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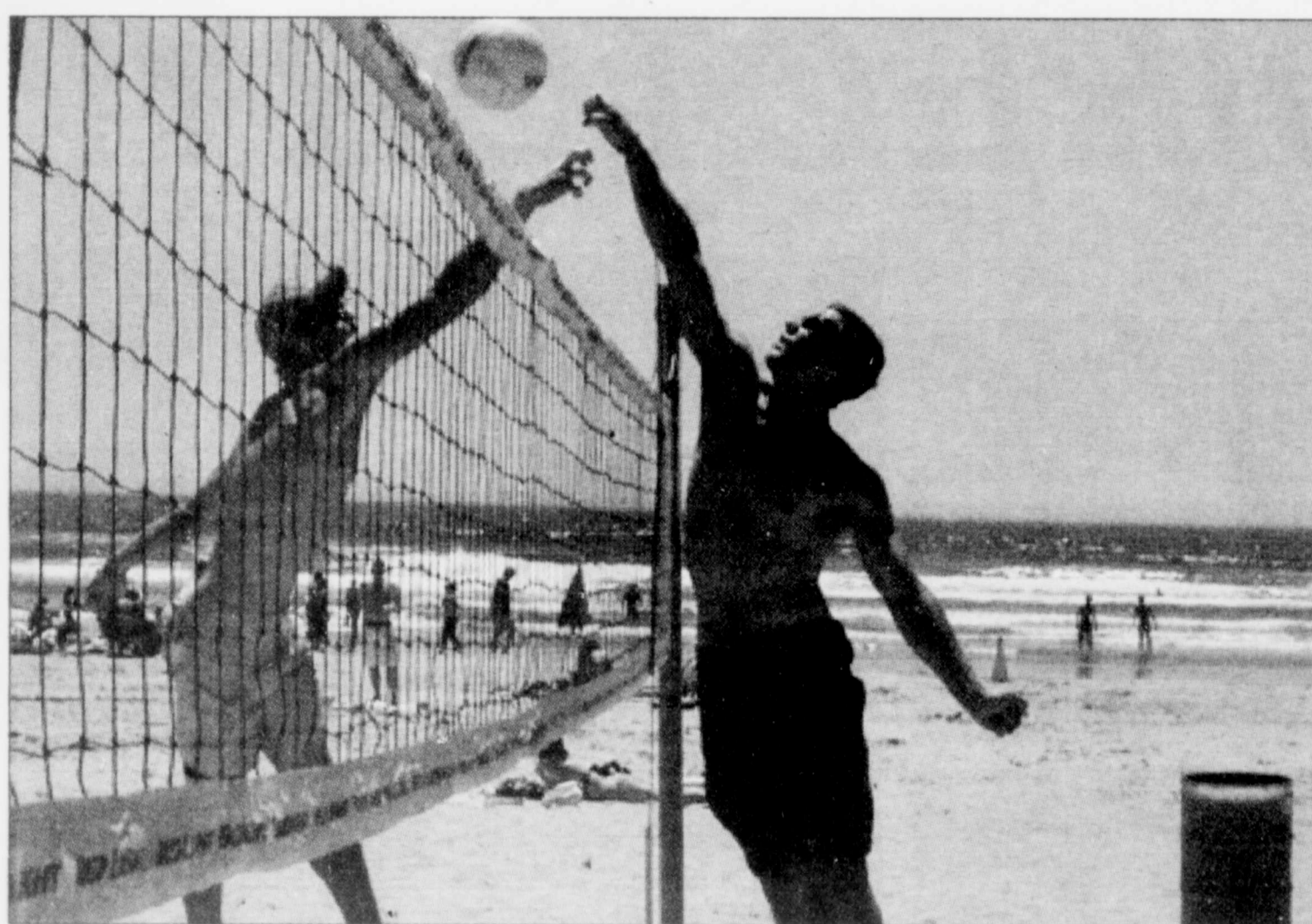
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Students battle for breast cancer research in annual beach volleyball tournament



Cal Poly students and local residents competed in the third annual Battle for Boobs beach volleyball tournament Saturday and Sunday. Hosted by the Cal Poly Beach Volleyball Club, all of the proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Alexandria Scott

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Cal Poly Beach Volleyball Club hosted the third annual Battle for Boobs beach volleyball tournament at Pismo Beach on Saturday and Sunday.

Cal Poly students and Pismo Beach locals played in advanced men's and women's doubles on Saturday and mixed fours on Sunday to raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Cal Poly Beach Volleyball Club

members paid \$15 to play and others paid \$20; players who participated Saturday received a \$5 discount if they played again on Sunday. All participant fees were donated to the foundation and money was also

see *Tournament*, page 2

Broken water main shuts down Johnson Avenue

Mustang Daily Staff Report

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A water main break deprived the French Hospital Medical Center and nearby residents of water Tuesday. It closed Johnson Avenue from Lizzie to Ella streets, but one lane was planned to open the morning of June 2.

The 16-inch main blew around 10:20 p.m. Monday, city utility officials said. The break was repaired early yesterday afternoon; city workers are now pressurizing the new pipe and testing the water quality.

Despite losing water, French Hospital Medical Center remained fully operational even though elective sur-

geries were postponed yesterday, according to several news sources.

As of 2:56 p.m., water was restored but residents may experience reduced water pressure for the next 24 hours, according to the San Luis Obispo Utilities Department website. City officials said other areas of San Luis Obispo, including Tank Farm, Orcutt and Sinsheimer, reported low water pressure.

Drivers were expected to have one-lane access on Johnson Avenue at approximately 1 a.m. this morning, although road work may last through the week, according to the website. A map of the affected area can be found at <http://www.slocity.org/utilities/index.asp>.

Engineering students showcase plans for SLO-Morro Bay bike path

Erin Hurley

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Students from Cal Poly's Sustainable Mobility civil engineering class presented proposals for a new bike path from Cal Poly through Cuesta College and Chorro Valley to Morro Bay.

The public graded each of the four groups' proposals at an exhibition at the San Luis Obispo County Library on Friday.

Civil engineering professor Eugene Jud put the project in motion last year. He said his class is very enthusiastic about creating new ways of alternative transportation in San Luis Obispo.

"We really want to emphasize the importance of using transportation other than cars, and this is a way for the students to get real experience in civil engineering projects," Jud said.

see *Bike path*, page 3

Obama launches criminal investigation of oil spill

Erika Bolstad and Lesley Clark

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

NEW ORLEANS — Responding to criticism that it hasn't been forceful enough in its response to the largest oil spill in U.S. history, the Obama administration on Tuesday announced a criminal investigation into the deadly explosion and installed a no-nonsense Coast Guard admiral as the public face of the response, instead of BP.

The effect of the April 20 spill, including "oil for miles and miles" in the Gulf of Mexico, is "heart-breaking to see," Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday afternoon during a visit to New Orleans. He

also pledged not to forget the 11 lives lost in the explosion.

The nation has an obligation to "investigate what went wrong and to determine what reforms are needed so that we never have to experience a crisis like this again," President Barack Obama said after meeting at the White House with the two men he had appointed to head an inquiry into the blast.

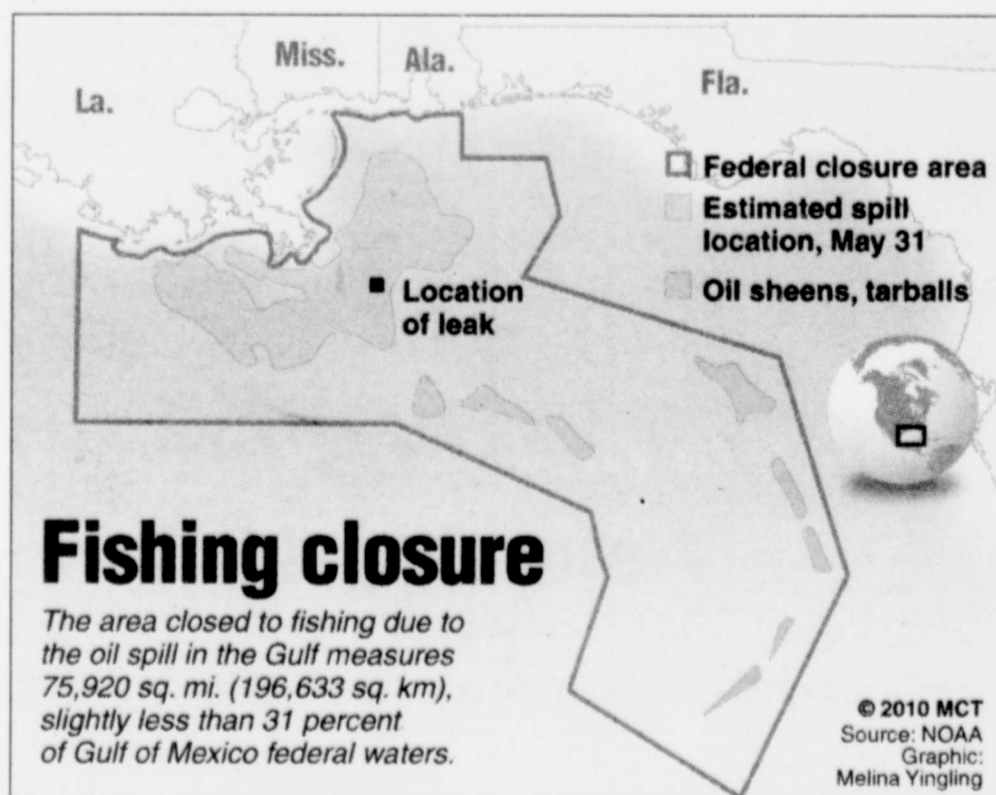
"If our laws were broken, leading to this death and destruction, my solemn pledge is that we will bring those responsible to justice on behalf of the victims of this catastrophe and the people of the Gulf region," Obama said.

The threshold for a criminal investigation on the part of the Jus-

tice Department has "certainly been passed," Holder said, although he wouldn't disclose the exact targets of the probe. However, prosecutors are looking at possible violations of the Clean Water Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Oil Pollution Act.

Two companies, their employees and their practices are almost certainly at the heart of the investigation: BP, which owned the well and is responsible for the spill, and Transocean, which owned and operated the rig that exploded, caught fire and sank to the bottom of the sea.

see *Oil spill*, page 3



Tournament

continued from page 1

raised by selling T-shirts for a total of around \$1,500.

"Everyone has been directly affected by breast cancer," biology sophomore and next year's club co-president Eric Smith said. "It's easy to base a tournament on a unified cause."

The club was approved by Student Life and Leadership as an official entity this spring but has been forming and has had members since Fall 2009.

"The club is nonprofit," graphic communication junior Josh Holland said. "We don't need money to do anything except send people to Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) events." Battle for Boobs with the club brought a lot more people to the tournament this year, he said.

The tournament was organized for

both doubles and mixed teams of four competing in pool play with the top two teams of each pool advancing to single-elimination playoffs. Club president and founder Mike Smith said he was surprised at the competitive level of play during the advanced doubles this year. He ran and organized the first Battle for Boobs tournament as a sophomore.

"I wanted to put on a volleyball tournament for a cause, and I saw how many people are affected by breast cancer," Mike Smith said. "My friend Mike Delach thought of the name and that was the deciding factor for me to jump into organizing the tournament."

Mike Smith is graduating this spring with a degree in recreation, parks and tourism administration and will be interning with AVP after graduation.

"The things I will be doing in my internship are perfectly aligned with

what I am doing now," he said.

Other majors integrate well with the tournament. Holland uses his graphic design experience to create all of the T-shirts, posters and signs for the club.

"Beach volleyball is an entertainment sport that people love to watch and play," he said. "The peak age of professional players is 30. It's awesome for people who want to go to school, get their master's and still go pro."

This year's tournament reached full capacity, Mike Smith said.

"It could have been way bigger, but Pismo only lets us rent four courts," he said.

The club hopes to get the attention of California Beach Volleyball Association with tournaments like Battle for Boobs. CBVA could work with Cal Poly's club to run competitive large tournaments and rent more courts, Mike Smith said.

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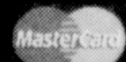
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Bike

continued from page 1

Each group presented plans on how to create a bike path that would be easy to ride as well as respectful of the land boundaries of Camp San Luis and the California Men's Colony.

The goals of the proposals were to increase options for alternative transportation in Chorro Valley, create a path that would be conducive for commuting and recreational purposes and follow Governor Schwarzenegger's mandate for reducing California's greenhouse emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

Each team's proposal followed the same basic route, beginning at Cal Poly's Alex G. Spanos Stadium to the Cuesta College campus and ending at South Bay Boulevard in Morro Bay. The groups differed on the details — some placed their path close to Highway 1 and others placed it farther away, and one group even proposed a "bike station" with showers, a cafe and a repair shop for bikers.

"Chorro Valley has several sites that we have used to base our routes on, and we all tried to come up with a plan that would really encourage more people to ride," class president and civil engineering senior Naoki MacInnes said.

At Friday's exhibition, the public heard each group's proposal and graded them on their ideas for the alignment of the path, their Powerpoint presentation and how clearly they presented their proposal. David Flynn, a representative from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works, said he was impressed with all four proposals.

"I thought that the groups did a great job working around the land constraints and coming up with alternatives for commuting and recreation," Flynn said. "An idea like this is definitely on the city council's radar."

Creating an extensive bike path like this presents several issues that must be dealt with before any construction can begin. The path would run through land owned by the Cal Poly Agriculture Department,

Camp San Luis and the California Men's Colony. These owners have expressed their support of the idea of a bike path, but they are also adamant about not losing any of their land in the construction.

In addition to negotiations with landowners, Jud said the biggest obstacle to the construction of the bike path is money. According to the San Luis Obispo City Council, there is not enough money in the city's budget to build the path for several more years.

"We've gotten great support from the SLO city supervisors, but money is the main issue," Jud said. "Many people think that we can begin construction tomorrow, but all we can really do is keep planning until the funding is available."

Despite these setbacks, Jud said he has received enthusiastic support from the San Luis Obispo community for a bike path from Cal Poly to Morro Bay. Several local cycling organizations also support the idea.

Robert Davis, chair of the San Luis Obispo County Bike Advisory Committee and a member of the Morro Bay Citizens Bike Committee and the San Luis Obispo Bike Coalition, attended the exhibition and said the bike path would make the area more livable.

"I was impressed by how the students dealt with the limiting factors while still accomplishing their mission," Davis said. "Organizations like the SLO Bike Coalition are always committed to providing these kind of bike facilities that connect parts of the county."

The City and Regional Planning Department is surveying the rest of the community to ask for feedback and suggestions about improving cycling facilities. The department created an anonymous online survey that takes about 15 minutes to complete. Jud said student opinions are extremely valuable in determining what kind of changes should be made to local cycling facilities.

The survey is available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HFFBKMY>.

Oil spill

continued from page 1

"There are a wide range of possible violations under these statutes, and we will closely examine the actions of those involved in this spill," Holder said at a briefing in New Orleans. "If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be forceful in our response. We will not rest until justice is done."

The White House also worked to change the perception that, along with BP, the government hasn't been forthcoming enough about the progress of the most recent containment effort, known as a "top kill." Peeved that the company over the weekend downplayed the amount of oil that could be released in its next effort to contain the flow, the administration moved Tuesday to put an official face on the response: Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the national incident commander for the spill.

Allen said that the move — which harked back to the matter-of-fact briefing style of Army Gen. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf during the 1991 Persian Gulf War — put him in the role of speaking "very frankly to the American public."

Allen said Tuesday that the government and BP had all but given up on fully capping the well that's spewing as much as a million gallons of crude oil a day from 5,000 feet below the sea. Their goal now is to contain as much of the flow as possible until BP can finish drilling two relief wells in August to end the gush, he said.

"We're not talking about capping the well anymore; we're talking about containing the well," Allen said. "There's a difference between capping the well, absorbing the pressure and being able to hold that until the relief well is completed. Where we're at now is we're containing the well, which means we're taking the hydrocarbons that are coming up, bringing them to the surface and actually producing oil and flaring off natural gas."

Crews worked on two separate cuts to a pipe on the ocean floor Tuesday, using remotely operated

robots. Their aim is to place a cap over the top of the pipe and connect it to a riser that will send oil and gas to recovery ships on the surface of the ocean until the first relief well is completed.

If they're able to get a precise, close cut, they'll be able to use what's known as a top cap, which has a large rubber gasket that fits securely over the top of the pipe and allows minimal seepage out the sides. If they're not able to get a precise cut, they'll use a looser-fitting containment measure known as a top hat.

It's the difference between a gar-

wreck havoc with their efforts.

If they're successful but a storm moves through the Gulf this summer, they'll have to temporarily move the rigs on the surface that are collecting the oil, meaning more oil would gush out until they could return and re-couple with the containment device.

Also Tuesday, three environmental groups said they planned to sue BP under a provision of the Clean Water Act that allows for citizen enforcement actions. In a letter to BP, the Gulf Restoration Network, the Louisiana Environmental Action

If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be forceful in our response. We will not rest until justice is done.

—Eric Holder
U.S. Attorney General

den hose with a rubber gasket and one without, Allen said, but they remain hopeful that one of those methods will work.

"I think there's a pretty good level of confidence that one of them will go on and we'll be able to contain some oil," he said. "But as we've said all along, we continue to break new ground and we're going to have to wait and see how it comes out."

He also warned that there will be a period of time, estimated at about 72 hours, when the pipe will be wide open and a higher level of oil and gas will flow out before they cap the well.

Allen acknowledged Tuesday that no one who was working on the response was forgetting that they were undertaking their latest containment measure on the first day of hurricane season. He conceded it's possible that even if they're able to contain the flow of oil, a storm could

Network and Environment America said BP had violated its Clean Water act discharge permit by allowing millions of gallons of oil to spill into the Gulf, failing to track the flow of oil accurately and failing to clean it up.

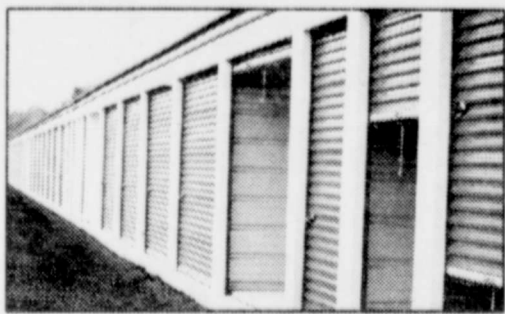
Rather than having specific permits under the act, BP and other companies that are exploring and drilling in the Gulf are covered by general permits issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The general permit does not authorize the discharge of oil from this pipeline or any other sources at the rig," the letter said. "Thus, each day beginning on April 20, 2010, BP has violated and continues to violate its permit."

(Bolstad reported from Washington. Margaret Talev and Les Blumenthal contributed to this article from Washington.)



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Briefs

State

LONG BEACH (MCT)—During a ceremony at a local elementary school, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday signed a state application for federal education aid that could provide tens of millions of dollars to the Long Beach Unified School District.

If California is selected as one of the state winners, it could receive up to \$700 million, including perhaps tens of millions for the Long Beach Unified School District, officials said.

The state's application includes plans for school reforms required to qualify for the program, which was part of President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

SACRAMENTO (MCT)—Democratic state Sen. Rod Wright has introduced legislation to make California the first state to legalize Internet poker, proposing that firms bid for the right to operate three state-sanctioned games.

Wright's bill would require the firms to share at least 20 percent of their gross revenue with the state, potentially bringing tens of millions of dollars into state coffers.

However, SB 1485 is expected to face opposition from several Indian tribes that operate casinos in California and that have argued in recent months that Internet poker would be a violation of exclusive gambling pacts they have with the state.

National

CHICAGO (MCT)—An attorney who once represented a man allegedly tortured by former Chicago Police Cmdr. Jon Burge testified Tuesday that Burge once said electroshock "leaves no marks."

Attorney Cassandra Watson, testifying at Burge's federal trial, said that in the early 1980s she spoke with Burge many times, often sarcastically, about allegations he and his detectives were using a device to shock criminal suspects during interrogation.

Burge is charged with obstruction of justice and perjury for allegedly lying in a 2003 lawsuit in which he gave written answers denying his use or knowledge of torture.

WASHINGTON (MCT)—U.S. auto safety regulators have opened an investigation into 2010 Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan sedans over three complaints of all-weather floor mats trapping accelerator pedals—a problem behind part of Toyota's recent recalls.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the probe of 249,301 sedans does not include any complaints of accidents or injuries. One of the complaints came from Dan Edmunds, director of testing for automotive site Edmunds.com, who made a video in April showing how the rubber mat stacked on top of a regular floor mat could trap the pedal down.

International

BRAZIL (MCT)—Brazil's police continue to kill too many people, while citizens in poor areas live in the shadow of gang violence, a United Nations human rights expert said Tuesday.

"Daily life for too many Brazilians, especially those living in favelas, is still lived in the shadow of killings and violence by gangs, militias, death squads and the police," according to Philip Alston, the U.N.'s independent expert on extrajudicial executions.

Between 2003 and 2009, some 11,000 people were killed by police in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in so-called "resistance killings," a term used by law enforcement officials when referring to acts of self defence.

AFGHANISTAN (MCT)—Thousands of police have fanned out across Kabul as the Afghan capital prepares for Wednesday's opening of a national assembly that President Hamid Karzai hopes will give him a mandate to pursue talks with the Taliban.

While the three-day assembly isn't expected to produce any dramatic breakthroughs, Karzai and his Western allies are banking on the gathering to provide a psychological boost for the Afghan president as he prepares for a potentially pivotal summer.

Word on the street

What did you do for Memorial day weekend?



"I went home."

-Neil Cronan, civil engineering freshman



"I went to a UFC party this weekend."

-Arielle McKee, construction management sophomore



"I went to Shell Beach."

-Matt Fleming, construction management sophomore



"I went to Six Flags."

-Ashley Beschell, civil engineering sophomore



"I went home and saw friends."

-Lucas Hunter, biomedical engineering sophomore



"I went home."

-Robyn Bayless, economics freshman

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Supreme Court loosens Miranda rule or right to remain silent

David G. Savage

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court backed off Tuesday from strict enforcement of the famous Miranda decision and its right to remain silent, ruling that a crime suspect's words can be used against him if he fails to clearly tell the police that he does not want to talk.

In the past, the court had said the "burden rests on the government" to show that a crime suspect has "knowingly and intelligently waived" his rights. Some police departments tell officers not to begin questioning until a suspect has waived his rights, usually by signing a waiver form.

But in Tuesday's 5-4 decision, the court shifted the balance in favor of the police and against the suspect. It said the suspect has a duty to speak up and to say he does not want to talk. Moreover, the police are "not required to obtain a waiver" of the suspect's "right to remain silent before interrogating him," wrote Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

In her first strongly written dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the ruling "turns Miranda upside down" and "marks a substantial retreat from the protection against compelled self-incrimination."

Some experts on police questioning said the court's subtle shift will be felt in stationhouses across the country.

"This is the most important Miranda decision in a decade. And it will have a substantial impact on police practices," said Charles Weisselberg, a law

professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "This decision approves of the practice of giving the warnings and then asking questions of the suspect, without asking first whether he wants to waive his rights."

In the case decided Tuesday, Van Thompson was arrested as a suspect in the shooting a year earlier of two men outside a mall in Southfield, Mich. One of them died. A police detective read Thompson his rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to have a lawyer. Thompson said he understood, but did not sign a form.

For about two hours and 45 minutes, Thompson said almost nothing in response to questions. The detective asked the suspect if he believed in God and then said: "Do you pray to God to forgive you for shooting that boy down?"

"Yes," Thompson said, and looked away. He refused to sign a confession or to speak further, but he was convicted of first-degree murder, based in large measure on his one-word reply.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Thompson's conviction on the grounds that the use of the incriminating answer violated his right against self-incrimination under the Miranda decision.

The Supreme Court reversed that ruling and reinstated the conviction. A suspect who wants to invoke his right to remain silent must "do so unambiguously," Kennedy said. "Thompson did not say that he wanted to remain silent or that he did not want to talk with the police. Had he made either of these simple, unambiguous statements,

he would have invoked his right to cut off questioning." Joining him to the form the majority were Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

Kennedy has played a key role in the past decade in preserving the core Miranda rule, while also narrowing its practical effect. For example, he joined with the liberal bloc for a 5-4 ruling in 2004 rejecting the police tactic of questioning first, and then warning a suspect of his rights only after he made an incriminating comment. The same day, he joined a 5-4 ruling by the conservative side that said physical evidence, such as a gun or cash, can be used against a suspect, even if he re-

vealed it during questioning without Miranda warnings.

In Tuesday's decision, Kennedy stressed the suspect had been warned of his rights and eventually chose to speak.

The California-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation praised the justices for paring back the "artificial rule" set in the Miranda decision. The court "recognized the practical realities that the police face in dealing with suspects," said Kent Scheidegger, the group's legal director. But Steven Shapiro, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the case "demonstrates the power of custodial interrogation to wear down the defendant's willpower, which is what Miranda was designed

to prevent."

In her dissent, Sotomayor faulted the majority for announcing a "new general principle of law" that will be confusing in practice. "Criminal suspects must now unambiguously invoke their right to remain silent — which, requires them to speak," she said. Joining her in dissent were Justices John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

The majority ruling is line with the position taken by the Obama administration and U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan. In December, she filed a brief on the side of Michigan prosecutors and argued that "the government need not prove that a suspect expressly waived his rights."

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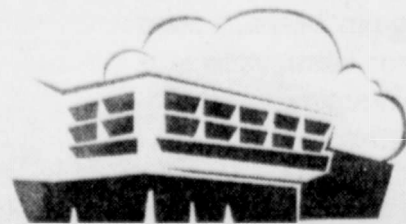
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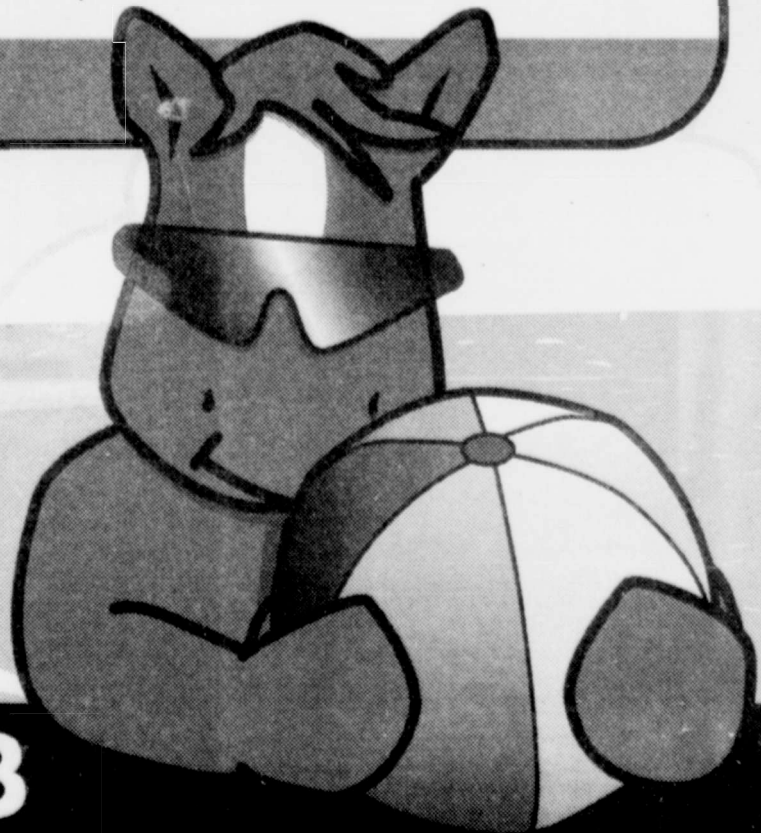
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Israeli raid on aid flotilla traps U.S. between two close allies

Sheera Frenkel and Margaret Talev

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The U.S., hoping to avert an armed clash between two close allies, Israel and Turkey, and the collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Tuesday urged caution on the international community as it endorsed a U.N. condemnation of "acts" that led to the deaths of nine international activists on an aid flotilla that was attempting to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Israeli commandos rappelling from helicopters attacked the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger vessel leading the aid flotilla in international waters early Monday and were assaulted by some of the passengers. In the melee, at least nine passengers were shot to death and dozens were injured, and Israel is now holding the ships in the port of Ashdod along with some 700 passengers.

The crisis, which threatens to escalate, has the U.S. caught between two longtime allies: Israel, its closest partner in the Middle East, and Turkey, a member of the U.S.-led NATO alliance and a Muslim democracy that has largely supported U.S. goals since the Cold War.

The U.S. is one of the few major powers that haven't condemned Israel's attack on the flotilla. The White House issued a statement offering "deep regrets for the loss of life and injuries sustained," but urged patience and said it was "working to understand the circumstances" of the

Israeli raid.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met for more than two hours Tuesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who publicly suggested that the Obama administration's response to the Israeli raid on the flotilla, which set sail from Turkey, has been too weak.

After the meeting, Clinton emphasized that the U.S. supports an Israeli investigation into the debacle rather than an outside international probe.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs read reporters the text of the Security Council resolution, which avoided blaming Israel directly and called for an investigation to determine who was responsible for killing the activists. Gibbs refused to say whether President Barack Obama accepts Israel's explanation of events.

Turkey called Israel's action "inhuman state terror" and warned that it may send warships with the next aid flotilla headed to Gaza. Israel responded that it had the right under international law to assault those trying to break an announced blockade, even on the high seas.

At Turkey's request, NATO permanent representatives held an extraordinary meeting Tuesday to discuss the Israeli operation, but took no further action.

Britain and France called on Israel to lift its "unacceptable" blockade of Gaza, where the militant Islamist group Hamas seized power in 2007 after winning more than half the

seats in Palestinian parliamentary elections the previous year.

U.S. special envoy George Mitchell, due in Israel and the West Bank Wednesday on a previously scheduled visit, now must try to prevent the peace talks' collapse.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to travel to Washington to meet Obama when the clash took place. Netanyahu canceled the visit and returned to Israel, where he expressed support for the operation and praised the soldiers involved.

Meir Dagan, the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, told the Israeli parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense that Israel is progressively becoming a burden on the U.S.

"Israel is gradually turning from an asset to the United States to a burden," he said.

Gibbs said the U.S. didn't have advance knowledge of the Israeli military operation, and refused to go as far as calling Israel a burden.

"No. Let me be clear here," he told reporters. "The United States and Israel, as I have said on countless occasions, we have a trusted relationship. They are an important, have been an important ally. And we are greatly supportive of their security. That's not going to change."

Aides to Netanyahu said he has been in regular contact with Washington, updating U.S. officials with information about the flotilla that supports the Israeli claim that activists on the ship attacked commandos

with metal rods and batons.

Officials close to Netanyahu said he was "regularly updating" the U.S. and that the Israeli government was "nervous" that it could lose American support over the incident.

Israel has kept more than 630 of the 700 activists in isolation in the port city of Ashdod after they refused to undergo deportation hearings. The activists have refused to sign a document admitting that they entered Israel illegally.

At least 11 Afrikaners were among those being held, and Israeli news media reported that one American might be among the injured being treated in Israeli hospitals.

Norman Paech, a former German MP, returned to Berlin, where he told reporters that he considered the Israeli operation a "clear act of piracy" because it was conducted in international waters. He also denied reports that the activists were heavily armed.

"Personally, I saw two and a half wooden batons that were used. ... There was really nothing else. We never saw any knives," Paech said.

While the activists weren't successful in reaching Gaza, they did bring international scrutiny to the Israeli-led blockade of the territory, Paech said.

Speaking from their hospital beds in Israel, naval commandos who took part in the raid termed the operation an attempted lynching.

One officer, identified only as "R," said he was one of the first to rappel from a Black Hawk helicopter onto the ship. He said he was armed with a paintball gun, but didn't manage to remove it before he started receiving blows from passengers wielding batons and metal rods.

"We knew they were peace activists," he said. "Though they wanted to break the Gaza blockade, we thought we'd encounter passive resistance, perhaps verbal resistance — we didn't expect this. Everyone wanted to kill us."

He explained that a group of activists managed to tie the rappelling rope to the ship and were attempting to bring down the helicopter. At that point, the Israeli commandos cut the cord, leaving them stranded aboard the ship.

Israeli officials said that despite



the criticism, the same naval unit would likely participate in any future operation against ships attempting to breach the blockade of Gaza.

Greta Berlin, a spokeswoman for the Free Gaza Movement, which organized part of the flotilla, said two additional boats already had set sail for Gaza and that one was carrying a "large group" of Americans. She added there are plans for another flotilla to sail in July.

One top Israeli naval commander told the Jerusalem Post newspaper that Israel would use more aggressive force to prevent other ships from breaking the blockade.

"We boarded the ship and were attacked as if it was a war," the officer said. "That will mean that we will have to come prepared in the future as if it was a war."

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Gun rights pose problem for Supreme Court nominee Kagan

James Oliphant

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — In her first weeks as dean of Harvard Law School in 2003, Elena Kagan put the warring sides of the gun-rights debate in a room and let them fight it out.

The debate between gun-control advocates and 2nd Amendment purists was sponsored by the law school's target shooting club, and Kagan showed her support by moderating the exchange. But her own views on gun rights went unaided.

With her Supreme Court confirmation pending, those views now have become of extreme interest to pro-gun groups such as the National Rifle Association. The NRA is already skeptical it can support Kagan — and in Washington, when the NRA gets worried, senators become nervous.

"There are serious problems," said Andrew Arulanandam, public affairs director for the NRA. "We will work with senators to make sure tough questions are asked during hearings."

A concerted effort by the NRA to scuttle Kagan's confirmation could prove problematic for Republicans and moderate Democrats who fear falling from its good graces.

There appears to be enough evidence to stoke the NRA's concerns. Kagan worked in the Clinton administration for four years, first as a lawyer in the White House and later as a senior domestic policy advisor. Gun-rights advocates already have locked in on a 1997 Kagan memo that paved the way for an executive order banning dozens of semiautomatic weapons as an example of the nominee's anti-gun views.

They also point to Kagan's background working for judges, such as federal Judge Abner Mikva, who later brought Kagan into the White House to serve as his deputy and who once likened the NRA to a "street-crime lobby."

But Kagan more recently has pledged her fidelity to the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in the case, *District of Columbia vs. Heller*, which found a constitutional right to own a handgun for personal protection. The White House maintains Kagan would view her role as a justice differently from that of a policy-crafter in the Clinton White House.

"As a White House aide, Elena Kagan provided legal advice and evaluated policy proposals for President Clinton, whose views on these issues were well established," said Ben LaBolt, a White House spokesman. "In her confirmation hearing for solicitor general, Ms. Kagan made clear that she considered *Heller* to be settled law, and the upcoming hearing will present the opportunity for further questions about her views of the law to be asked and answered."

Clarity on where Kagan stands personally on the issue could be answered by the thousands of documents the Senate wants from the Clinton Presidential Library in Arkansas, where Kagan's White House records are housed.

Until those memos come to light, the gun-rights community has focused on the order Kagan worked on while at the White House. The order banned the importation of dozens of types of semiautomatic weapons — military rifles that were

modified, the White House said, to escape the ban that was in place on assault weapons in 1994. The NRA and others said the weapons were simply modified to be used for shooting competitions and other shooting events.

The assault-weapons ban came on the heels of the 1993 Brady Bill, which required background checks on firearm purchasers for the first time. As gun-rights advocates viewed it, there was one clear message: The Clinton White House wanted to remove as many guns from the market as it could.

At the time of the import ban, Jose Cerda, who worked in the domestic policy shop run by Kagan and her boss, Bruce Reed, said: "We are taking the law and bending it as far as it can to capture a whole new class of guns."

"For the Clinton administration, it was about pushing the envelope," said Stephen Halbrook, a lawyer who litigates gun-rights cases. "They didn't like firearms and wanted to restrict them as much as possible."

He said Kagan's role in the crafting those policies should be established. "You're responsible for who you work for and what you say," Halbrook added. "Whether that's her agenda or not, she certainly went along with that."

The gun-rights community has concerns that extend beyond the import ban. Other documents from the Clinton library suggest Kagan's support for child-safety trigger locks on handguns. Another is a letter to Kagan written by a San Francisco city attorney, Owen Clements, seeking the White House's assistance in a municipal lawsuit filed against gun makers. Kagan passed it on to Reed, calling the letter's author "a friend."

Kagan's mere association with a White House viewed as hostile to gun rights could draw opposition from the NRA and other industry groups. "They abhorred the Clinton White House. They demonized the Clinton White House every way they could," said Dennis Henigan with the Brady Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. "I don't think they're going to forgive her for that."

After working for Mikva, Kagan clerked for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall — and gun advocates have seized upon a short memo Kagan prepared for the justice in which she urged him not to hear the appeal of a man convicted of having an unlicensed gun.

The man's "sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to 'keep and bear arms,'" Kagan wrote. "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases away moderate voters. In fact, the current Democratic-controlled Congress last year passed a bill that allows visitors to carry weapons in national parks.

That altered political climate — where votes counter to the wishes of the gun industry are harder and harder to come by — could spell trouble for Kagan.

Republican senators on the Judiciary Committee, such as Sens. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and John Cornyn of Texas, are expected to press Kagan hard on the issue, as they did last year with then-nominee Sonia Sotomayor.



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

When Elena Kagan was dean of Harvard Law School in 2003, she put both sides of the gun-rights debate in one room for a discussion. Now with her Supreme Court confirmation pending, this incident has become a hot-topic for debate.

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Sound design students gear up for annual RSVP show at PAC

Rhiannon Montgomery

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Cal Poly students studying sound design are gearing up for the 15th annual, and "always mysterious," RSVP show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title, means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the curtain of RSVP all 15 years of the show. The play is like a musical, but different, Barata wrote in an e-mail.

"There is a definite theatrical leaning with a serious tone, but also comedic elements," Barata wrote.

This year's show is set in the late 1700s and is a dramatic look at the similarities between problems of then and now in the country, Barata wrote.

The annual performance is the final product of a class offered through the music department, where students and professors become collaborators by working together to create a show.

Liberal arts engineering studies senior Kyle Banfield said the show has developed a reputation for being abstract and unique over the years. This year will be politically provocative because it examines similarities between problems of today and those during the time of America's founding fathers, Banfield said.

Students work to combine dramatic and musical elements for the performance.

The students are in charge of the show from start to finish; Barata said this is part of what makes the production special.

Everyone has multiple jobs to make the performance a reality with only 10 weeks to pull off a completely original show, Banfield said.

The class Barata teaches brings together students from all colleges to work on the project. No matter their major, all the students work on producing scripts, composing original scores, building props and marketing.

Mechanical engineering senior Eric Wallace said he helped compose two arias and some of the background music for the show. He said the fun thing about the class for him is getting to be creative in ways he's not able to in engineering.

"It's been fun, and it's a good way to be creative personally," Wallace said.

Wallace isn't alone in working outside the norm for his major. Banfield has spent time working set design, marketing and as a costume manager for the show.

The mystery of RSVP XV: "Chiaroscuro" will be unveiled Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$11 for all seats and are available at the box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RSVP has gained popularity over the years and tends to be a sell-out, Banfield said.

Wallace suggested people get tickets as soon as possible.

"It's going to be a great show and very different from previous years," Wallace said.

book column

Bestselling author Baldacci writes softhearted novel



New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci is known for his fast-paced, plot-based, legal thrillers. But from the first page of "Wish You Well," it's clear this will be an exception to the rule.

"Wish You Well" is set in 1940 New York City with the Cardinal family — made up of the celebrated writer Jack Cardinal, doting mother and wife Amanda, uncommonly clever 12-year-old Lou and shy but soft-hearted seven-year-old Oz. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes quickly and hard; and a terrible car crash leaves the family bereft of Jack

and Amanda little better — alive, but mentally unresponsive.

This calamity is the truest test for the children's mettle and immediately allows the reader to see what the Cardinal children are made of. Oz, whose tenderheartedness is nearly painful, serves as the eternal optimist, believing without fail that his beloved mother will get better, while Lou is forced to be the backbone for both of them, protecting her brother and herself at every turn.

see Scribbler, page 9

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Scribbler

continued from page 8

Directly after their father's funeral, the pair is sent, along with their mother, to live in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia with Jack's grandmother, the setting that provided the inspiration for Jack's famous novels. The area is rural in the extreme, but Baldacci writes of life on the hill with such simple, beautifully crafted prose that you can almost picture waking at five in the morning to milk the cows — and maybe not even minding.

Life is hard on the hill, but Lou and Oz adjust to the backbreaking work and simple life with a startling swiftness. Easily the most traditionally educated people among the mountain farmers, they have a lot to learn about the way of the land. But, resilient as children are, they waste no time in blending right in to the way of life on the hill.

Though Appalachian culture is different from any in the world, it's still easy to relate to each of the characters. Each character is depicted with lovingly detailed descriptions; so each tragedy that strikes is equally heartbreaking. Though each mishap is beautifully written, at some points it's almost impossible not to question if these children will ever catch a break.

However, for every low there must be a high, and the Cardinal family spirit simply can't be broken. The children's lovable nature wins them friends at every turn, and those they can't win over can be

beaten with the combined strength of the close-knit hill community.

Conflicts between the ever-faithful farming tradition and the coal miners sucking the life out of the land cause problems when the industry has an offer that would seem to ease the often desperate lifestyle of the farmers — if they'll sell their land. However, Louisa Mae Cardinal, the children's great-grandmother, refuses to relinquish her land in a way that epitomizes the strong, faithful vein of the Cardinal family.

As mentioned before, "Wish You Well" is a clear departure from Baldacci's usual style. This novel is far more character than plot-driven, and though it does involve a clever legal battle and a few unexpected surprises, but for the most part it is about nostalgia.

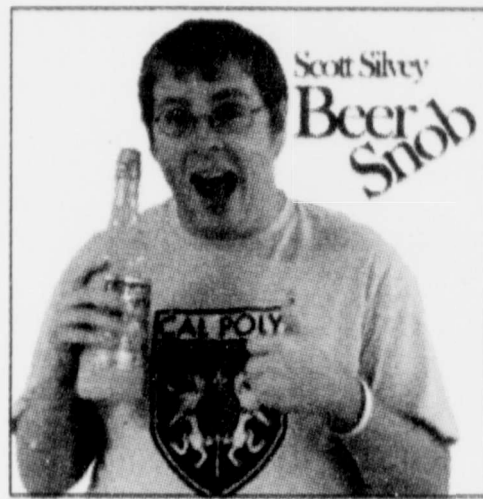
It's about a way of life based on hard work, few luxuries and big-hearted, quiet love. Love for the entire community of farmers, love for family and a deep-seated love for the land. Lou and Oz find a way to fit in with these core values without delay, and those closest to Louisa Mae's heart find no difficulty in embracing them just as briskly.

Though the plot does a fair job of holding interest, it is not the novel's best attribute. Something about Baldacci's quiet, simple prose keeps the pages turning, which makes this an instance in which getting there is more than half the fun.

Virginia Fay is an English sophomore and her book column "Sweet Story Scribbler" appears every other week.

beer column

Good beer is colorblind



The cliché that says, "Not everything is so black and white" doesn't apply to the final beer column of the year.

In fact, the two beers I'll review today are literally black and white.

But before I get into the reviews, I just want to thank the Mustang Daily staff for letting me pick up the column after a few quarters off.

It's no secret that I love beer, and I think if people give good beer a chance, they might change their minds on the subject as well.

I'll let you guys in on a little secret: I didn't enjoy beer at all until a scant three years ago. My first sip of beer came as a kid when I picked up my dad's Milwaukee's Best instead of my Coke and took a sip. It was about the most rancid thing I'd ever tasted.

That didn't stop me from running the gamut of trashy, low-class party beers like Natty Light, Natty Ice, Budweiser and Bud Light early in my drinking career.

But tasting all of those beers just reaffirmed the fact that beer was shit and I was better off drinking hard alcohol that at least had some kind of "flavor."

After a few years of the hard alcohol scene and the brutal hangovers it can bestow, I decided I may just have to be the sober driver at parties forever.

While it can often be fun to watch belligerently wasted people making asses out of themselves while you're sitting there stone sober, I wanted more from my college experience. I wanted to be the one making an ass of myself!

But I've always been one of those people to say that if you can't at least partially enjoy what you're drinking, you might as well be drinking water.

It wouldn't be until several years later that my cousin, who eventually became a Cal Poly alumnus, introduced me to some of the finer beers in the world. I finally realized that not all beer tasted and looked like a crappier version of watered down Mountain Dew.

I'm telling you this because I'm passionate about beer. If you're passionate about it as well, share the good beers with your friends over graduation weekend. Don't just do the Natty keg, or the 30-pack of Keystone. Treat yourselves to something better; learn to appreciate the finer things in life.

Of the two beers I drank for this review, I'll start with the Allagash White, if only because it's best to drink lighter beers before darker ones.

Allagash is considered by most insiders to be among the upper echelon of American micro-breweries.

Based in Portland, Maine, Allagash has some crazy beers including one that is aged in used bourbon barrels, and the beer reeks of it when you finally get to it.

But this Allagash White is their take on Belgian style wheat beer, and let me tell you, it's tasty.

White is pretty spiced up for an American wheat beer, which is something that a lot of imitation beers lack.

It has a smooth, yet somewhat complex finish that leaves a mild

spice lingering. I can't put an exact finger on what the lingering spice is. It's not coriander, like you get in other beers like Hoegaarden, but it is very pleasant.

This is one of the top Belgian wheat beers brewed by Americans that I have tried.

The final beer of the year honors goes to Kostritzer Schwarzbier. I chose a German beer to close out the year in honor of departing Mustang Daily head honcho Emilie Egger because I know she loves all things German, and I haven't really done a German beer review.

Schwarzbier is German for 'black beer,' and the moniker doesn't disappoint. This beer is actually just as dark as the Sierra Nevada anniversary brew I reviewed a few weeks ago. I held it up to the light and couldn't see through the glass.

The smell is of roasted malt and chocolate with a bit of coffee. The malt really comes out in the taste with a lingering bit of chocolate. I don't really taste the coffee in it.

This beer has always been in my top three as far as dark beers go, and I highly recommend it.

You can get a 16-ounce bottle at pretty much any specialty liquor store for less than \$4.

Thanks everyone for taking the time to read the column. I'm sure I had more fun writing it than you did reading it, but I appreciate your time nonetheless.

Always remember: If you see a beer at the store that you haven't tried, give it a shot. It might be exactly what you've been looking for.

Scott Silvey is the former Mustang Daily sports editor and a journalism senior. He spends most of his paychecks on beer and a lot of his time watching the Cubs lose on WGN.

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Movies under fire for hiring white actors for ethnic roles

Chris Lee
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Since its release, the video game franchise Prince of Persia has become notable for the acrobatic grace of its dagger-wielding, balloon pants-wearing hero as well as for what the games didn't do: affront gamers of Middle Eastern and Muslim descent with stereotypical depictions of people from the region as terrorists or religious zealots.

Independent filmmaker and blogger Jehanzeb Dar, to name one such

player, remembers his favorable first reaction to the swashbuckling action game, which is set amid the sands and ancient cities of Persia (as ancient Iran is known) and follows a hero with a magic sword caught between forces of good and evil. "You could see clearly the protagonist had distinct Middle Eastern features and darker skin," said Dar, 26, who pens the blog Muslim Reverie from Langhorne, Pa. "People could develop some respect for that culture instead of seeing it vilified."

So when Disney studios an-

nounced plans for a live-action adaptation of Prince, Dar held out hope it would be a "serious story that would dispel a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions." Then came the bad news regarding "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" (the movie that arrives in theaters on Friday). None of its principal cast members are of Iranian, Middle Eastern or Muslim descent. And playing Dastan, the hero and titular heir to the Persian throne in the \$200-million tent-pole film, is none other than Swedish-Jewish-American prince Jake Gyllenhaal.

"My first reaction was, 'Really?!'" Dar said. "It's insulting that people of color — especially Middle Easterners or South Asians — are not allowed to portray ourselves in these roles. That's a big problem a lot of people in the community are having with this film."

Of course, Hollywood, has a rich history with this kind of thing. Think: John Wayne playing Genghis Khan in "The Conqueror," Peter Sellers' bumbling Indian character in "The Party" or even more notoriously, Mickey Rooney's buck-toothed

Mr. Yunioshi character from "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the grandfather of all "Yellowface" stereotypes.

Although these portrayals took place decades ago, their legacy lives on. Even now, in the age of Obama — when the newly installed Miss USA Rima Fakih is Lebanese American, Will Smith is the biggest movie star in the world and Sonia Sotomayor became the first Latina to sit on the Supreme Court — the movie industry can still seem woefully behind

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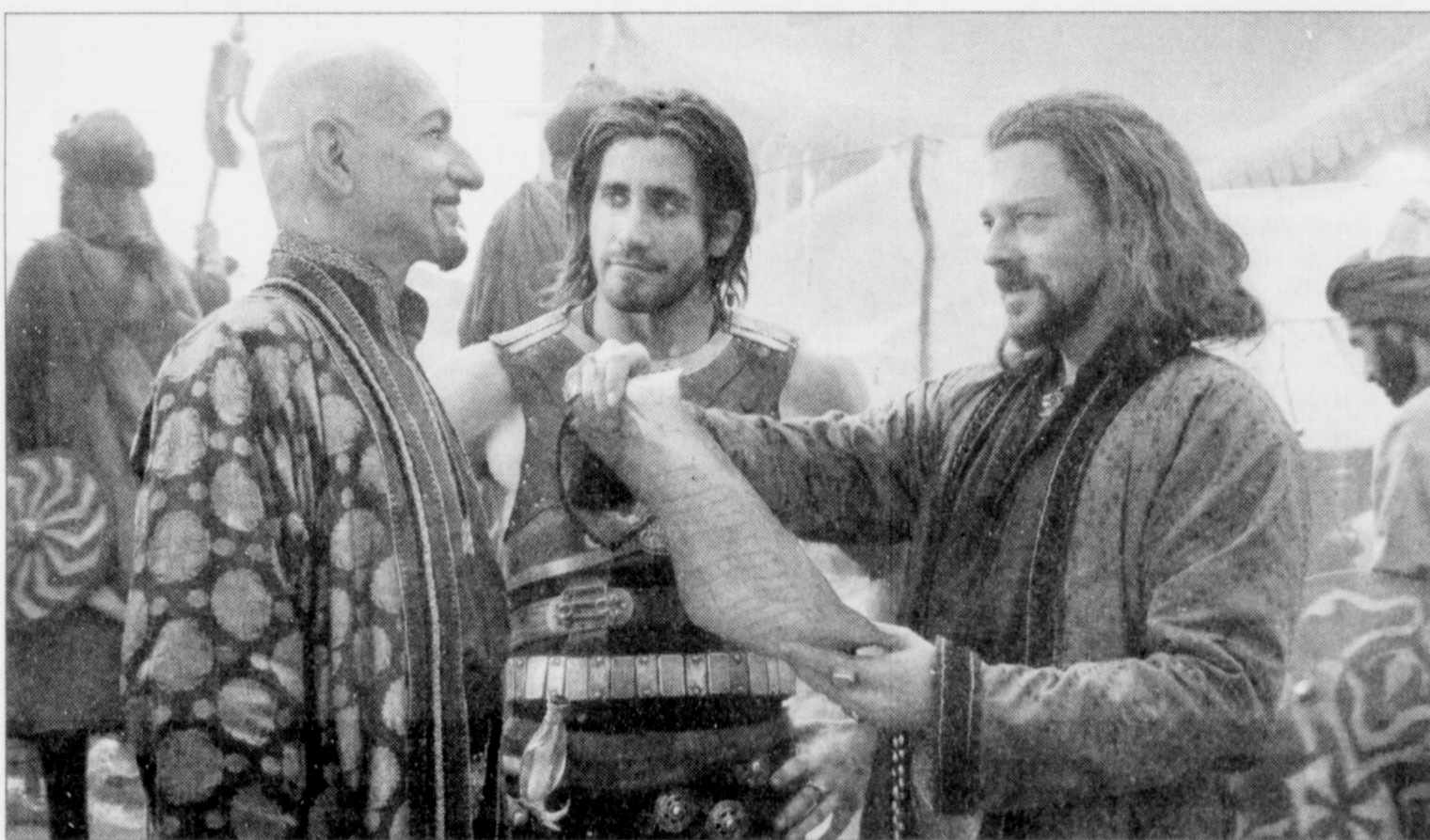
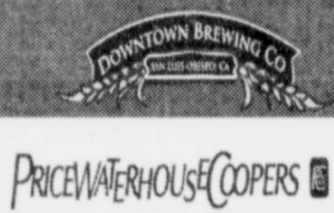
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Ben Kingsley, left, Jake Gyllenhaal and Richard Coyle, right, star in "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time."



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Film

continued from page 10

the times when it comes to matters of race.

Consider the latest evidence. This summer, two of the season's biggest budgeted films have sparked controversy by installing white actors in decidedly "ethnic" parts. And some early fan reactions have varied from indignation to righteous fury to organized revolt over a perceived "whitewashing" of multi-culti characters, a practice that is known as "racebending."

In addition to Gyllenhaal and British actress Gemma Arterton's

Asian Americans — put a finer point on the boycotters' concerns. "If 'The Last Airbender' does really well, it sends the message in Hollywood that discriminating against Asian Americans works," he said.

Although the studios behind both "Prince of Persia" and "Airbender" have taken costly steps to not seem insensitive toward — or out of touch with — the minority constituencies represented in their respective films, no Disney or Paramount executives would comment for this article. Nor would the producers — "Prince of Persia's" Jerry Bruckheimer or "Airbender's" Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall. Directors Mike Newell and Shyamalan similarly de-

anything less than inclusionary to characters of color. "Ultimately, this movie, and then the three movies, will be the most culturally diverse tent-pole movies ever released, period," he told the Los Angeles Times last summer.

Paramount provided a statement about "Airbender's" casting choices. "The movie has 23 credited speaking roles — more than half of which feature Asian and Pan Asian actors of Korean, Japanese and Indian descent," it reads. "The filmmaker's interpretation reflects the myriad qualities that have made this series a global phenomenon. We believe fans of the original and new audiences alike will respond positively once they see it."

During "Prince of Persia's" scripting process, Disney hired BoomGen Studios, a niche marketing firm specializing in creative content about the Middle East, to help address issues of historical congruity and cultural contexts. Consultants advised the filmmakers to avoid specifically characterizing religion by setting "Prince" in a "mythological time" before the arrival of Islam. As well, the company worked to assure members of the Iranian-American community that the film was the antithesis of a recent action-adventure movie felt to vilify the people of Persia.

"We said, 'This is the anti-'300,'" said BoomGen's co-founder Reza Aslan.

Asked point blank by the Times of London, "Isn't Gyllenhaal a bit pale to play a Persian?" Bruckheimer delivered this history lecture. "Persians were very light skinned," he said. "The Turks kind of changed everything. But back in the 6th century, a lot of them were blond and

blue-eyed."

Aslan confirmed the veracity of Bruckheimer's historical appraisal. "Iranians are Aryans," Aslan asserted. "If we went back in time 1,700 years to the mythological era, all Iranians would look like Jake Gyllenhaal."

Gyllenhaal maintains that "Prince of Persia" is simply a slice of Hollywood fantasy that's as light in spirit as the vintage serials.

"To me, it's not something I gave a lot of thought because all of it is such a fantasy," he said last month at San Francisco's WonderCon. "It's based on a video game, not something out of history. There's nothing real about this. It's just an adventure and it's fun and it's strange in a way

to hold one part of it and say, 'That's not real or right.'"

Jack Shaheen, author of "Reel Bad Arabs" and a commentator on Hollywood's distortions of Muslim cultures and people, refused to condemn "Prince of Persia's" depiction of ancient Iranians until seeing the film. But he critiqued the industry's conventional wisdom that mainstream audiences won't shell out to see a non-white lead in a big-budget film. "Hollywood is making a mistake," Shaheen said. "As a society, we're not seeing color like we used to. We're more integrated than we used to be. The country is changing. But I don't think Hollywood is at the forefront of that change."

It's insulting that people of color — especially Middle Easterners or South Asians — are not allowed to portray ourselves in these roles.

— Jehanzeb Dar

Independent filmmaker and blogger

portrayal of Iranian characters in the swords-and-sandals action epic "Prince of Persia," Paramount has come under attack for its live-action adaptation of the Nickelodeon animated series "Avatar: The Last Airbender." Directed by "Sixth Sense" auteur M. Night Shyamalan, "The Last Airbender" (as the movie is called to distinguish it from a certain James Cameron-directed 3-D blockbuster) has enraged some of the show's aficionados by casting white actors in three of four principle roles — characters that fans of the original insist are Asian and Native American.

And with just weeks until the movie's July 2 release — after a year-and-a-half-long letter-writing campaign to the film's producers and a correspondence with Paramount President Adam Goodman to underscore the importance of casting Asian actors in designated Asian roles — members of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans and an organization called www.racebending.com are urging fans to boycott "Airbender."

The movie's detractors have spoken against the film at six college campuses, including M.I.T., New York University and UCLA, also setting up booths at events such as San Francisco's WonderCon pop culture expo to publicize their discontent. At last count, the group's Facebook group had 7,125 supporters and attracted petitioners against the movie's casting in 55 countries. The stated goal: to prevent "Airbender" from blooming into a lucrative three-part franchise via negative word of mouth.

"It's unfortunate that it's come to this," said Racebending.com spokesman Michael Le. "They've constructed a film that is contrary not only to what fans expected to see but is also contrary to what America expects to see in a film released in 2010 featuring Asian culture and Asian and Native American characters as heroes."

"We want to raise awareness of the discriminatory practices of Hollywood," Le continued. "We want to tell people this is important. It really matters."

Guy Aoki, head and co-founder of MANAA — a crusading organization that has skirmished with TV networks and movie studios for a decade for more positive representations of

clined.

Camille Alick, project manager for MOST — Muslims on Screen & Television, a resource center providing Hollywood productions with connections to Muslim actors and accurate information on Muslim populations — had not seen the films but remains sympathetic to the studios' decisions, and contends that her experience in the field allows her insight into such casting choices. "The hope is to have an authentic depiction, but casting directors have huge jobs in front of them," Alick said. "They're trying to find the best person for the part. And when it's a big-budget movie, it's going to come down to a business decision. If a major actor can carry a film, that plays a big part. It's not malicious intent."

Still, those among the anti-racebending camp feel that such rationalization provides a convenient excuse for keeping the prevailing system — a glass ceiling for actors of color in major movies — firmly in place.

"Hollywood can make anybody into a hero," Aoki said. "And yet these people continue to use a conservative attitude. When are they ever going to put an Asian American as a star to disprove that thinking? For Paramount to assume people wouldn't pay to see Asians as leads is presumptuous and insulting."

For the uninitiated, the cartoon series "Avatar: The Last Airbender" was aimed at children but enjoyed broad crossover to all ages during its 2005-08 TV run. Set in a Pan-Asian universe, identifiably Asian and Native American, anime-inspired characters battle one another using martial arts manipulation of the four elements. The series follows a 12-year-old named Aang (played by non-Asian actor Noah Ringer in the movie) and his band of cohorts who must save the world by toppling the evil Fire Lord and ending war with the Fire Nation.

But when word leaked out last year that a casting call had gone out for the movie version requesting "Caucasians and other ethnicities," "Airbender" fans freaked. Many of the film's detractors felt that Shyamalan, an Indian American, had betrayed his own.

On the "Airbender" set in Philadelphia, Shyamalan took issue with the accusation that "Airbender" was

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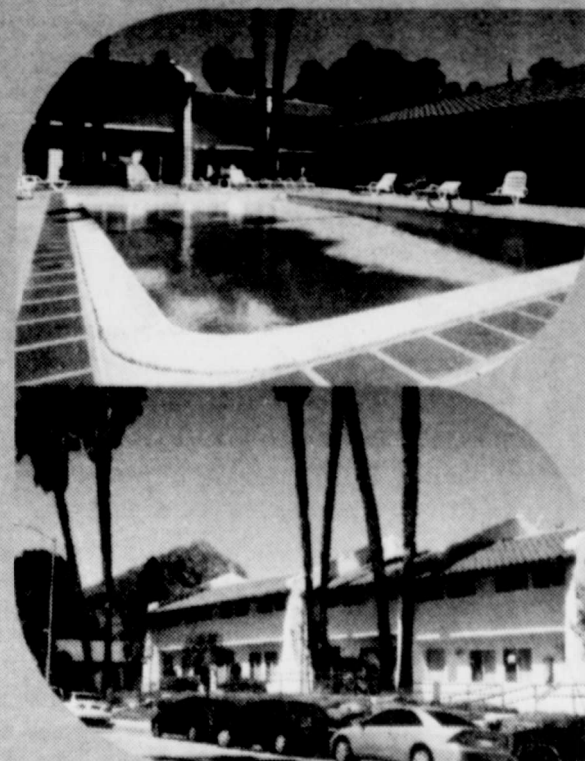
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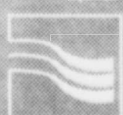
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Mustang Daily
"I can't handle the peeing."

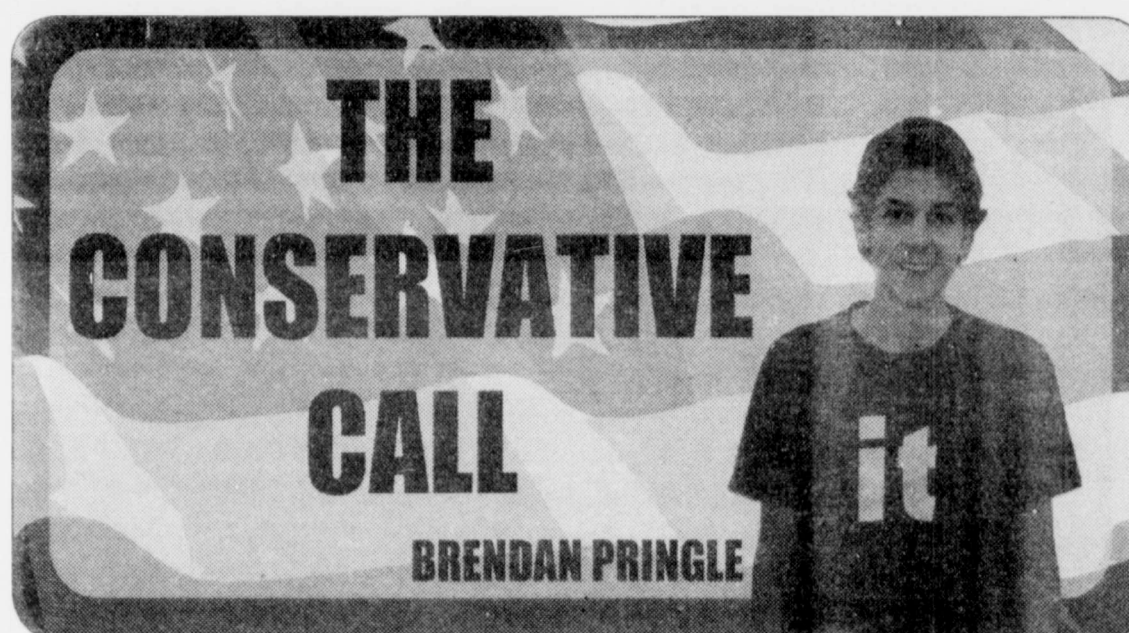
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Obama's poor dealing keeps getting worse

President Obama always seems to hide from the public eye at times when he should be attacking issues head-on. The past two months have exposed some significant faults in the way Obama handles the most pressing concerns of the day.

First, there was the Arizona Immigration Bill. Faced with Arizona's abrupt illegal immigration reform, the Obama Administration immediately jumped to the side of minority special interest groups (his political allies) and condemned Arizona for overstepping its bounds. According to CBS News, the president denounced the bill as "misguided" and "poorly conceived," but failed to produce any alternatives for border enforcement.

Whether the bill is the best approach to this issue is irrelevant. Arizona's decision represents a call for action on an issue that has been sidestepped by this administration and others. Attorney General Eric Holder questioned its constitutionality, only to be humiliated by his own lack of knowledge about the issue, and has since taken no further action to defeat it. The cur-



rent administration attempted to gain public opinion by manipulating this sudden action to its favor, and it ultimately backfired. Instead of tightening our border security from the beginning, Obama dithered around and frustrated border states by his prolonged inaction.

And for those who oppose any form of border enforcement, I bring you Exhibit B — the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf. Numerous times, the Obama administration argued they addressed the Gulf Oil Spill from "day one." In reality, Obama did not take the situation seriously until word got out about the severity of these damages (about a week later). Of course, he was far too

busy entertaining the Yankees at the White House to be concerned with the welfare of the environment and residents of the Gulf region.

When Obama finally held a press conference on May 27 to address this devastating crisis, he told America he was "not going to rest ... or be satisfied until the leak is stopped at its source, the oil on the gulf is contained and cleaned up, and the people of this region are able to go back to their lives and their livelihoods."

These are some powerful words from our commander-in-chief — if only they were true. As the oil started making its way to the shore, Obama's "superhero" image gradu-

ally puttered out and revealed a reversion back to politics as usual.

As Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said, "I think there could have been a greater sense of urgency."

According to Jindal, one of the affected coastal regions only received half of the booms he requested, and deployment of this protective tool was significantly delayed due to bureaucratic intervention (as reported on ABC News). Likewise, according to the New York Times, Jindal was given federal approval for one sand barrier to protect the shore after state officials requested 24.

Jindal is not the only one complaining. Some of Obama's top supporters — Democratic strategist James Carville and former Secretary of State Colin Powell — have criticized the administration for not utilizing all of its resources to contain the spill and limit the damages. We have seen the images of the Louisiana wetlands smothered in oil and the petroleum-coated sea life washing ashore. All of this could have been prevented if the gulf states were given the proper tools to defend the coast.

After hearing the voices of national criticism for his lack of involvement in this crisis, Obama has since said he takes "responsibility for solving this crisis" and has pledged to the Gulf region that they "will not be abandoned." His proposals for action come too late, as the oil has already reached the shore, and left its mark on the Gulf Coast. At this point, the only thing the president can do is to try and salvage the rest of the coast. The rest is up to BP.

Obama needs to learn his lesson from these two unprecedented events. Immediate action does not simply mean holding a press conference after the fact. The president always has access to the latest information, and should be the first to take action. During times of crisis, the states need a helping hand.

As California students, we are all too familiar with the government's tendency to delay action on important issues until it's too late. Election seasons bring waves of promises to hopeful Californians, and yet the budget remains unbalanced, our education system gradually worsens and our potential employers continue to flee the state. Our leaders need to grow spines and re-prioritize.

Empty words of reassurance never quite make up for lost time.

Brendan Pringle is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.



PEDRO MOLINAE NEWSART



I went to the concert and I have to say I was pretty disappointed. Half of their songs were slow, boring and you couldn't even hear the lyrics. Of all the concerts I have been to this may have been the worst. They had very little stage presence and even when they played their hits I found myself wondering why it wasn't good. I probably should have done some acid or blazed beforehand, the people who had seemed to be having a much better time. And don't get me wrong I like MGMT and hope they continue making music, but they definitely need to work on their performance if I am going to see them again.

—Anonymous

In Response to "Electro-dance-pop group MGMT packs Avila Beach concert"

Yes, the show started off slow and noone really knew the first songs but thats what artists do they play off their latest album. The middle and end of the show were great though. Amazing encore.

It did not seem like they wanted to play their most popular songs. for this to be the first show on tour they didnt seem to happy to have to play those songs even tho everyone wanted them to. But then again, they never really wanted to start a band and get famous either.

—David

In Response to "Electro-dance-pop group MGMT packs Avila Beach concert"

Paul's libertarianism places private property rights over the People's rights — equal treatment under the law — while the Declaration of Independence supports both.

Paul's ignorance of the Declaration's natural law basis is appalling, as is his ignorance of the natural law basis of Dr. King's civil rights movement.

—AJ

In response to "Rand Paul revisits Civil Rights Act"

Consider the case of GM. They should have gone bankrupt. It would have allowed them to either restructure their debt and labor contracts in order to efficiently produce affordable cars, or to liquidate their assets for pennies on the dollar. These cheap assets could be bought up by other car companies like Tesla in order to let strong businesses grow and hire the laid-off employees from GM. Instead, car companies like Tesla, which aren't politically connected to the degree GM is, don't get the chance to grow and they have unfair competition in GM, which gets subsidized.

—Dan

In response to "Rand Paul revisits Civil Rights Act"

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.

Facebook makes wise privacy move

Hooray, Facebook saved the Internet! OK, so maybe that's making too much of the privacy controls Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg unveiled Wednesday. But if the company hadn't addressed the uproar over its ever-changing privacy policy, there was a real possibility that Washington would have stepped in with new rules that would have applied to all social network operators, or even all websites. And we'd like to keep the nanny state away from the Net as long as possible.

That's not to defend what Facebook has been doing. The company operates the world's largest social network, with more than 400 million registered users. Collectively, these users pour data about themselves onto the site faster than BP spewed oil into the Gulf of Mexico. But people flock to Facebook in order to share information with a select circle of friends, not necessarily with the entire wired planet. Contrary to their expectations, Facebook has gradually exposed more and more of their profiles, photos and other postings to the public at large. It also launched a program to share personal information with other websites unless users instructed the site not to do so.

Its behavior has sent groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Privacy Information Center running to lawmakers and regulators for help. The center filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, arguing that Facebook's evolving privacy policy

amounts to a bait and switch — users post information to the site under one set of rules for disclosure, then Facebook changes the rules to allow more disclosure of the posted material. Four Senate Democrats recently sent Zuckerberg a letter, urging him to make specific changes in the company's handling of user data. And two House members have been circulating a draft bill to regulate how Facebook and other websites collect information about their users and share it with advertisers.

By deciding voluntarily to let users control more of their personal information, and by giving them simpler tools to do so, Facebook vented some of the pressure building up in Washington. That's a relief not just to Facebook users but everyone on the Web. It's one thing for the Federal Trade Commission to hold companies to the promises they make to their users; it's another for lawmakers to try to design privacy policies for sites whose technical capabilities are constantly advancing, along with their users' demand for services and attitudes about privacy. As Zuckerberg has noted, Facebook triggered outrage when it started sending users' updates automatically to all of their friends. Now that kind of "news feed" is a central feature of just about every social network. What looks like a threat today might prove to be an asset tomorrow.

There may come a day when Washington has to craft new rules to stop websites from preying on defenseless users, but we're not there yet.

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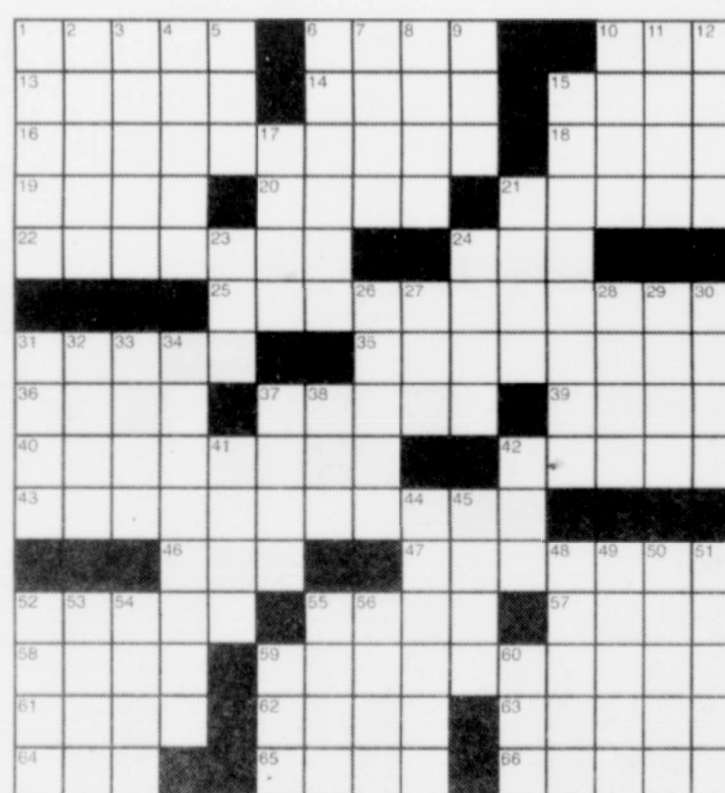
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0428

- Across**
- 1 Appetite arouser
 - 6 Show appreciation, in a way
 - 10 Busyness
 - 13 Reporting to
 - 14 "Gladiator" setting
 - 15 Groucho's cigar, e.g.
 - 16 Attila, for one?
 - 18 First-rate stand-up comic
 - 19 Bird sounds
 - 20 Neck and neck
 - 21 Is tiresome
 - 22 How some things are set
 - 24 When said three times, a dance
 - 25 Cowardly boxer?
 - 31 Voice opposition
 - 35 Food with lots of fiber
 - 36 North Carolina's University
- Down**
- 37 Jefferson's religious belief
 - 39 "L'... c'est moi"
 - 40 Like a photon
 - 42 Herders' tools
 - 43 Where to find a genie?
 - 46 Colony worker
 - 47 Polite reply that may be accompanied by eye-rolling
 - 52 The Destroyer, in Hinduism
 - 55 Relative of Bowser
 - 57 Concerning
 - 58 Trek
 - 59 Holders of some pipe joints?
 - 61 Start the bidding
 - 62 Middling
 - 63 Nimbi
 - 64 Carry-on checkers: Abbr.
 - 65 Bit of laughter

- 66 Teapot part ... or a two-word hint to 16-, 25-, 43- and 59-Across
- 1 Early counters
- 2 Military drone's job, for short
- 3 Spreads in bars
- 4 Like towelettes, typically
- 5 Barley bristle
- 6 Lily-livered
- 7 Prospector's strike
- 8 Word of agreement
- 9 A pop
- 10 "Habanera" from "Carmen" is one
- 11 "Let's Make a Deal" choice
- 12 Stops waffling
- 15 Flock leader
- 17 Caesar's "I came"
- 21 Taylor or Tyler
- 23 Norris Trophy winner for eight consecutive years
- 24 One to hang with
- 26 Miller's need
- 27 N.Y.S.E. listings
- 28 Green Hornet's sidekick
- 29 "Yikes!"
- 30 Pulls in
- 31 Prefix with god
- 32 Zip
- 33 Kind of votes a candidate wants
- 34 Stubbly
- 37 Cardholder's wife



Puzzle by Andrea Carla Michaels and Peter L. Stein

- 38 That, in Toledo
- 41 the Hyena of "Li'l Abner"
- 42 Foot, to a zoologist
- 44 Popular bathroom cleaner
- 45 First pope with the title "the Great"
- 48 Fixed fashionably
- 49 Summer month in South America
- 50 Pianist Claudio
- 51 Change, as an alarm
- 52 It may precede a chaser
- 53 They may swivel
- 54 Self-assembly retail chain
- 55 Ice sheet
- 56 She said "Play it, Sam"
- 59 "I know what you're thinking" skill
- 60 "If I Ruled the World" rapper

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Baseball struggled to find consistency in 2010 season

Patrick Leiva

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The 2010 Cal Poly baseball team experienced a roller coaster ride of highs and lows throughout their 2010 season.

The bar was set high after last season's team produced the first regional bid in program history. Instead, the Mustangs struggled out of the gates going 10-27 in their first 37 games of the season, including a 4-21 stretch after being 6-6. In the final month of the year, the Mustangs were able to finish strong by winning 13 of their last 18 games to conclude their season with a record of 23-32.

Senior outfielder Luke Yoder said the best word to describe the struggles was "frustration."

"It was really frustrating because we put so much hard work in the fall, waking up and going to weights early and working hard at practice, so I definitely think that would be the word to sum it up best because we weren't reaping the rewards of all our effort and hard work prior to the season," Yoder said.

Looking back on the season, head coach Larry Lee said the team fell short in many different areas, but especially on the mound. He said injuries to starters Steven Fischback and Mason Radeke really hurt their pitching depth.

"Those are two high-end pitchers that give you a chance to beat anybody," Lee said. "When you aren't at full strength pitching-wise, it's really difficult at this level to think that you are going to be able to outscore everyone."

Lee said the team had to piece together their pitching staff by having bullpen pitchers come in as starters. Also, Lee said the offense struggled out of the gates, which put even more pressure on their pitchers.

"It was disappointing the way we started out because we thought we had the ingredients to put together another good season and it just didn't work out that way," Lee said. "I thought we should've been much better offensively, and it was just an instance of players not able to step up right away and become leaders from an offensive standpoint."

Following the disappointments of the early season, the Mustangs were able to rebound down the stretch. Yoder, who led the Mustangs with 15 home runs this season, said the team turned things around when they hosted Long Beach State for a weekend series at the beginning of May. He said the team wanted to go at least 10-9 in order to reach 20 wins for the year.

With that goal in mind, the Mustangs responded by going 13-5 in the month of May. Yoder said the team turned things around because they never gave up on the season.

"It's perseverance by not letting the way the season started out for us put a damper on things," Yoder said. "We just set that goal for ourselves and came out to practice and continued to work hard and get better each day."

At the end of the season, the Mustangs were on a tear offensively. Lee said offense is contagious and that happened with his team at the end of the year. The Mustangs hit .351 over their last 19 games and scored almost 10 runs per game. In contrast, they were only hitting .277 and were scoring only six runs per game over their first 36 games.

The offensive surge to end the year was highlighted during the final game

of the season. The Mustangs exploded for a school record 32 hits, including a record nine doubles, in a 25-8 rout of visiting Cal State Bakersfield.

Lee said the turnaround occurred because the Mustangs received solid pitching, good defense and timely hitting at the plate.

"We just pitched much better for the most part and had a much better plan of attack," Lee said. "Over the course of the year, they've learned and gotten better and played competitive games lately."

Pitcher Matt Leonard, who was arguably the team's best pitcher over the year despite his 2-7 record, said the team's play over the final month of the season will be a good building block for next season.

"It just shows what we are capable of, and it gives us momentum going into next year," Leonard said.

Despite the late-season surge, Yoder said the season was still difficult because they could have been better throughout the entire year.

"It is kind of heartbreaking seeing that we've played so well here lately and really wish that we would've been able to play this well throughout the whole season, but it's the game of baseball," Yoder said.

Looking ahead to next season, Lee said many players were able to gain valuable playing experience this season, which will help for the future.

"We've gotten a lot of experience for some players that due to injury probably wouldn't have gotten that opportunity," Lee said. "It will definitely help us going into next year knowing what to expect from some of our role players."

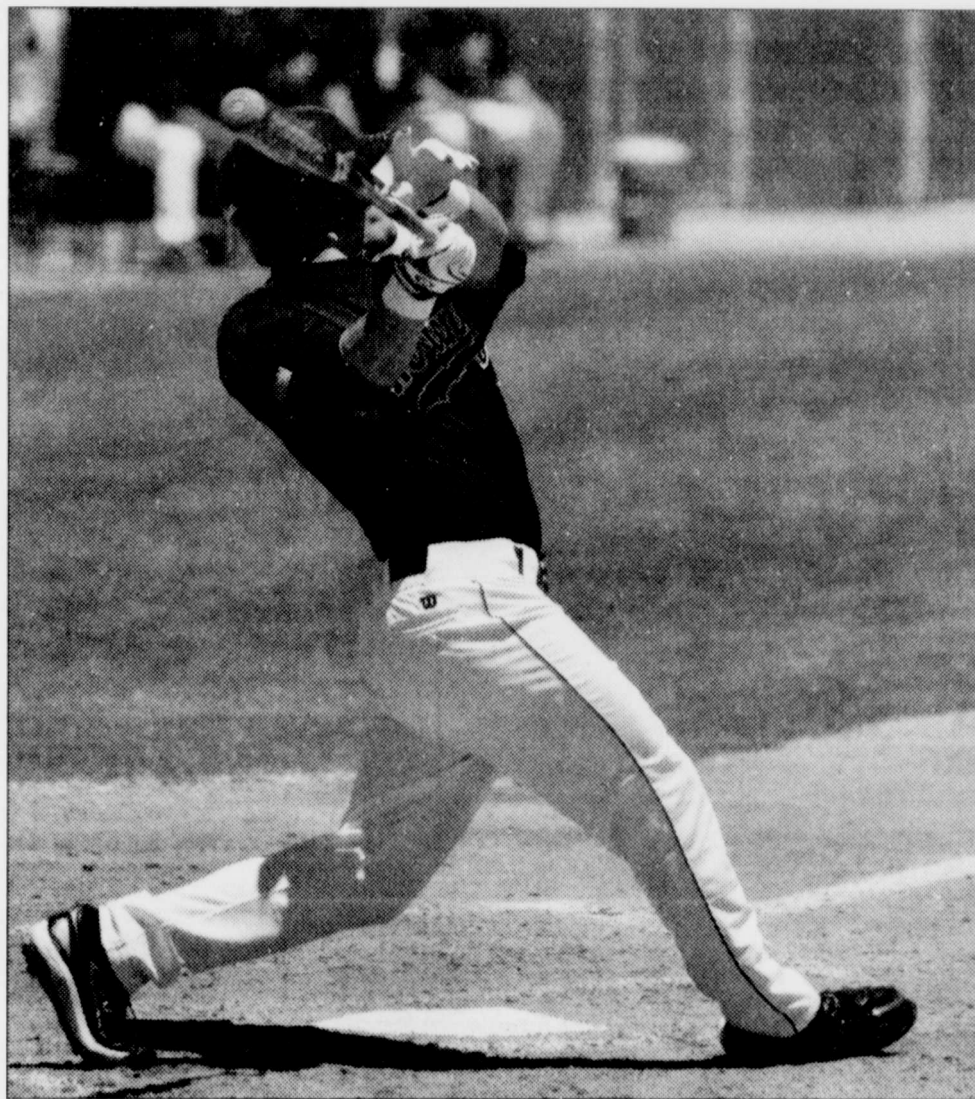
Lee said the Mustangs are adding a strong recruiting class and wants his returning players to understand their deficiencies so they can improve for next season and create more internal competition within the program.

"The incoming players need to close the gap from where they are now to where they need to be at by the first day of school so they can come in and compete for playing time," Lee said. "The one advantage that the players in the program already have is that they've been through the instruction and the game experience for at least one year."

Also, he said it would be helpful to have everyone return healthy from injury this season.

"If (Steven) Fischback and (Mason) Radeke could recover to their past levels, then that's a great start because quality pitching hides any weaknesses or deficiencies that you might have," Lee said. "Offense is usually up and down during the course of the year, and we are going to lose some pretty good offensive players, but we should return enough offense to be competitive on that end."

Being one of six seniors who will not be around next year, Yoder said the seniors wanted to leave a stamp



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

The Mustangs hit a new school Division-I record for hits in a game (32) in their season-ending win against Cal State Bakersfield Sunday afternoon.

on the program of hard work and determination. He said the team next year will be talented and capable of contending for the Big West title and another NCAA regional berth.

"They definitely have the tools

and capabilities to be able to go and succeed and have a good year next year," Yoder said. "It's going to depend on how much work they put in and not let tough times get down on them and try and succeed as

Gocong

continued from page 16

sacks.

At this point, Gocong didn't have his eyes set on playing professionally and even if he was, there were better choices than Cal Poly to help him get to the NFL. A member of Division I-AA, now known as the FCS, Cal Poly was known more for its academics than its athletic programs. But, Gocong also wanted to be an engineer — a factor in his decision to play for Ellerson.

"He was dead serious about his education," Ellerson said. "He had come to Cal Poly because of the engineering program and he was going to take advantage of that."

He ended up in engineering at Cal Poly, but, as a kid, he never really knew what is childhood dream was. Not even in college did Gocong have a solid outlook on how he would use his degree.

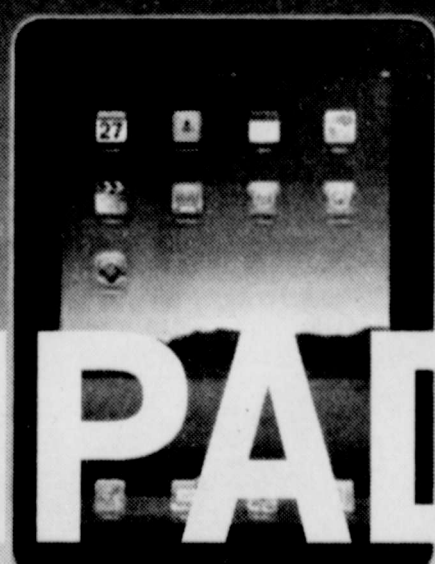
"I really didn't think about too much of my (professional) career," Gocong said. "Even up to my sophomore year in college, I figured I'd be an engineer, I'd play football and do whatever."

It wasn't until midway through the offseason that he found out he had a shot at something most often dream about.

— Editor's note: Pick up Thursday's edition of the Mustang Daily for part two of this two-part series.



MUSTANG MADNESS

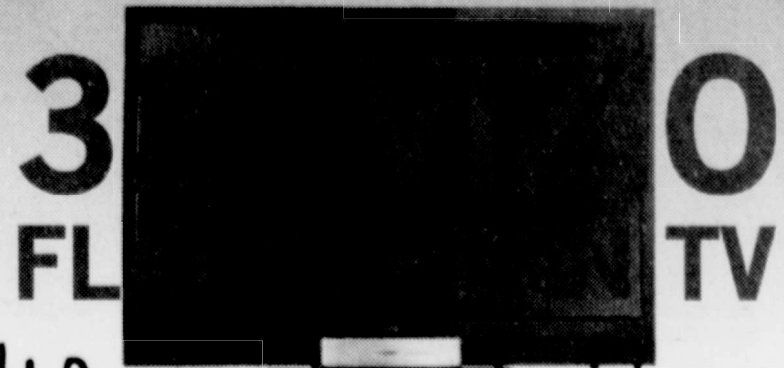


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7	4	1	5	6	8	3	9	2
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From Poly to the pros — the Chris Gocong story

Part one of a two-part series on the former Buck Buchanan Award Winner

Brian De Los Santos

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Brains and brawn

Football schematics can often be challenging.

When looking at play art, there can be so many signs and short hand that it looks more like hieroglyphics rather than anything comprehensible. With numerous Xs, Os, squares and circles, it seems coaches are often in search of discovering a new form of Pictionary as opposed to a standard play call.

Take all that, add a blitz-crazy playbook and a legendary defensive mind, and the task may seem nearly impossible for any individual to grasp — especially for a player picking up a position he had never played before.

Not for former Cal Poly defensive end Chris Gocong.

"He has a special mind. There are a lot of guys who have a special mind, but don't necessarily have the athletic ability that Chris has," former Cal Poly linebacker Kyle Shotwell said. "Then pair his intelligent mind to his incredibly athletic body and you get a specimen. That is what Chris is."

Gocong can thank his engineering degree and Cal Poly football experience for that.

"In the scheme he played for on the (Philadelphia) Eagles, they are notorious for probably being the most complex defense — schematically — in the NFL," Shotwell said. "The fact that he was able to go on to the NFL in arguably the most complex defense and learn a completely new position; to be able to do that takes an extremely bright individual. Not many guys can do that — Chris is one of those guys."

Don't let his mind deceive you.

The Cal Poly football legend wasn't all smarts. For years, he haunted the dreams of Great West quarterbacks. His intellect and knack for finding the quarterback earned him a Buck Buchanan award in 2005 — recognizing him as the best defensive player in the country. After stepping off the collegiate field for the final time, Gocong ranked second all-time at Cal Poly with 42 career sacks, ninth all-time at Cal Poly with 42 single-season tackles and 10th in Cal Poly history with 212 career tackles.

But he hasn't always been that dominant.

Learning curves

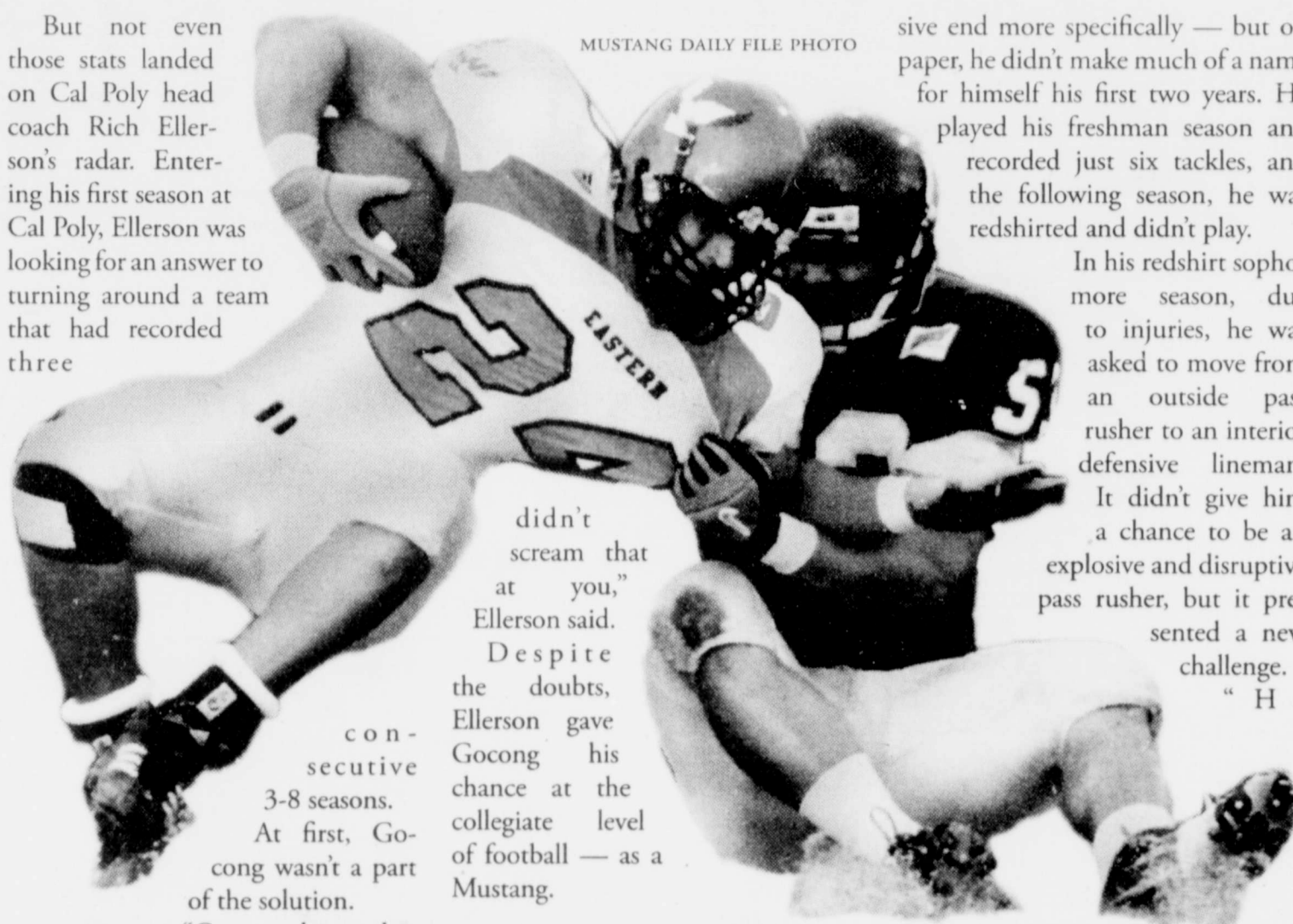
It seemed as if no matter where he was on the field, Gocong could get to the quarterback. Throughout the majority of his football career, he possessed the ability to torment quarterbacks anywhere on the defensive line and sometimes at linebacker. Yet, come national signing day, no colleges saw the potential in a high school Gocong.

"No one really recruited me for football. I had a few Ivy League schools looking at me, but it wasn't anything too serious where they offered me a scholarship," Gocong said.

He started his football career in Carpinteria High School. Despite never playing football before high school, Gocong was a three-year letter-winner at quarterback and linebacker. He made 180 tackles as a junior, 150 as a senior, while scoring 11 touchdowns on defense and threw for four more as a senior. It didn't stop there; he was also a stand-out in track and field. The two-sport athlete set a school record in the discus and nabbed two all-league honors in the discus and shot put.

But not even those stats landed on Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson's radar. Entering his first season at Cal Poly, Ellerson was looking for an answer to turning around a team that had recorded three

MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO



didn't scream that at you," Ellerson said.

Despite the doubts, Ellerson gave Gocong his chance at the collegiate level of football — as a Mustang.

consecutive 3-8 seasons. At first, Gocong wasn't a part of the solution.

"Our track coaches were the ones that made us aware of him," Ellerson said. "They came to us and said, 'Hey, we need to split this guy because we want him to come throw.' Ironically, he never did throw at Cal Poly."

Ellerson glanced at Gocong's playing tape, but wasn't completely sold. He said one thing was for certain: the fact that he excelled on both sides of the football field showed him something.

"His actual playing tape from football was not remarkable. It certainly showed he was athletic and it showed that he had that position flexibility and it showed that his coaches in high school obviously had a high regard for his athleticism, but the tape itself

sive end more specifically — but on paper, he didn't make much of a name for himself his first two years. He played his freshman season and recorded just six tackles, and the following season, he was redshirted and didn't play.

In his redshirt sophomore season, due to injuries, he was asked to move from an outside pass rusher to an interior defensive lineman. It didn't give him a chance to be an explosive and disruptive pass rusher, but it presented a new challenge.

"He

The three-point stance

Gocong already proved himself at arguably two of the hardest positions on the football field in high school. In high school, he would tear defenses up with his touchdown passes, then light up ball carriers at linebacker.

College, however, presented a new task.

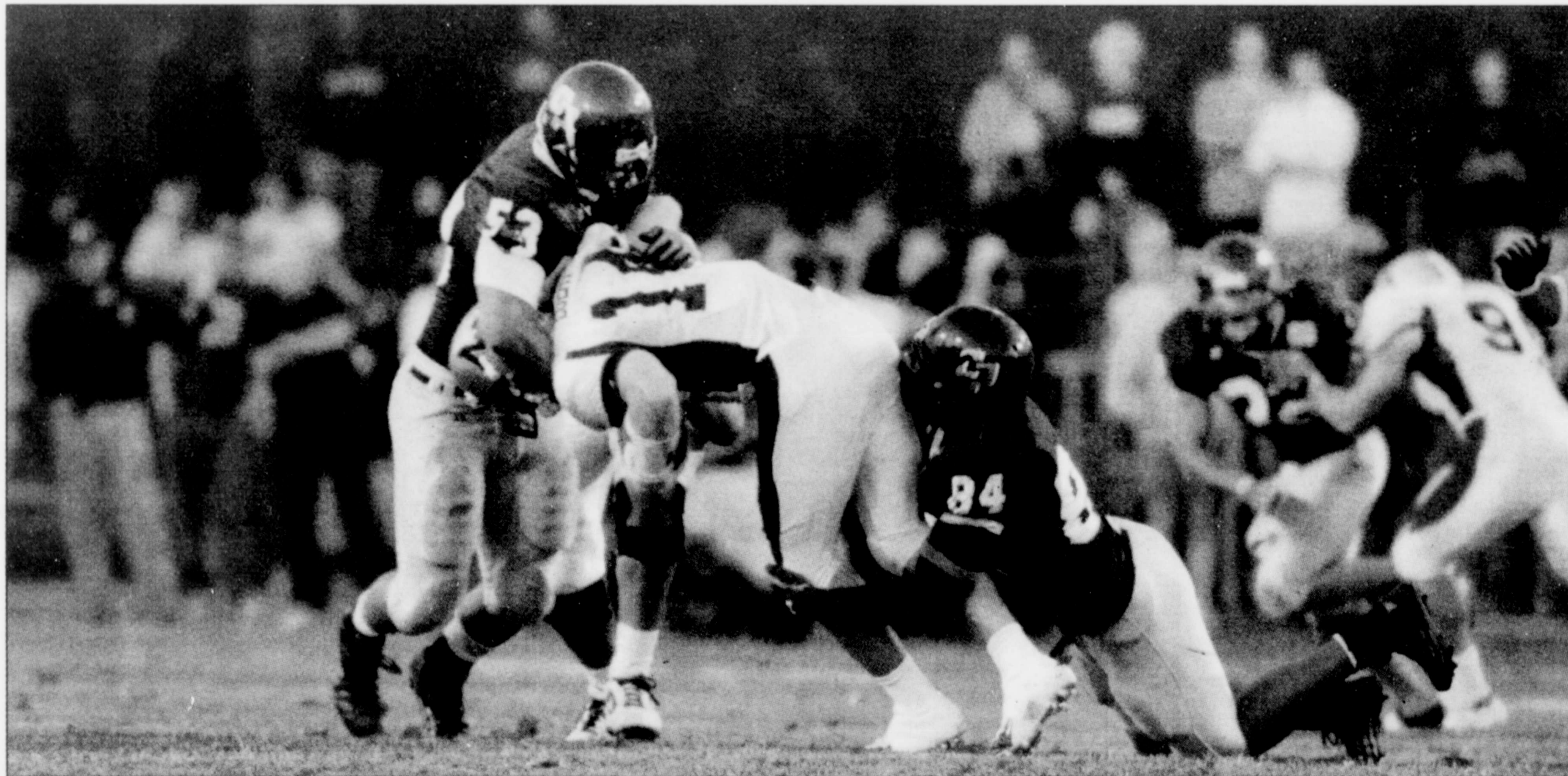
"I thought he had the explosiveness and the potential to find a place, I didn't know where that place would be," Ellerson said. "I really didn't know what position he would end up playing; I just knew he was a versatile guy, he had been a versatile athlete. We would see when we got him."

His explosiveness warranted him a spot on the defensive line — defen-

wasn't the stature you would look for, but he was clearly the best guy we could put inside physically," Ellerson said. "He had the explosiveness to play and the strength to play in there. That gave us a chance to have a successful season."

Gocong helped his team to a 7-4 season. Even though he was playing a new position, he still saw improvement from his freshman season. He finished with 37 tackles and just one sack. In 2004, Gocong returned to what Ellerson would later call his "natural position," defensive end, where he nearly doubled his total tackles (71) and finished with 17.5

see Gocong, page 15



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Former Cal Poly defensive end Chris Gocong ranks second all time at Cal Poly with 42 career sacks, ninth with 42 single-season tackles and 10th with 212 career tackles. Now a member of the Cleveland Browns, Gocong has tallied 129 tackles four sacks and two forced fumbles in four years at the professional level. He was a third round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 2006.