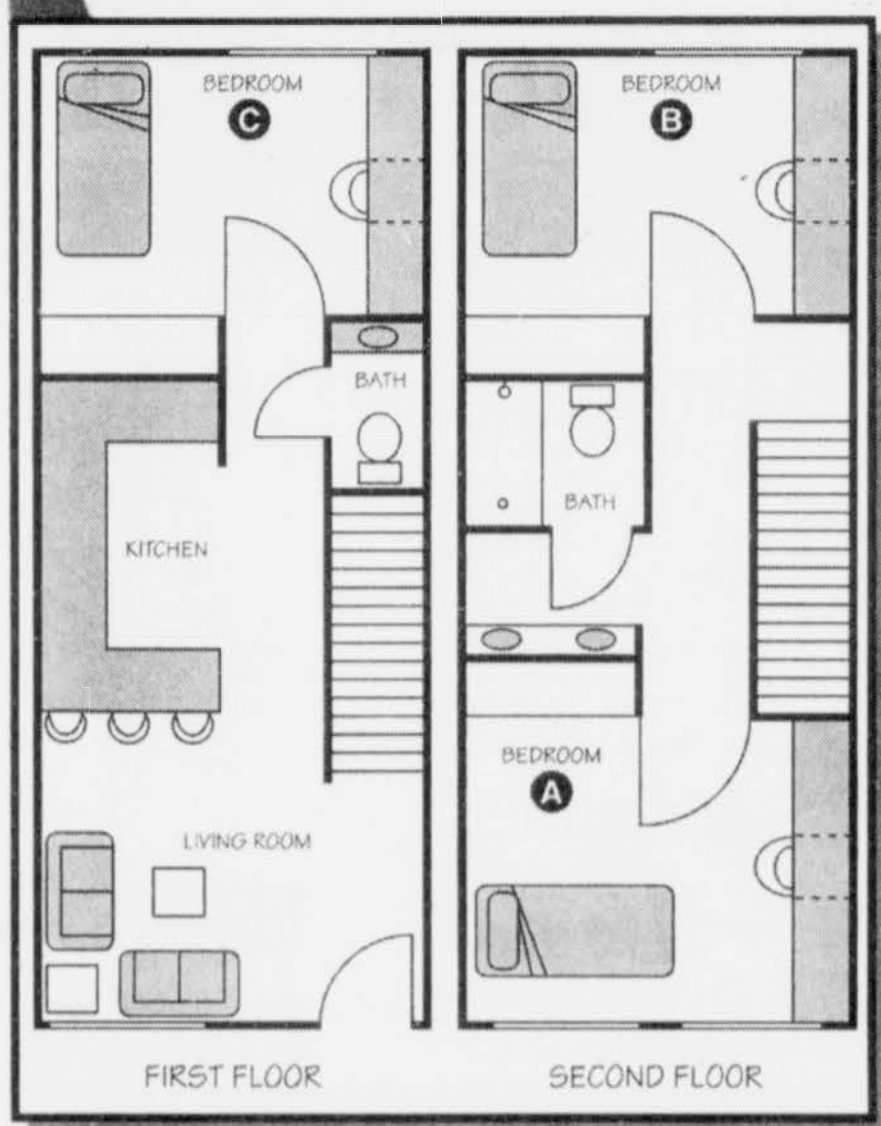
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