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Saturday mail
may soon be
obsolete.

IN NEWS, 4



Students and community
members crowd
Chumash Auditorium
to view "Kabul Transit"
Tuesday night.

mustangdaily.net

Darling, Keeler,
Anderson get ready
for final regular
season game.

IN SPORTS, 16



Volume LXXIV, Number 86

Thursday, March 4, 2010

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Cabo San Luis destroyed in fire, Kona's Deli damaged



ELIZABETH MCANINCH MUSTANG DAILY

A structure fire broke out early Wednesday morning at Cabo San Luis restaurant on Foothill Boulevard, burning a significant portion of the building and setting fire to Kona's Deli.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

A fire damaged part of a Foothill Boulevard retail complex and destroyed the Cabo San Luis restaurant early Wednesday morning, fire officials said. No injuries were reported.

Four fire agencies responded to a report of a structure fire around

4 a.m. They found flames shooting out of the restaurant's roof as it was caving in. Firefighters knocked down the fire at about 4:40, but not before a large explosion, which occurred approximately five minutes later, San Luis Obispo City Fire Chief John Callahan said.

"It blew the wall out the side toward the Shell Gas Station, and we

could feel the concussion over here at the command post (located across the street)," he said.

Firefighters attacked the fire with two aerial water pipes to quell the flames. There were also firefighters surrounding the structure to secure the periphery and ensure the fire

see Fire, page 2

Golden Gate Bridge jumper speaks at local mental health event

Megan Hassler

MUSTANG DAILY

He walked, tears streaming.

For 40 minutes John Kevin Hines paced the Golden Gate Bridge crying, hoping that someone would notice—that someone would care enough to stop him and talk.

Someone did. A woman asked him to take her picture.

He took her picture, handed her the camera and leapt over the rail.

But the second his hand left the rail he changed his mind.

"I don't want to die God, please save me," Hines thought to himself.

John Kevin Hines told his story to an audience Friday in San Luis Obispo to show people can outlive mental illness.

"My message is one of hope and future while living with a mental illness," Hines said. "It is one of empathy for those who have lost loved ones to suicide and equal empathy for those who have thoughts of suicide or attempts themselves."

Hines was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder when he was 17 years old. His biological parents were mentally ill and both had substance abuse problems. After Hines was left unattended as an infant, he was taken into protective custody and placed in foster care.

A woman named Deborah Hines came to the home John was staying in and said that was, "the moment I fell in love." He was officially adopted by Patrick and Deborah Hines when he was about 4 years old.

As a teenager he heard voices in his head and went to a psychiatrist where he was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. He was given medication and a routine: wake up, eat, take his medicine, exercise and go to sleep around the same time everyday. But Hines was a rebellious teenager. He binge drank on the weekends instead.

These actions had an effect on Hines' mental illness.

When he was 19 he became depressed and in Sept. 2000 he started to think of suicide. He had been looking on the Internet and found a Web site about suicide and it said the best place in San Francisco was the Golden Gate Bridge.

In the two weeks leading up to his jump, Hines fluctuated between a manic high and a depressed low.

His dad had noticed that his son's episode was different this time. He called his psychiatrist and asked him to come see Hines. The night before Hines took the bus to the Golden Gate Bridge his psychiatrist assured his father he would come out of it in a few days.

"He was nearly dead wrong," Hines said.

His father asked him to come with him to work that day because he was worried about him. Hines declined and said he had a math test he needed to take.

After being dropped off at school, just like any other day, he attended his English class, dropped his other classes, got Starburst and Skittles at Walgreen's and prepared himself to take his last bus to the bridge.

After Hines had jumped over the railing, he tried to straighten his body so he hit the water feet first. He sprained his ankle and broke two bones in his lower back on impact. He sunk between 40 to 50 feet and had to swim to the surface with only his arms due to the injuries. After he reached the surface he felt something brush his leg.

He had just survived a jump from the Golden Gate Bridge and now said he thought he would be eaten by a shark.

It was not a shark, but a seal that continued to nudge him and keep him afloat until he was picked up by a Coast Guard boat about 10 minutes later.

When Hines commented on the seal in the documentary "The Bridge" he said, "Apparently it was the only thing keeping me afloat. You cannot tell me that wasn't God, because that is what I believe. And that is what I will believe until the day I die."

Since Hines survived his jump from the bridge in 2000, he has become a public speaker, a mental health advocate and a writer. He is currently working on a few books including an autobiography and a handbook on living mentally well. He speaks on various topics including mental health and diversity in America.

As one of 29 people who have survived jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge, Hines has told his story to more than a quarter of a million people. Less than two percent of the survivors have gained full mobility. Hines is part of this two percent. He now works to spread the message of healthy living and suicide prevention.

Hines told a story of a recent presentation he gave at a church. After Hines spoke a man in his 80's approached him and said, "Today I was going to kill myself. I saw the flyer, I came here and I am never going to kill myself. Bye."

This is one of the many people who have not taken their lives because Kevin lived to tell the story of his, Hines said.

"No one has to die by suicide, no where, no how."

Fire

continued from page 1

didn't spread to other buildings, Callahan said.

Fire authorities escorted adjacent building owners in and out of their businesses in order to secure valuables, he added. Fire Marshal Rodger Maggior estimated more than one million dollars in damages.

Property manager Dan Rutledge, of Rutledge Company, said that Cabo San Luis is gone and Kona's Deli is "severely impacted."

watched the fire crews work in the light drizzle around 9 a.m. "It was a really gnarly fire. I just saw the devastation. The building was annihilated for the most part. So it was pretty much a shock for me."

Terri Sablan, who works at Rabobank down the street, said the building looked like it exploded.

"It's so sad," she said. "I've eaten here a lot. I have a customer who eats here every day. The food was delicious."

Rock & Roll Hair stylist Blake Strait said he thought the fire got all the way to the front side of

I got a phone call about 6 this morning telling me not to bother coming to into work because the whole left side of the building was on fire.

—Blake Strait

Rock & Roll hair stylist

"The other two aren't damaged," he said, referring to SLO Bookstore and the Rock & Roll Hair Salon, "but we can't open them until we find out what caused the fire."

Callahan described the restaurant as a "total loss," but the owner, Dan Harper, would have the final call.

Ty Vinke, manager of Cabo San Luis, which has been open for about 10 years, said at first he didn't believe it.

"I don't know anything yet," Vinke said as he stood across the street drinking out of a cream-colored, green-rimmed mug, as he

Kona's Deli.

"I got a phone call about 6 this morning telling me not to bother coming into work because the whole left side of the building was on fire," he said. "The whole roof is gone. It looks extremely out-of-place."

Callahan said they are conducting a fire investigation to determine the cause, and then they will turn the matter over to insurance companies.

Aimee Vasquez and Alex Kacik contributed to this report.

Long after Wall Street's crisis, Congress still arguing over fix

Kevin G. Hall and David Lightman

McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Eighteen months after the near-collapse of the U.S. financial system, lawmakers in the nation's capital still can't agree on how to fix what went wrong, despite the abundant evidence of the economic devastation the crisis has caused.

The House of Representatives passed a sweeping overhaul of financial regulation in December, but the legislation is now tied in knots in the Senate. There, Democrats and Republicans have argued fruitlessly for months while Americans feel the aftershocks of the meltdown in the form of high unemployment, record lengths of joblessness and a historic plunge in lending.

The House legislation, patterned largely on the Obama administration's blueprint, tackles everything from first-ever regulation of complex financial instruments to new bankruptcy-like powers to liquidate giant financial institutions if their problems threaten the broader financial system.

The biggest obstacle to agreement remains the administration's proposal for a stand-alone Consumer Finance Protection Agency to police credit products such as mortgages, credit cards, student loans and even payday loans.

Senate Banking Committee

Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn., has floated a compromise with Republicans to scrap the stand-alone requirement for the consumer protection agency in favor of one that would be independent but housed in an existing bureaucracy, such as the Treasury Department or perhaps the Federal Reserve.

"Things continue to move very well," Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., one of two GOP senators negotiating with Dodd on compromise language, said Wednesday. "We're closer on a couple issues, but I'm not going to say any more."

Another influential Republican was more direct.

"There will be a bill, but it will be very much cut back from what the House passed," said Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. "There will be consumer protection, but probably not under a separate agency. I don't know where it could be housed."

Those comments, however, reflect a fight over an address and not the more substantive question of what the agency's consumer-protection powers would be. That's the issue on which lines are being drawn in the sand. Neither Democrats nor Republicans appear ready to blink, and the impasse could doom the legislation.

"The debate about where it is, is not insignificant, but most significant is: What powers will it have? Will we be able to do something about what

happened to consumers over the last few years?" Dodd asked on MSNBC Wednesday.

He fear that the consumer-protection agency could impose costly regulations, raising borrowing costs for consumers and companies.

Consumer groups argue that federal bank regulators failed miserably to protect consumers because they consider banks, not consumers, their constituents. Leaving consumer protection up to the regulators who failed consumers preserves the status quo, they argue.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner met Wednesday with representatives of 30 advocacy groups and assured them that he won't back off a core goal of strong consumer protection.

"We urged them to continue to stress the need for an independent consumer regulator that has the power to oversee all players in the financial market place, whether they are banks or not, and it has strong enforcement authority," Travis Plunkett, the legislative director for the Consumer Federation of America, told McClatchy Newspapers.

So with businesses, banks and consumer advocates all digging in their heels, is it a stalemate?

"I definitely wouldn't call it a stalemate. But I would sound delusional if I said something definitely was going to happen," said Plunkett, noting that substantive talks are taking place in the Senate. "It's pretty clear right now that the banks hold the upper hand."

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Military suicides cause civilian casualties

Halimah Abdullah

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wimmer charmed potential Army recruits with a movie star's smile, but whenever he closed his eyes, he dreamed of his own dead body swinging from a rope, his feet dangling just above a chair.

When those nightmares eventually blurred, the Persian Gulf veteran and former Army recruiter began trying to recreate the grisly images. He tried to kill himself with pills in the woods, and a razor blade in a hotel room, and every suicide attempt drew his wife, Jennifer, and their four daughters deeper into his dark world.

Jennifer learned that his fourth suicide attempt, on July 23, had succeeded when she got a text message: You'll "find his body hanging like a Christmas ornament from a tree across from the range on base. If he knew I was sending this he would be pissed. Hope you understand. Bob."

Jennifer doesn't know who "Bob" is, and the military is preparing to close its investigation into his death pending more evidence.

So less than a year after Daniel Wimmer drove his white Ford F-150 truck to nearby Fort Benning, a sprawling military installation near Columbus, Ga., and hanged himself from a tree, his family is still caught in the dark currents that took his life — a life they're only just beginning to understand.

"It's like fighting the ocean with a teaspoon," said Jennifer, 42. "When I wake up, I ask myself, 'Is it going to hurt today?'"

In January, the Defense Department reported that there were 160 reported active-duty Army suicides in 2009, up from 140 in 2008. Of these, 114 have been confirmed.

While the military's suicide rate is comparable to civilian rates, the increase is alarming because the armed services traditionally had lower suicide rates than the general population. The increase in military suicides includes men between the ages of 18 and 30, mid-career officers and, increasingly, women.

The numbers don't tell the whole story. Long after the flag-draped coffins are lowered into the ground, families such as the Wimmers are left to measure their grief in a seemingly endless stretch of days marked by missed birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and babies' first steps.

"I think we need to realize that

we have families that are under such great stress," Deborah Mullen, the wife of Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told more than 1,000 military and federal health care workers at a suicide prevention conference in January. "This stress is only going to continue. We need to be able to give tools to family members who are left behind."

Daniel's depression consumed the loving husband and father his family once knew and left behind a despondent phantom. They met in 2007, and early on, Jennifer Wimmer felt him slipping away and tried desperately to hold on.

"From the moment I met him, I knew he suffered from issues of depression," she said. "When I told him that he needed to get some help, he said, 'I can't do that. It will damage my career.'"

Despite calls by top Pentagon officials for a sea change in attitudes about mental health, millions of dollars in new suicide prevention programming and thousands of hours spent helping soldiers suffering from what are euphemistically dubbed "invisible wounds," stereotypes about mental health still exist, and they complicate the military's efforts to stem the rising tide of suicides.

Like other military families in Phenix City, Ala., a town of 30,000 near Fort Benning, love of country and a sense of honor and duty ran deep for the Wimmers. So Jennifer initially said nothing to Daniel's commanding officers and resolved to keep the matter private, telling only his unit chaplain.

She'd known by their second date that they were destined to be together. She was charmed by his sweet half smile and by the sad brown eyes that seemed to match his humble disposition, and she vowed to watch for any signs of inner turmoil.

They dated for seven months and married in March 2008.

Things were good at first. They bought a new home on a quiet street in a subdivision where Daniel ran alongside the kids as they rode their bikes, and they had a large backyard where he goaded his stepdaughters into water balloon fights.

"He was the best mentor to the kids and the greatest parent," Jennifer said. "I would listen to him talk, and they would hang on his every word."

Even though he hated the long hours, he took a job as a recruiter and later a drill sergeant.

Months before he committed suicide, though, the Wimmer fam-

ily learned that he was being reassigned to Fort Carson, Colo.

"When he realized that the one thing that gave him some pride was going to go away, he felt lost," his wife said.

Daniel Wimmer began taking long drives by himself at night, steering his truck across the Alabama-Georgia state line to the woods at Fort Benning's edge. One morning in March, he returned home and told his wife that he'd been sitting in the woods all night, staring into the dark and swallowing a bottle of muscle relaxers.

He didn't go to the hospital, and seemed fine physically, so the couple decided to keep the matter between them and the unit chaplain.

The next month, however, he tried to overdose again, this time with sleeping pills. Jennifer, by now six months pregnant with their twin daughters, said she packed him into the car and drove him to Martin Army Community Hospital in Fort Benning, where he was admitted for inpatient psychiatric care and given antidepressants.

His commanding officers were finally told that he suffered from depression.

In May, he disappeared again, and tried to kill himself with more sleeping pills. Jennifer said that she got into a car accident while she was trying to find him.

"They thought I was going to deliver the babies" after the accident, she said. "I was in the hospital overnight, and he stayed with me."

The next day, though, Daniel didn't go to work, and he never came back to the hospital. After she was discharged, Jennifer said, she checked the online credit card statement, and he'd checked himself into a hotel in Hogansville, Ga., an hour away from their house.

She said that she and a chaplain sped over to the hotel. Wimmer stumbled into the room with blood on his wrists.

He refused to go back to the hospital, and the next day his commanding officers met with the couple to talk about Wimmer's rapidly deteriorating mental health. He was advised to take a month off and seek additional counseling.

The Wimmers' twin girls arrived amid this upheaval and uncertainty. They were dark-haired darlings who, for a while at least, seemed to quell their father's inner rage. He wrote them a letter saying, "I daydream every day of the great wonderful women you will grow up to be. I just pray that I will be a good father and role model for you to follow."

That same week, he also wrote of his growing disillusionment with military service.

"I no longer believe in the cause. We preach that soldiers protect our way of life and our freedoms, but is it really? I now feel all soldiers are in pons (sic) ready to die to make the poloticans (sic) rich."

The next month, when his wife asked how his return to work was going, "He snapped and said I'm done with the Army. I'm done with you. I'm done with doctors. I'm done with pills. I'm done."

Then he sped off into the

night.

He never returned.

"As long as a soldier does his job, everything is good, then when something like this happens the family is chastised, too, and it's like, 'Well, what did she do? How could she have prevented this?' Spouses are looked at very harshly," Jennifer Wimmer said.

"It hurts me more because I was so proud to be married to my husband, and he was such a dedicated, decorated soldier. I still believe in our Army, our military. But it hurts."



MCCLATCHY NEWS SERVICES

Less than a year after Sgt 1st Class Daniel Wimmer hanged himself from a tree at Fort Benning, his family, including daughter Alex holding Wimmer's other daughter, Mi-Na, at his graveside, is still pulled by the currents that claimed his life.

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Saturday mail delivery is in financial jeopardy

Kim Geiger

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Facing a projected \$238-billion loss over the next decade, the U.S. Postal Service on Tuesday proposed a 10-year plan to bring it into financial health, including putting an end to Saturday mail delivery.

The Postal Service, which is regulated by Congress and the administration but operates without any federal assistance, faces "a severe income gap that we absolutely have to close," Post-

master General John Potter said at a briefing with congressional staff and private stakeholders, whose businesses rely heavily on the mail delivery service.

Such cost-cutting measures have been proposed — and largely ignored in the past. Last year, USPS representatives pushed multiple times at hearings on Capitol Hill for the authority to end Saturday delivery, change the way the service pays out retiree health benefits, and raise prices — all actions that require congressional approval.

To strengthen its point this time

around, the USPS hired three independent consulting firms — at a total cost of \$4.8 million — to assess and offer recommendations about the service's financial stability.

The Postal Service predicted that first-class mail volume will drop 37 percent by 2020. Bob Bernstock, USPS president of mailing and shipping services, said that "creates an urgency that was not there before." USPS generates about half its revenue from first-class mail.

The service has identified measures within its authority to close that

shortfall by about \$123 billion over 10 years. USPS cannot close the remaining \$115 billion without being granted the authority to implement additional measures, including ending Saturday delivery, estimated to save \$40 billion, Bernstock said.

Ending Saturday service and changing the payment structure for retiree health benefits make up the bulk of the savings. Other savings would come from personnel changes and price increases, though the price for a first-class stamp will remain at 44 cents through 2010. Post offices


would remain open on Saturdays.

Rep. Danny K. Davis, D-Ill., a member of the subcommittee that oversees the postal service in the House, said that the proposal was "heading in the right direction," but that it is by no means a done deal.

"I think there's going to be a great deal of negotiation, a lot of haggling, if you will, before plans are actually set in stone," Davis said, stressing that Congress' role has traditionally been that of arbiter between the busi-

see Mail, page 5

Cal Poly Symphony Winter Concert
Student Soloist Showcase



Scott Charvet
Creston: Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra ("Vigorous")

Karlle Saenz
Mozart: "Smanie implacabile" from *Così fan tutte*

Amy Beth Nickelson
Herbert: "Art is Calling For Me (I Want to be a Prima Donna)" from *The Enchantress*

Zack Fisher
Evazen: Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra

Lisa Figels
Kellie Barragan & Brittney Zearfoss Sullivan: "Three Little Maids" from *The Mikado*

Emily Allyn
Tosori: "Gimme, gimme" from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*

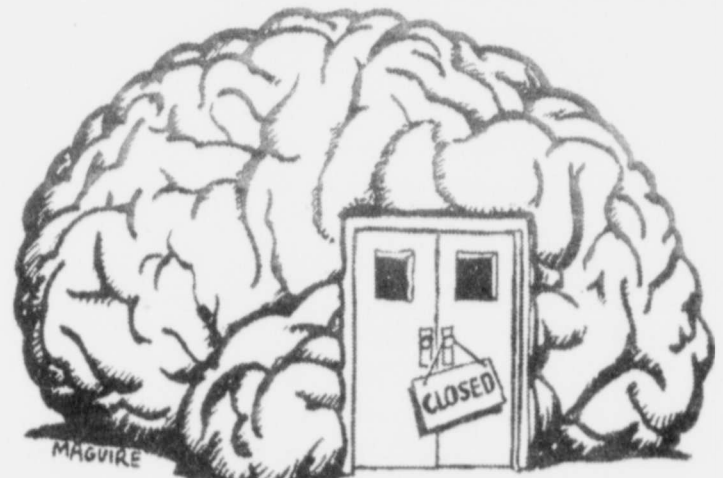
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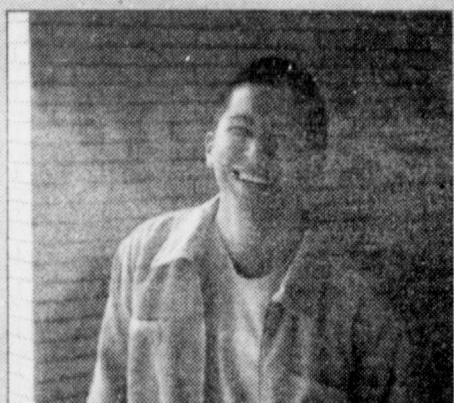
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News

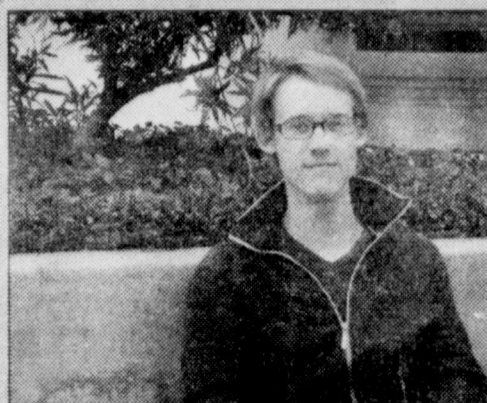
WORD ON THE STREET

"What do you know about the crisis in Darfur?"



"I know very little, except that there is genocide."

-Reece Relatores, architectural engineering senior



"Not a whole lot, to be honest. I know there is one and I hear people talking about it."

-Tim Davenport, electrical engineering junior



"I know the government is trying to run out the natives into Chad and they are also committing genocide."

-Matt Yosgott, campus dining employee



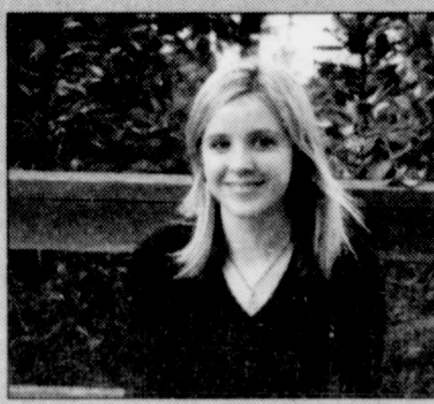
"Not much, really."

-Maggie Lau, biochemistry junior



"I went to a rally last year about Joseph Kony and the whole mess of it. A friend told me."

-Brandon Hayes, electrical engineering senior



"Nothing."

-Jenna Lee, microbiology sophomore

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY WILL TAYLOR

Mail

continued from page 4

ness interests of the service and the interests of consumers and mail carriers.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., who heads the Senate subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Postal Service, said the service "must be allowed to make the business decisions they need to stay competitive and viable in the years to come," suggesting a willingness to grant the decision-making authorities that the USPS has requested.

"As we have seen, it is not productive for Congress to act like a 535-member board of directors and constantly second-guess these necessary changes," Carper said.

The unions that represent mail carriers and post office workers oppose ending Saturday delivery.

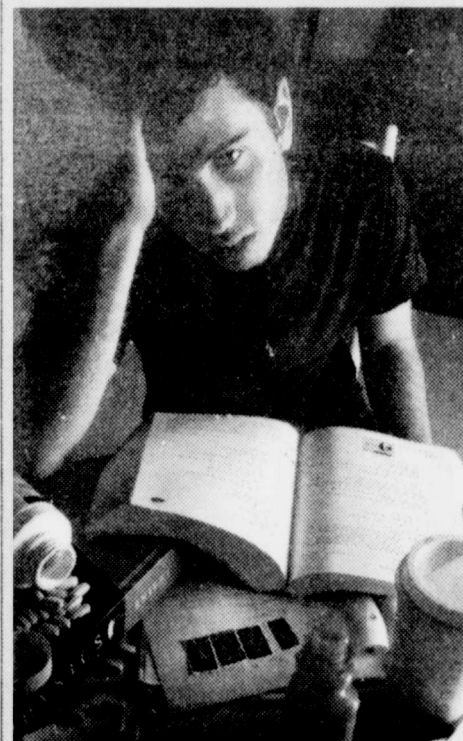
"I do not believe that weakening our commitment of six-day service to the public will enhance the long-term position of the Postal Service as a critical element in our nation's economic infrastructure," said Fredric V. Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, which represents all active city delivery carriers in collective bargaining with the service.

Rolando pointed to a recent report that found that the Postal Service had overpaid \$75 billion for postal pension costs, and suggested that correcting this overpayment would pro-

vide the service with the "financial breathing room needed to develop a more successful plan."

Davis said those savings would "last a certain period of time," but that more would need to be done to stabilize the financial future of the service.

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Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT)—As the nation's economy continues to struggle through the recession, local arts organizations and museums are feeling a trickle-down effect. In troubled times, donors are less charitable, state and federal dollars dwindle, and families are less likely to spend money on fine art and other nonessential items.

Not only does that impact the art center in San Luis Obispo, which takes a 40 percent commission, but also the artists, whose living often depends on selling their work. The art center is also offering discounts, hoping to encourage families to participate more in after-school classes.

...

SAN DIEGO (MCT)—The intense search for a San Diego County high school student ended Tuesday when authorities unearthed a body in a shallow grave near the lakeside park where the popular teenager had gone running last week.

There is a "strong likelihood" that the body is that of Chelsea King, a senior at Poway High School, though a positive identification had yet to be made, said San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore.

The teenager's family is devastated, he said at a news conference, adding, "They were holding out hope as we all were that we would find Chelsea alive."

National

CHICAGO (MCT) — Robert Blagojevich paints himself as a victim, but a capacity crowd of 1,000 people at Northwestern University saw him more as a political clown Tuesday night.

They laughed during the introductions, when a campus leader said the College Democrats invited the indicted former Illinois governor to speak to "make sure tomorrow's leaders respect the rule of law."

Blagojevich has protested his innocence in myriad forums and insisted he would be cleared once the wiretaps that led to his arrest were heard. He stuck to those talking points during an appearance on the Evanston campus.

...

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Barre Yousuf, a Somali businessman now living in Georgia, spent much of the 1980s in a small, dark and windowless cell. "I was tortured with an electric shock and water-boarded," he said.

At other times, military police subjected him to what the Somali regime called the "Mig." He was forced to lie on his stomach with his arms and legs tied behind him, while a heavy rock was placed on his back. In this painful position, the victim's body was said to resemble the swept-back wings of a Mig fighter jet.

International

GREECE (MCT) — Greece on Wednesday is expected to outline a fresh austerity package that could be worth 4 billion euros in a bid to slash its budget deficit that has raked world markets.

Those measures have been greeted skeptically by markets and by potential donors Germany and France who have pressed for sharper cuts.

The debt-ravaged country is trying to cut its debt-to-GDP ratio from at least 12.7 percent down to 8.7 percent. As word of the new austerity measures spread Wednesday, hundreds of senior citizens wielding canes and waving colorful banners broke through a police cordon guarding the prime minister's office to protest pension freezes.

...

AFGHANISTAN (MCT) — Even as U.S. forces take steps to reduce the number of Afghan civilians killed by aerial attacks, other civilian casualties remain stubbornly high — deaths in so-called "escalation of force" incidents, in which edgy American troops fire on civilians who come too close to their convoys or roadblocks.

The number of Afghans killed in such incidents rose 43 percent in 2009 to 113, from 79 in 2008, while the total number of NATO coalition-caused civilian deaths and injuries declined 15.5 percent, to 535 from 633.

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Obama to consider GOP ideas on health care

Noam N. Levey
and Janet Hook

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — With the yearlong struggle over health care moving into its climactic final stage, President Barack Obama Tuesday made a last-ditch bid to win Republican support, raising the possibility of including a bundle of specific Republican ideas in the Democrats' legislative package.

In a letter to congressional leaders of both parties, Obama said he was open to considering GOP proposals to root out Medicare fraud, reduce medical malpractice lawsuits and encourage greater use of Health Savings Accounts.

"I said throughout this that I'd continue to draw on the best ideas from both parties, and I'm open to these proposals in that spirit," Obama wrote.

The overture, which follows Obama's day-long health care summit with senior lawmakers last week, appeared unlikely to convince any Republicans to drop their opposition to the comprehensive legislation Democrats are seeking.

"This is a car that can't be recalled and fixed," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said Tuesday of the president's plan. "It has to be parked, (which) would be a generous word for it. And we have to start over in a new vehicle."

But the president's gambit helped lay the foundation for a final push by Democratic leaders to pass a

package of health bills in the next month without Republican support — offering political cover to uneasy Democrats by underscoring the president's argument that he has gone the extra mile in seeking compromise.

To secure final passage of health care legislation, Democratic leaders must persuade a majority of their party members in the House to approve the bill passed by the Senate late last year, then tweaking the Senate plan in a separate bill approved under a budget reconciliation process that cannot be filibustered.

That reconciliation package could include several of the GOP ideas lauded by Obama, as well as other changes sought by House Democrats — among them a reduction in a new tax on high-end "Cadillac" health plans and an increase in subsidies to help low- and moderate-income Americans buy health coverage.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday that parliamentary rules would prevent the package from changing controversial provisions in the Senate bill limiting federal funding for abortion and preventing undocumented immigrants from buying most private health insurance on their own.

Pelosi did not say how Democratic leaders would deal with the abortion and immigration provisions, which, if unchanged, could prompt some House Democrats to vote against the legislation.

In his letter pledging to consider

GOP ideas, the president singled out a proposal by Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn to use undercover medical professionals to help identify fraud in Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health programs.

He also said he was open to appropriating \$50 million in federal funding to help states explore alternatives to resolving medical malpractice lawsuits, including the establishment of so-called health courts. Tort

"This is a car that can't be recalled and fixed."

--Senator Lamar Alexander

reform is a top priority of GOP lawmakers, although Republicans have long called for more robust measures to limit malpractice awards.

Obama expressed interest in taking steps to help states raise reimbursements for doctors participating in Medicaid, which has historically paid health providers less than Medicare or private insurers. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, raised that issue at the summit.

And the president said he was

open to including language to expand Health Savings Accounts, which give tax breaks to individuals who set aside money for future medical expenses.

He also would consider including high-deductible health plans in the new insurance exchanges that Democrats plan to set up around the country to help people buy coverage if they do not get it through work.

This idea, raised by Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., is another long-time GOP proposal that Republicans say could expand coverage.

Finally, Obama gave a nod to criticism leveled by Arizona Sen. John McCain, the 2008 GOP presidential candidate, who has repeatedly criticized deals included in Democratic health care legislation at the request of individual lawmakers.

"There are provisions that were added to the legislation that shouldn't have been," Obama wrote, singling out a provision to protect seniors in Florida from cuts to the Medicare Advantage program and another provision to give Nebraska special federal assistance to help it expand its Medicaid program.

The president's letter drew a cool reception from Republican leaders, who are urging Obama and other senior Democrats to scrap the sweeping health care bill and focus on more limited legislation.

Obama and his congressional allies have repeatedly rejected this approach. Tuesday, the president acknowledged the gulf still separating Democrats and Republicans even as

he offered to consider GOP ideas.

"While we all believe that reform must be built around our existing private health insurance system, I believe ... that piecemeal reform is not the best way to effectively reduce premiums, end the exclusion of people with pre-existing conditions or offer Americans the security of knowing that they will never lose coverage, even if they lose or change jobs," he wrote.

On Capitol Hill, Democratic leaders remained focused on rounding up the votes on their side of the aisle, rather than wooing Republicans.

"We're talking to everybody," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said Tuesday, adding that he believes some of the Democrats who voted against the bill last year could change their votes.

Several of the 39 House Democrats who voted against the bill last November have indicated they might reconsider. Even some conservative Democrats who once insisted on bipartisan cooperation on health care appeared to be losing patience with Republican opposition.

"The underlying compromise is a pretty decent, strong compromise, as far as I'm concerned," said Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, a conservative Democrat who was among the last lawmakers to back the Senate health care bill last year.

"It's not a government takeover. There's no public option. It's more private-sector choice," she said. "We've just got to press forward."

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Student band brings humor to any situation

Raquel Redding
MUSTANG DAILY

Walking into the room where The Purewater Construction Band plays is undeniably loud but at the same time, inviting. Describing themselves as a rock band that appreciates good music but also doesn't take themselves too seriously, they epitomize what music is about — playing because they love it, not for profit.

The band consists of four Cal Poly students. Band member Ben Turner, a civil engineering graduate student, said they play music to laugh and make others do the same.

"We didn't really start a band for the purpose of starting a band. We just wanted to jam and have a good time, and then we got asked to play; we'd open up for a concert, and then all of a sudden it was like 'Wow this makes us a band,'"

Turner said.

A mixture of Flight of the Conchords-style humor, Creedence Clearwater Revival's bluesy guitar/folk-feel and a Beastie Boys blend of rock and rap, the band creates a new genre with their music. With lyrics such as "All these ladies they want to have sex with me, and I don't want no goddamn babies," they infuse real life with humor.

The band first started more than two years ago with only three members, brothers Ben Turner and electrical engineering junior Jack Turner, and environmental management and protection senior Dylan Theobald. It wasn't until Theobald went to New Zealand five months ago to study abroad that philosophy senior Cameron McChesney became part of the band. Their first show as a foursome will be Sunday, at Del's Pizzeria in Shell Beach.

One of the things they said

see Band, page 11



PHOTO COURTESY TEAL WESTBROOK

Band members Ben Turner (left) and Dylan Theobald performing with Purewater Construction Band at Backstage Pizza last May.

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Backstage Pizza to host benefit concert for educational programs



COURTESY PHOTO

The Cadillac Angels, based out of Santa Barbara, will donate proceeds from their CD to benefit Hopi Indian reservation schools in Arizona.

Kelly Cooper
MUSTANG DAILY

American roots band The Cadillac Angels will perform at Backstage Pizza tomorrow at noon. The band will not only shine the light on classic Americana style, but also on a much deeper cause — the impoverished Hopi reservation schools in Arizona.

In 2008, Tony Balbinot of the Cadillac Angels had the opportunity to visit the reservation, a privilege that isn't easy to come by. Upon arriving, Balbinot said he was taken aback by the seclusion, beauty and culture of the reservation.

"It's a landscape that defies description. No planes, no highways, no train noises, just the sound of the wind," he said.

The land is vast; taking up the northeast corner of Arizona, the reservation sits in the middle of the Navajo and Coconino counties.

"You connect with the way the earth was before modern civilization took over," Balbinot said.

During his stay, Balbinot visited the villages, chatting with members of the historical community. One thing that struck him was the poverty and notably, its effect on the education system.

"I saw the schools and realized that they're pretty much off the beaten path — they're overlooked," he said.

While most of American society has shifted into a technology-driven blur of smart phones, plasma

screens and high-speed Internet, the Hopi stick to strong traditional and Christian values in their education. However, maintaining these values and connecting to modern-day technology is difficult when the school can only afford to share two VCRs and TVs between seven classes.

"There are young people (on the reservation) who want to be scientists and rock stars. They have the same aspirations as the rest of us," said Balbinot. "I just thought, 'Let me do something.'"

So, he did. Teaming up with Myke Destiny of Cracked Piston Records, a small independent company that supplies and distributes CDs for struggling artists who want small CD orders, Balbinot contacted three other bands, the Ballistic Cats, the Trailer Park Tornadoes and Freedom Suite. Together, the bands constructed "Haunt This Guitar," a compilation album featuring 13 songs the artists wrote exclusively for the CD, with one central theme in common — the musical style of Link Wray, one of the most influential guitar players of all time. And, being half Native-American, he serves as the perfect tie between the Hopi Reservation and classic rock n' roll.

The CDs are being sold for \$10, with 100% of the sales going to the Hopi educational programs. Everything on the album — the artists' time, money, recording time and

see Concert, page 10

Arab Music Ensemble to showcase Middle Eastern culture

Patrick Leiva
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble will be performing a wide range of art and popular music focusing on the eastern Mediterranean tomorrow at 8 p.m. inside the Pavilion at the Performing Arts Center. Combining vocalists and dancers with traditional instruments, the performance offers a unique viewpoint into the musical culture of the region.

The Arab Music Ensemble is

directed by assistant professor Kenneth Habib whose primary area of expertise is ethnomusicology with a focus on the Middle East. Habib said ethnomusicology looks at music of the entire world and values cultural perspectives. He said the music of the region is rooted in rhythmic modes and provides room for both instrumental and vocal improvisation.

Habib said the goal of the ensemble is to open the eyes and ears of the campus and San Luis Obispo community to a different style of music.

He said he wants people to have a greater appreciation of world music instead of concentrating on music from the classical Euro-American style. Habib said he hopes people in attendance will learn to appreciate the nature of the Middle Eastern style of music.

"It's art music," Habib said. "The music is a modal music rhythmically and represents genres that are among the most continuously performed genres in the world."

see Ensemble, page 10

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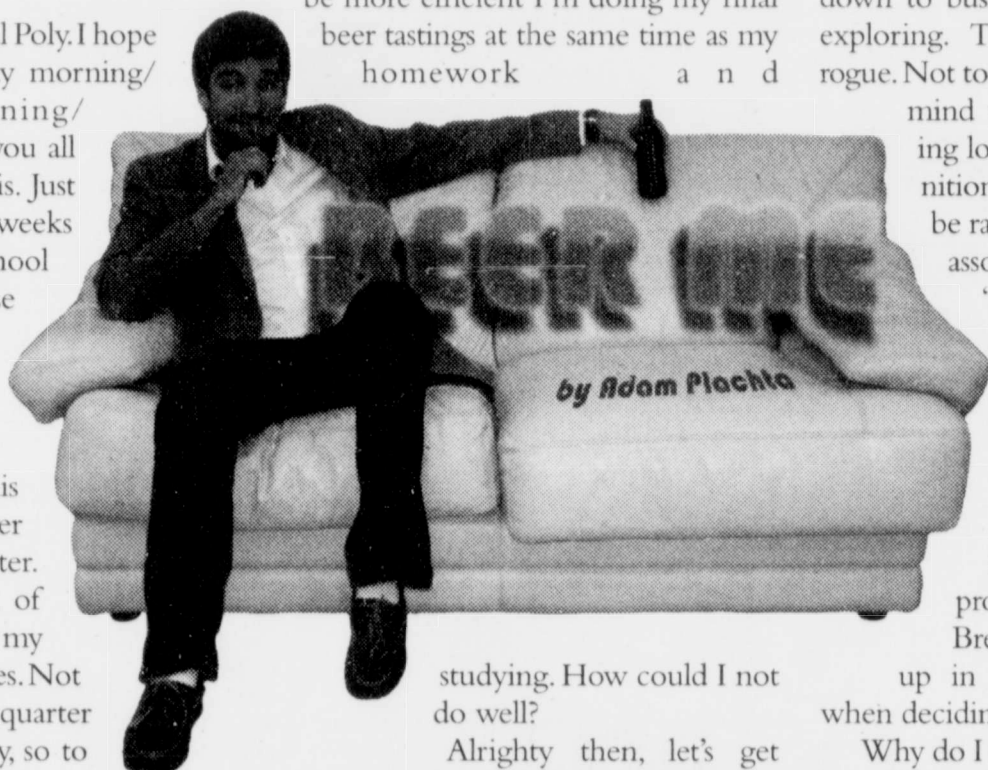
beer column

Go rogue with Rogue Brewery's unique beers

Beer Me 8?
Howdy ho, Cal Poly. I hope this fine Thursday morning/afternoon/evening/night is treating you all well. I'm sure it is. Just a couple more weeks of that whole school deal. Got those final exams and papers coming up.

Myself, I'll be getting out of this school altogether after this quarter. Suckers! That is, of course, pending my passing of all classes. Not to worry; as the quarter ends, time flies by, so to

be more efficient I'm doing my final beer tastings at the same time as my homework a n d



studying. How could I not do well?

Alrighty then, let's get

down to business. Last week I went exploring. This week, I'm going rogue. Not to be confused with rouge, mind you. Anyway, after having looked up the actual definition of rogue, I found it to be rather unpleasant, as it was associated with words like "cheat," "dishonest" and "mischievous."

I prefer to think of it as simply going against the norm, trying something new. You know, that sort of stuff. And I believe that's probably what Rogue Brewery, based all the way up in Oregon, had in mind when deciding on a name.

Why do I think this? It's quite simple, really: One of the beers I'll be trying today is the Chipotle Ale. No, that isn't a misleading name, the product actually has smoked jalapeno peppers on the ingredients list. The other beer I'll be trying is the world famous-ish, award-winning Dead Guy Ale. If these two beers aren't against the norm in title and taste, then ... well, then the norm is pretty weird.

So, the Chipotle Ale, eh? Huh, I'm feeling suddenly timid as I approach the bottle with my opener. Is it spicy? Is it flavorful? Is it just plain gross? I pop the bottle open ... I take a whiff ... It smells like Thai! No wait, that's my lunch. I move my lunch plate ... I pour the beer into the glass ... I stop

see Rogue, page 11

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PATRICK LEIVA MUSTANG DAILY

The Arab Music Ensemble prepares for their performance tomorrow.

Ensemble

continued from page 9

There will be 41 members of the Cal Poly Arab Ensemble performing and it is comprised of both students and community members. All Cal Poly students and community members can participate in the group.

Helene Shalhoub attended an earlier concert and fell in love with the performance since she enjoys singing so decided to join. She said it is great that the ensemble is open to community members and not just students since there are many Middle Easterners living in the community.

"Everybody here (in the ensemble) loves music and has music inside them," Shalhoub said. "It's like a huge friendship and puts our art and feeling into the community. It's just beautiful."

In the upcoming performance on Friday, Cal Poly students and community members will be joined by five guest artists including three members of the Kan Zaman Ensemble from Southern California. Kan Zaman is a nonprofit organization designed to entertain the general public through traditional Arab music. Also performing will be Bridget Robbins, a New York-based performer as well as teacher.

Habib said the five guest artists are the most they have ever had for the performance. In general, the artists add to the educational experience of the group as they are able

to play alongside the professionals he said.

"What they bring is expertise in ways that we couldn't expect to field in our own ensemble," Habib said. "We can learn a tremendous amount from watching their fingers move on the instruments and how they carry themselves on stage."

Habib also said the guest artists will perform with the ensemble for the entire show. He said the performance will feature only Arabic music in Habib's fourth year of directing the ensemble.

Many of the performers enjoy being able to bring the culture of the Middle East to the community.

Kellie Barragan, a music major, said many people are not exposed to Arab music.

"At this moment, the Middle East has kind of a negative connotation to it," Barragan said. "It just shows you the power of music. It can bring people together from different backgrounds."

Barragan said she gets nervous on stage before a performance, but the feeling usually wears off as she gets into the music. She said there is such a great feeling after the performance knowing that all the preparation paid off.

"It's like acting a paper," she said.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Ticket office. The Cal Poly Music Department and College of Liberal Arts are sponsoring the Arab Music Ensemble.

Concert

continued from page 9

artwork — was donated. Destiny was excited to support the cause.

"The money goes a long way for the school children. We don't have a lot of money, but with our love for music, we do what we can," he said.

Cal Poly mathematics professor Matthew White of the Bay Area-based Ballistic Cats liked the idea of connecting music with a charitable cause.

"For me to play some songs and give them away doesn't really seem like that much," he said. "But the good thing about music is that people listen to it and it raises awareness. It's a little more effective in the long run."

As White explains, the connection between Link Wray's influence and the educational programs is not the ethnicity or culture, but the suffering.

"If you take those old blues players, you take Link Wray, and go back to the source of what made their music, it was really poverty," said White. "There are people of all kinds of ethnicities that have been poor and suffered. That's what's in common — it's not the race, it's the poverty. That's where the connection really is."

Balbinot said he hopes to raise \$7,000 for the reservation. The CDs will be sold at tomorrow's performance for a special price of \$5.00 with all sales directly benefiting the Hopi educational programs.

Band

continued from page 8

they're looking forward to seeing is the crowd's reaction. Before every show they get together before going on stage to decide what they are going to do. In the past they have asked the audience for a topic and then sang an a capella custom-fit song from that topic. Ben said Dylan and himself would then go back and forth with made up lyrics.

"We figure that if we start off really bad then we can only get better," Jack Turner said.

Despite how relaxed they are about the content, they take the actual music seriously, making sure to consistently play together. Every Thursday the four of them meet at Theobald's house at 6:30 to play.

"It's not a chore to go to these practices," McChesney said. "I look forward to Thursdays, to get to play with them."

Theobald lives with two other non-band members at the house they practice in now. Despite the fact that majority of the house has been taken over with music equipment — the living room is a stage with fully set up drums and stands for guitars — the roommates don't mind.

"I actually like it, it's a good break. I like all their music and we're all friends," mechanical engineering senior Matt Laurino said. "One of the conditions this year was to move it (equipment) to a little study room (off the living room) after they're done. They set up and take down almost every night."

Laurino, Ben Turner and Theobald all used to live in the house before Ben Turner moved out last year. Laurino said the band has practiced for almost two years there, but it wasn't until recently that the band took over one of the rooms permanently.

Besides going from three members to four they also changed their

name. Originally they started out with the name Purewater Wallabies but changed it when they started dressing up in construction gear for each show. McChesney, who didn't know where the new name came from, thought that it was in reference to the fact that "you can't construct something that is pure," to which the rest of the band laughed and blamed his deep thoughts on his philosophical background.

Each member has been playing at least one instrument for over

vocalist when the band was formed and he has played the guitar for more than six years.

With their extensive knowledge of music as well as how to make music, each member had a different influence to bring to the band.

"One of our biggest influences is definitely our dad. He's been playing guitar and singing since we were little kids. Most of our original songs Ben wrote, which has been largely influenced by our dad," Jack Turner said.

Besides the brothers' dad, other influences draw from a variety of genres, including Waylon Jennings, Flight of the Conchords and Rolling Stones. They likened their music to Tenacious D, as they have a similar style to what they are doing.

"...Our songs try to be kinda humorous, not totally serious, but still have a good grounding of music," Theobald said. "There is still good music behind it no matter what we are saying."

Ben Turner said they still get excited about playing shows.

"The thing I like the most is when I look out and see all these people having fun, and it's like, 'Wow, we were the cause of that,'" he said.

Although they love to play they realize that it is just a fad. All of them intend to have serious careers and have no intentions of making the band into a career.

"We will play as long as we can," Ben Turner said.

The thing I like most is when I look out and see all these people having fun, and it's like, 'Wow, we were the cause of that.'

—Ben Turner

Civil engineering graduate student

five years, and all can play multiple instruments. McChesney has been playing the guitar for more than 13 years, and also plays bass for the band. Jack Turner, who is nicknamed "little Turner," can play almost anything he gets his hands on from the drums and guitar to the occasional rapping.

"He actually sings better than any of us, guaranteed, but drums makes it a little difficult," Theobald said.

Theobald, who recently got back from New Zealand, has been playing the guitar and singing for the past 12 years, while also playing the drums for the last five years.

Ben Turner became the main

Rogue

continued from page 10

using the ellipsis punctuation.

The beer pours a nice, deep amber with an off-white head. The aroma is of malt and that smoked jalapeno pepper. The beer is smooth and malty. It's in the finish where one really gets a good feel of the pepper and the slight spiciness — and yes, there is a spiciness present, though it is not at all overbearing.

For me, the biggest flavor in this beer is the smoked one. It is an intriguing combination of smoked, malt and chipotle that makes for a pretty cool exbeerience. If you're looking to try something new, give this a try. Rogue has dedicated this beer to Juan de la Cueva, an author who in 1575 "wrote of a Mexican dish that combined seedless chipotles with beer." So go grab one and pay your respects.

Speaking of paying one's respects, it is time that we moved on to Rouge's Dead Guy Ale. According to Rogue's site, in the '90s, Dead Guy Ale was but a tap sticker that was designed to celebrate the Mayan Day of the Dead. After it grew in popularity, especially among Grateful Dead fans, they decided to make it the label of their mailbock-style beer, a style of beer that isn't quite as dark as a bock, is very hoppy and still packs a punch.

The Dead Guy Ale pours a medium-to-deep amber, with an off-white head. The aroma is sweet and fruity. At first, the taste rather surprised me after the sweet aroma. It seemed deeper and more powerful. As I let the beer sit on my tongue, though, the sweetness comes back. Along with it is a toasted malt flavor.

If it were a toasted bread, it would be a darker one. Don't know what I mean? Grab this ale or one like it and take a drink. If you couldn't help but swallow it, take another. Let this one sit in your mouth and let the flavors come to you. When drinking a beer, you often have to just let it sit on your palate to get the full-flavored exbeerience.

All in all, drinking the Dead Guy has proven to be a pleasant experience. With sweet and toasted malts coming into play along with a medium amount of hoppiness, this beer may not be necessarily complex, but it is a nice change from your typical brews.

Well, folks, that's all I've got for today. I know, I know; it's far too short. Well that's because I'm saving my words and my money for next week's column. That's right, next week's will be the one in which I will be testing out beers that you have left in the comments on the Web site. So if you have any last selections, put them on now. I will be randomly picking the ones I want to taste on Saturday. And if you have already left a comment, don't worry, I may not have responded, but I've been checking.

Speaking of checking, make sure that next time you go and enjoy a tasting of beer, mead, wine, liquor or moonshine, you check to see that you have a designated driver. We don't need anybody celebrating the end of the quarter by crashing their car, motorcycle, bike, skateboard, Razor scooter or Heelys. Don't let your celebration get ruined by injuring yourself or another. Stay safe out there, Cal Poly.

Adam Plachta is a business administration senior and Mustang Daily beer columnist.



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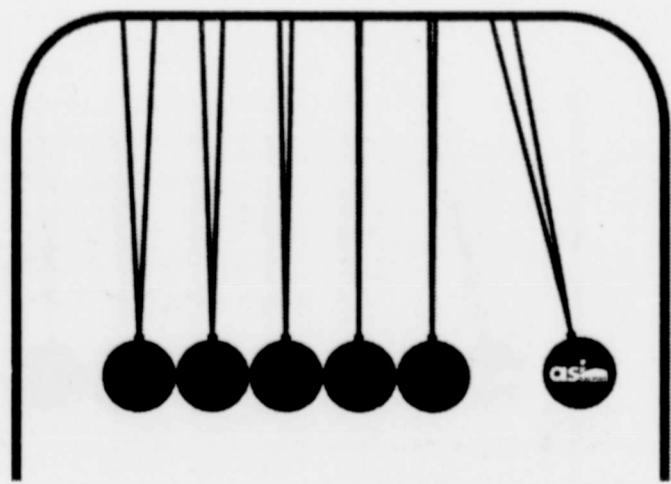
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Thursday, March 4, 2010
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Mustang Daily

"Does anyone like stupid people?"

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, March 4, 2010

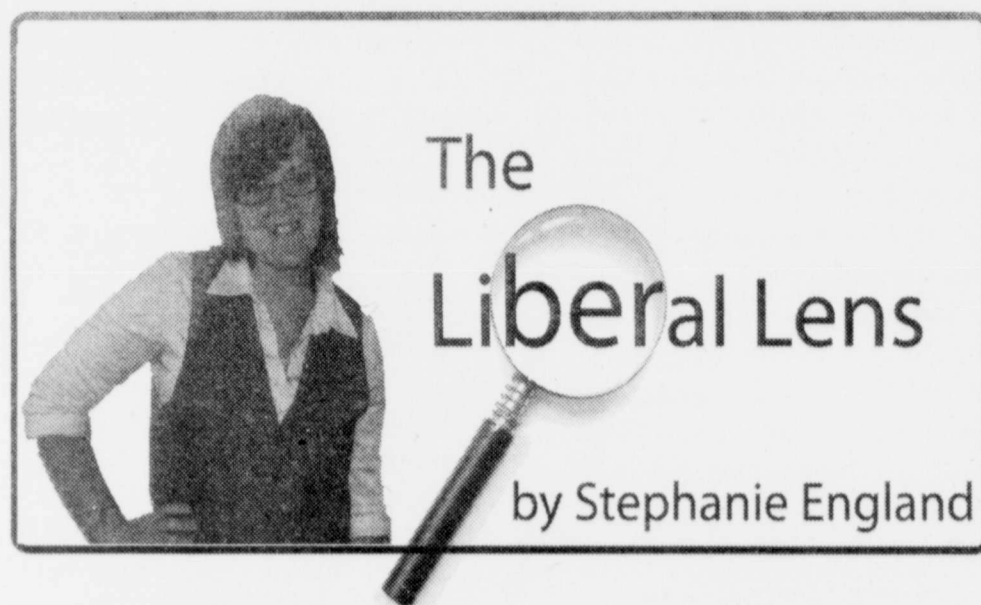
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Join the protests and change California



I've heard that Cal Poly students are apathetic, that we don't care about the budget crisis as much as other campuses like Berkeley, which had a riot over the issue last weekend. I don't believe that we're apathetic or that we're less passionate about the issue. But when I thought about the prospect of protesting in this state-wide protest over the budget crisis, I couldn't help but ask myself whether protesting would change anything. The budget is set in stone, the cuts are being accounted for and the politicians who voted are still in office. What can protesting change?

When I think of the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement, I see that protesting does change society. And the way that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s protests changed America is similar to the way that I see today's protest, at 10:30 a.m. on Dexter Lawn and this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. on Marsh St., changing California.

Dr. King changed hearts and minds in America

through his protests and activism, and if our politicians are going to vote on budgets differently in the future, people's hearts and minds must change regarding education first. That starts with us — the students, raising awareness about the fact that education is a right, not a privilege.

Education is a right, because educated citizens are absolutely essential to a functioning representative democracy. Without public education as a right, America could not applaud itself as the land of opportunity. Public education exists in order to educate the maximum number of students while maintaining the concept that a quality education should be affordable. I believe that the CSU and the Cal Poly administration are doing everything they can to accomplish these objectives, despite the severe cuts to education.

If you don't believe that you have been directly affected by the fee increases and furloughs, I will supply some statistics to inspire you to come out today at

10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A promising candidate for State Senate, Michael Rubio, states on his campaign Web site that "California spends more incarcerating 167,000 adults than it does to educate 226,000 students in its 10-campus University of California system." According to the Mustang Daily, Eric Benjamin, statewide coordinator of the budget protests today, said that every year the state spends \$47,000 per inmate and \$7,500 per student in California.

I hope to see those who have suggested that the liberal view on funding social programs rewards the irresponsible and punishes the fiscally responsible out on Dexter protesting today. I can't think of a better example of this in society than the state's priority of the prison system over higher education.

If you need another reason to protest, do it for your professors, who, I think, suffer the most as a result of this budget crisis. They are bearing the burden in furloughs and pay cuts. I think we students understand that the cost of education is worth the benefits we will reap in the future, but our professors are sacrificing their jobs and salaries.

The real issue with the higher education system is the way that the state collects and portions its revenue. The state can't fully fund education without raising taxes. I find it interesting that Gov. Schwarzenegger has repeatedly said that he has to make the tough decisions on the budget, when he has refused to break with the Republicans to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy in California.

That's the truly tough decision. He hasn't lost anything by cutting social programs and funding for public education for children and adults. Voter opinion on raising taxes in California seems to be changing, however. The Public Policy Institute of California published in a report in January stating that two-thirds of Californians would pay higher taxes to avoid cuts to K-12 education, and 70 percent support cutting funding to prisons and corrections. It's a start.

Please come out to protest today. If you can't make it at 10:30 a.m. on Dexter, come downtown at 3:30 p.m. on Marsh St. and join the statewide protest. The future of public education depends upon our involvement. The future of public education depends upon our involvement.

Stephanie England is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.



Reporter left most important part of the story out. The information.

10:30 a.m. — Walkout to Dexter Lawn.

11:00 a.m. — March to Admin. building for rally.

12:00 a.m. — March back to Dexter Lawn for Speak-Out.

02:00 p.m. — Budget Cut Teach-In followed by march to join unions for rally at State Sen. Maldonado's office.

—Slava Markeyev

In response to "National Movement for Public Education on March 4"

Kid-tested, Mitt Romney approved.

Brendan, you graduated from Arroyo Grande High School fewer than two years ago and grew up in Pismo Beach. Of course you can't understand the importance of diversity and representation in academia; you grew up in a white middle class enclave.

Your entire argument is predicated on the idea that standardized test scores and high school grade point averages are somehow indicative of intelligence and merit. (they're not). If Cal Poly's selection criteria were based solely on intelligence and merit and not on race and class we wouldn't have entitled (people) like you writing for our newspaper.

You're so caught up in your own anti-racist rhetoric that you can't even recognize that you are making an incredibly racial claim.

—Anonymous

In response to "National Movement for Public Education on March 4"

Mr. Pringle, I would also like to congratulate you on another great article. I do not agree with "inclusive excellence." I think it is ridiculous that America has lost this idea of its good work ethic. If you work hard and do well you should be able to get in to a school no matter what. We are all human and it should not matter what you are. If a kid worked hard and deserves to get into a school then he should. It should not matter on the color of your skin. I feel like the school should not be able to ask what race you are. They should purely look at your grades, and your activities. Question: Would it not be racist to deny a kid from a college purely because he was not a minority?

—Alexander Sexton

In response to "National Movement for Public Education on March 4"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.



MARGARET SCOTT NEWSART

Werewolves are better than vampires

First, my new alliance with the werewolves is not code for a conversion to Team Jacob — though it is a byproduct. This is not about how “New Moon” made me fall in love with a topless pseudo-Native-American — also an inevitable byproduct. This is about growing up. Werewolves are just more bad-ass than vampires and it’s time I embrace it.

Admittedly, I’ve had a curious, slightly ridiculous infatuation with vampires since I watched “Interview with a Vampire” as a young, bizarre child. There was some mysterious allure about a cursed life that captivated me. Never mind that vampires are wretched blood-sucking monsters; I thought living forever was cool and I didn’t care what anyone said.

Hollywood feebly attempts to subject me to the idea that immortality is wrong, unnatural, laborious and lonely, which is laughably false. Sure, it may be awful at times. Yes, as a vampire I would probably be ousted and rejected and a menace to society. But I will always choose immortality over a normal life. I want unfathomable power, a constant, simple diet, teeth that can ravage a bear and skin, which is incognito next to snow.

What could possibly be better than such a life? Being part-wolf (subtracting pale skin and adding lots of fur, of course). It took a lot of solitary reflection and comparative analysis to appreciate the differences between vampires and werewolves, but I realized I shouldn’t settle for vampires simply because they’re stronger — which is absolutely true. I don’t deny that most werewolves would probably fall at the hands of an able vampire, but it shouldn’t outweigh the numerous other advantages they have over the pale ones.

For one, the wolf curse is truly a curse. It is an involuntary, irrevocable change that happens once a month, causing raging blood baths and mindless frenzies. Poor Professor Lupin in “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban” is a prime example of one who suffers tremendously because of the monthly transformation, who hates the curse, who hates himself. He’s one

of my favorite characters in the series because, even as an monster powerless to his own bestial tendencies, he remains compassionate, intelligent, cautious and considerate. Plus the whole being a wizard-wolf thing is probably the most glorious combination of anthropomorphism and fantasy ever conceived. Werewolves aren’t necessarily haunted, feared creatures; there’s still room for pity and awe.

But vampires are always pants-soiling scary. Yes, they’re deceptively beautiful, cool-tempered and deadly, but I’d rather observe one from afar. They have excellent control, a skill necessary for luring victims, but trusting one is a rookie mistake. As long as you avoid werewolves at the full moon and when they’re angry, developing a relationship with one is absolutely possible and perfectly reasonable. Imagine having a werewolf for a best friend.

The most obvious advantage the wolves have over the bats is the ability to venture carelessly in the sunlight without being reduced to a worthless pile of ash. Certainly, nighttime is the best and most exciting time of day, but being limited to live life only during those few hours of darkness is unbelievably inconvenient. Excepting the special Twilight-brand of vampires, werewolves have more versatility. Indeed, a vampire looks like a high-maintenance sissy with their exhaustive list of weaknesses alongside a werewolf: sunlight, bodies of water, anything religious, holy or good, salt and garlic, to name a few, versus an allergy to silver and the full moon. And, of course, a vampire will die when their heart is penetrated by a long, pointy wooden stake. What is the real significance of a wooden stake anyway? Seems a little suggestive to me.

How easy would it really be to avoid all of these commonplace things and live an immortal life to its fullest extent? And why are the only things that are injurious or fatal to vampires completely non-dangerous? It’s nonsensical and a little disappointing. The life of a werewolf may be a little more reckless and unpredictable, but it

would be significantly easier to exist normally — not that a normal life would always be desirous. I, for instance, decided after reading the “Twilight” series that if and when I were blessed with a half-wolf life, in the same nature as those in the books, I would indefinitely assume my wolf form, abandon the civilized world and roam about with no direction, plan or purpose, fully succumbing to my inner animal and only focusing on how to placate my insatiable hunger.

These “Twilight” werewolves are particularly bad-ass because while their initial transformation is automatic (though not caused by a bite or full moon), they learn to control their ability, adapting it to change at will. Similarly, the werewolves (or Lycans, rather) in “Underworld” can shift as easily as if it were a switch, though I’d prefer Twilight-wolf for no other reason than the Lycans are incredibly ugly.

Vampires don’t have alternate forms. They’re stuck with the terrifying, emo look for eternity. Furthermore, vampires are often associated with evil and gothic things and in general don’t have a reputation for being pleasant or personable, which makes sense considering their history and qualities. But the negative connotations and assumptions about them make it a little less fun. Wolves, on the other hand, are always awesome; just ask the kid with the three howling wolves shirt.

My preference of werewolves probably became concrete when I came across a reference to one in Roman mythology. The poet Ovid wrote in “Metamorphoses,” a story about a haughty, arrogant man called Lycaon who tried to dupe Jupiter (Zeus), failed, and was turned into a wolf by the bad-tempered and impulsive god. Out of my love for mythology, Jupiter and wolves, the position of my loyalties became very clear; it was a sign. I had to change.

Jacob is better for Bella anyway.

Anieca Ayler is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter

Clinton visits Chile in time of need

MCCLATCHY NEWS SERVICES

It’s just coincidence that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s pre-scheduled visit to Chile this week comes on the heels of a shattering earthquake that outgoing President Michelle Bachelet has called “an emergency without parallel” in her country’s history.

The disaster left behind widespread wreckage and claimed more than 700 lives. More will surely follow. Normally, this would not be the best time for a diplomatic visit, but Clinton should seize the moment to cement a strong relationship with

one of South America’s most successful countries and its incoming president, Sebastian Pinera.

Although diplomatic relations between the two countries are cordial, a measure of resentment lingers among some Chileans over U.S. support for a military coup led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet nearly 40 years ago. Bachelet was among thousands forced into exile in those years.

Clinton’s visit is an opportunity to overcome this painful history once and for all by emphasizing U.S. support for Chile’s thriving democracy and extending a generous offer of assistance in Chile’s time of need.

Of course, efforts to help Haiti’s devastated citizens must continue as well.

It is a tribute to Chile’s preparation that the 8.8-magnitude earthquake did not cause greater damage. Just as Floridians have learned that the state needs strong building codes to withstand hurricanes, so Chileans have imposed construction standards designed for regions prone to earthquakes.

Other countries like Haiti should take note. Chile faces a grim recovery period, but the disaster would have been worse if the country had not been prepared.

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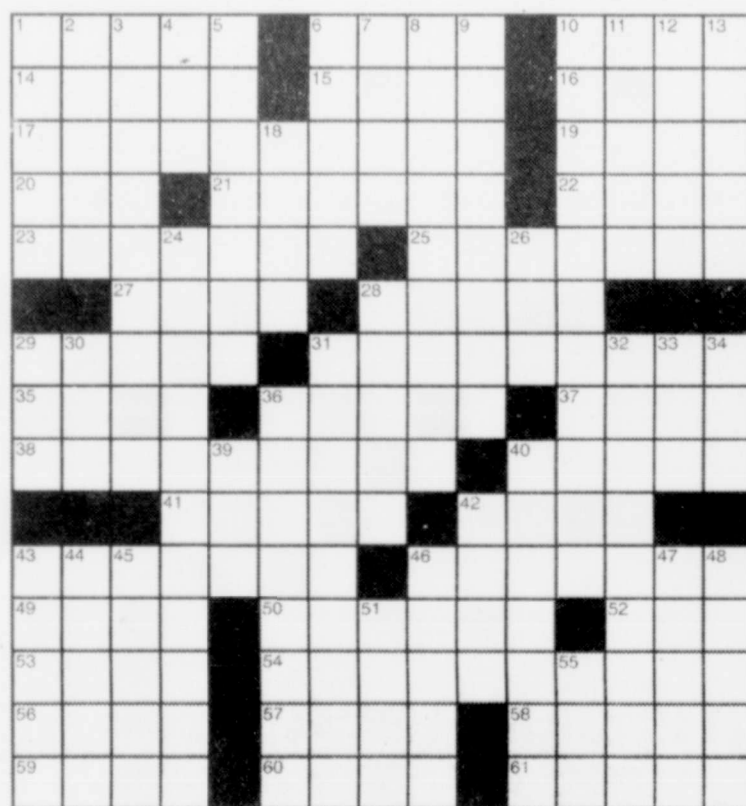
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36 Coarse-woven
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37 Influence
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as gossip
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a bead
43 Like a crucifix
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3 The last Holy
Roman emperor
4 Marksman's skill
5 Some marksmen
6 Kosher
7 Lots
8 Approved, in a
way
9 Having star
potential
10 Resigned
response to
tragedy
11 Emasculate, say
12 Response to
"Who's there?"
13 Animal-like
18 What the "poor
dog" had in "Old
Mother Hubbard"
24 A pharaoh vis-à-
vis Horus, in
Egyptian myth
26 Advent mo.
28 Size two, say



Puzzle by Raymond C. Young

- 29 "What's up wit
____?"
30 Suffix with freak.
31 Talking silly
32 It may help close
the deal
33 Wee bit
34 M.O.
36 "Star Wars"
droid, informally
39 Passbook abbr.
40 Real somebody
42 Not go for a
drive?
43 1894 opera set
in Egypt
44 59-Acrosses, in
Italian
45 Head of
government?
46 Lonette of "The
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Clancy

continued from page 16

ances for Ireland. The senior national team is disbanding this year for financial reasons.

"It's the first summer in ten years I won't be playing on the Irish team," she said. "Since we've been playing together a while now we were just getting good. It's kind of a disappointment."

Nakamoto said she has a running joke with Clancy were they interact with stereotypes from the Irish culture.

"She started playing along with me," Nakamoto said. "When I see her in the mornings she always says 'top of the morning to ya' which she says they don't really say all that often in Ireland."

Freshman guard Caroline Reeves says Clancy is an extremely hard worker and her character and personality will be missed if she leaves.

"Whenever she's on the court she's doing something for us," Reeves said. "She is a leader in terms of what she says. She is always analyzing situations and is the one during the huddles telling us what we need to do better."

"Half the time I wish we were the same year so we could have played basketball together all four years."

Ashley Cascio, a mathematics sophomore says her and Reeves have an Ireland fund to visit Clancy this summer.

"I have \$35 right now," she said. "It's a little small, but it will get



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Junior Rachel Clancy ranks sixth in the Big West on three-point shooting percentage and fourth in three-pointers made.

there."

Nakamoto said Clancy is always willing to do what is asked of her by the coaches.

"She's mature and she works her butt off," Nakamoto said. "All the other girls admire that and look up to her for it."

After falling from the first place position to third place over the

weekend, Clancy said the team is buckling down on defense and rebounding and staying focused on the championship.

"My favorite part about the game is the fact that it's a team sport," Clancy said. "If I didn't have all those girls to see every day at practice it wouldn't be as fun for sure."

Seniors

continued from page 16

"It is March and this is when the madness happens," Darling said.

What caused the difference in outcomes of the past two seasons?

"I think it's just team chemistry," Keeler said. "I think this year everybody came together ... they know their roles and we know what we have to do to accomplish our goals."

With the Big West conference tournament in sight, Cal Poly is hungry to beat the odds.

"We proved people wrong and we came together at the right time," Keeler said. "We really feel like we can win this whole thing."

While Cal Poly will likely be placed in one of the bottom four seeds, the Mustangs still have a chance to move up in the standings. With a win against UC Irvine, along with a Long Beach State and UC Davis loss, Cal Poly can clinch fourth place in the Big West and a bye week.

But standings aren't important to Keeler.

"As long as we are competing and we are tough, I feel like we can win any game," Keeler said.

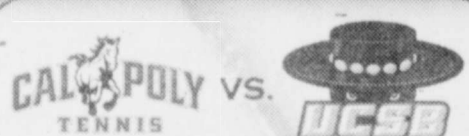


NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

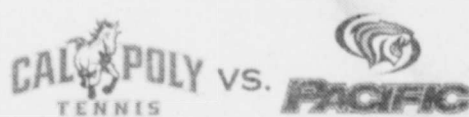
Senior guard Charles Anderson scored a team-high 15 points against UC Santa Barbara. Along with Anderson, four players scored double figures.

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

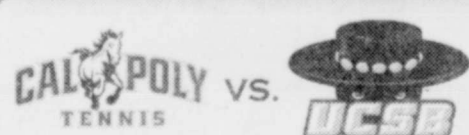


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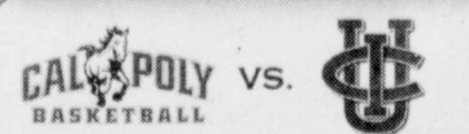
Sunday, Mar. 7th at 9:30 a.m.

MEN'S TENNIS



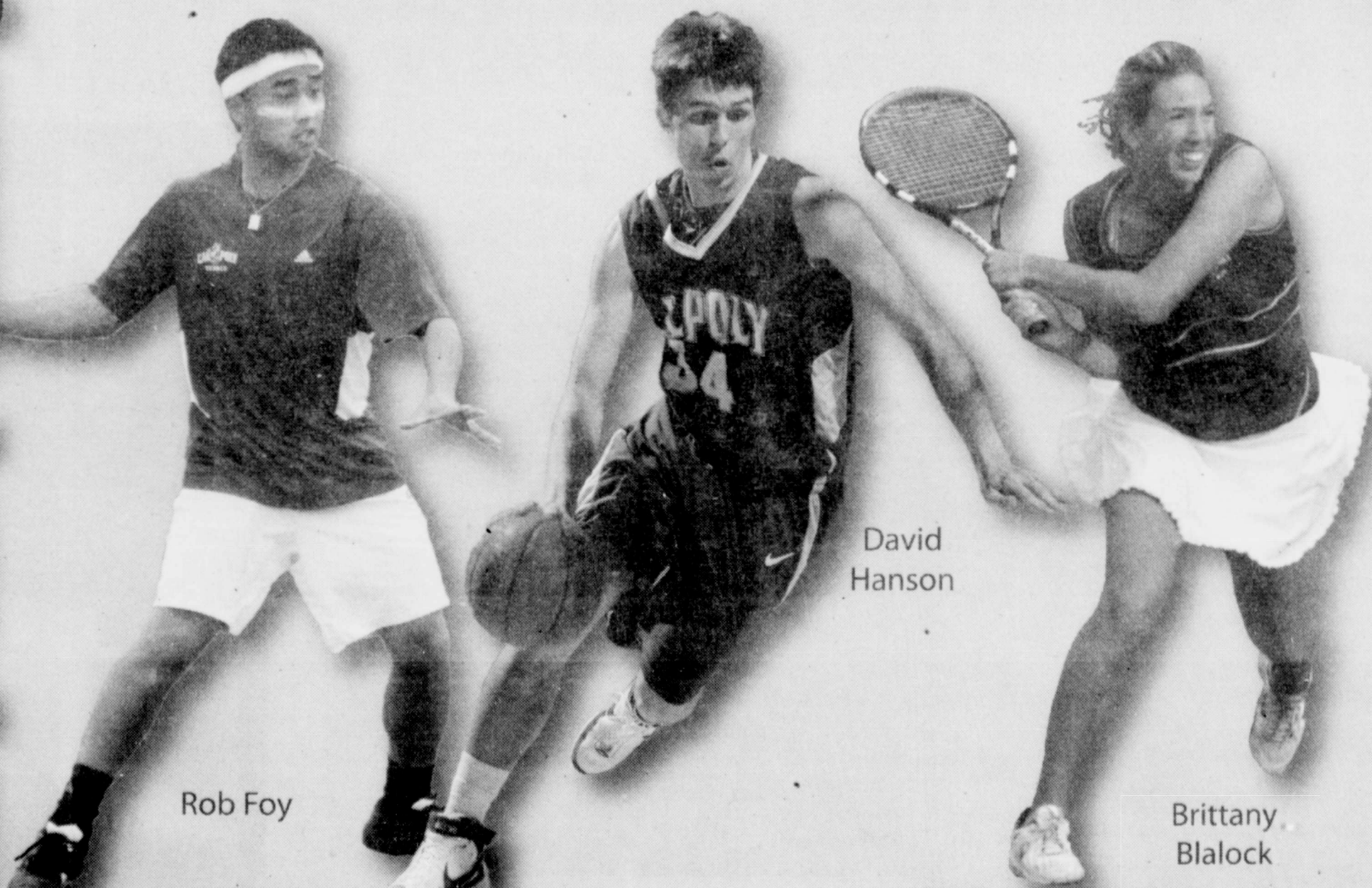
Sunday, Mar. 7th at 1:00 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



SENIOR NIGHT

Saturday, Mar. 6th at 7:00 p.m.



Rob Foy

David Hanson

Brittany Blalock

Attention Cal Poly Students

* Free Shirts for the first 150 Cal Poly Students

Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Mustangs get ready for UC Irvine this weekend

Brian De Los Santos
MUSTANG DAILY

For seniors Charles Anderson, Lorenzo Keeler and Ryan Darling, this week's contest against UC Irvine (13-16, 5-9 Big West) is more than just a game.

"For (Lorenzo Keeler), (Charles Anderson) and I, it is a culmination of our entire college career," Darling said. "It is the last time we are going to be able to play in front of our Mott Gym fans, in Mott Gym."

After years of practice, training and hard work the trio of seniors will play their final regular season game for the Mustangs (11-7, 7-8) this Saturday.

"This last game will bring back all the memories, all the sweat, blood and tears that we have spilled into Mott Gym," Darling said.

Looking back on their tenure at Cal Poly, the group of seniors said they have had nothing but positive memories.

Darling started this season primarily playing off the bench. After Will Donahue was ineligible, Darling saw his minutes sharply increase.

"It's been a long journey," Darling said. "No matter at what point of my career it's been, it has been an always amazing experience."

Like Darling, Anderson started this year on the bench, but with late season struggles, the senior was inserted into the starting lineup. Used for his lengthy defensive presence and his



Lorenzo Keeler is the third-leading scorer in the conference through conference play, averaging 18 points per game.

long range jump-shot, Anderson has helped his team down the stretch.

"It went by fast — that's for sure — but I have enjoyed it," Anderson said. "It has been a great four years."

Keeler was the team-leading scorer

last season. With the departure of Titus Shelton and Chaz Thomas, Keeler, the third-leading scorer in the Big West through conference play, found more opportunities to show of his scoring abilities this season.

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

"I had a great time at Cal Poly," Keeler said. "I feel like there is no other place I'd rather be."

As a team, the Mustangs have come a long way since their regular season finish last year. At this time last

season, Cal Poly held a (7-20, 3-12) record and in terms of the Big West tournament, the Mustangs were on the outside looking in.

"I think (this year has) gone pretty good," Keeler said. "It's gone how we wanted it to go."

At the start of this season, last year's performances leaked into expectations for this year. Cal Poly was projected to finish last in the Big West in numerous pre-season polls.

"We love that ... we all fed off it, it was motivation," Keeler said. "We know what type of team we can be if we all click and come together."

Under new head coach Joe Calero, the Mustangs went 0-5 to start the season, but rebounded with a three-game winning streak.

"We were just really getting to know each other as a new team," Keeler said. "After that we got it together as we go to know each other more and got closer together as a family."

To start conference play, Cal Poly posted their best start in school history going 5-2 for the first seven games.

After a 73-72 win against Cal State Northridge, Cal Poly dropped five straight games.

This past weekend Cal Poly took on Big West front-runner UC Santa Barbara. Trailing 27-33 at the half, the Mustangs pieced together run after run to knock off the Gauchos.

see Seniors, page 15

Should I stay or should I go?

Rachel Clancy debates grad school or another year of basketball

Katherine Grady
MUSTANG DAILY

Ireland's own Rachel Clancy is potentially finishing up her last season with the Cal Poly women's basketball team as she plans for graduation and a return to Ireland.

With one more year of eligibility after being red-shirted her first year at Cal Poly, she has the option of staying and playing or moving on.

"Coach said I can wait as long as want to decide," Clancy said. "It will probably be a month or so before I make a decision."

Clancy has the second most minutes on the team, just behind the Mustangs scoring leader Kristina Santiago, but has nearly 160 more minutes than Ashlee Stewart who is in third.

"We've tried to not bother her too much about it," Assistant Coach Kerri Nakamoto said. "She'll make the right decision. Whatever happens we will adjust, but we'd love to have her come back for another year."

Clancy is planning to graduate in June with a degree in biological sciences. She is applying to a one-year global health masters program at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland for this fall or the following year.

"My academics are definitely my number one priority," Clancy said. "Basketball is just something fun I get to do along the way."

She says she really likes science and health but doesn't want to be a doctor. She would want to study disease outbreaks or other aspects of health, such as how to improve health care. She says she definitely sees herself moving back to Ireland.

"I came to the states just to play college basketball as an opportunity to improve," Clancy said.

"In Ireland it's just an amateur sport," Clancy said. "I put way more time in on the court over here than at home. I spend more time in weight room and there are more staff to help. It's a whole other level of professionalism."

Clancy explains there are differences in the style of play from Ireland to the states.

"Players don't get positioned by height, so they are more skilled in

other areas. Here if you are tall, you kind of get dropped in that post position."

Her fondest memory while being at Cal Poly thus far is beating UC Riverside at the buzzer last year in the conference semifinals.

Making it to the championship game lasting year and having grasped the number one spot in the Big West Conference for much of the season this year, the team has high expectations for tournament play starting next week.

"In the past we've been underdogs and now we are expected to win," she said. "We deserve it for all our hard work. To see that become a reality would be amazing."

When she's not playing for Cal Poly, Clancy competes on the Irish national team. She captained Ireland at U-16, U-18 and U-20 levels and now plays on the senior team. She says four other players from the team are in the states for college, but most are based in Ireland.

"It's fantastic," Clancy said about the Irish team. "I've been on it since I was 12. The last three summers I played on the senior team."

Clancy received Ireland's National Under-20 Player of the Year award from 2005 to 2006. She's been in 61 international appear-

see Clancy, page 15

Baseball travels to Coca-Cola Classic



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

The Mustangs (3-4) will travel to Surprise, Arizona for the Coca-Cola classic this weekend. After dropping two of three in their last series against USF, the Mustangs will square up against Arizona State, Utah Valley, Florida International and Oregon State. Cal Poly will return to Baggett Stadium March 9-10 for a series against Northern Illinois.

su|do|ku
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

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