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casino night to
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Find out which Cal Poly
basketball player has
TWO Bieber posters.

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Marijuana, prescriptions and textbooks

In a Mustang Daily poll, 71.7 percent of students questioned have used drugs while enrolled at Cal Poly, and more than half said it was easy to get the drugs they wanted.

Karlee Prazak

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Editor's note: First names only have been used to protect the identity of those involved.

Before business administration student Lyja even rolls out of bed there is one question she, and a growing number of other students, will answer — To smoke marijuana before school or wait until after?

Besides that, she still wakes up, goes to school and goes to work, depending on the day. The only difference is sometimes she does it while under the influence, although most of the time, she waits until getting home in the evening.

"I just enjoy it," Lyja said. "It helps me relax and take a load off at the end of the day."

Smoking or taking drugs, in general, may not be the most conventional way to relax, but students balancing casual use with academic success is a trend gaining popularity at Cal Poly, according to a Mustang Daily poll, as

of Crime Statistics.

In a poll sent to more than 500 Cal Poly students last month, 177 (71.7 percent) of the 250 respondents said they have used some form of illegal drugs while enrolled at the university. When marijuana is excluded, 75 (30 percent) of these students said they have still used an illegal drug.

Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities Adrienne Miller said there is a difference between the student who comes to college and uses marijuana for the first time and the student who is already the user. The general trend used to be that a student would come to college and try marijuana for the first time. Now students leave for college having already experienced marijuana and "continue their behavior pattern," Miller said.

As a result, she said, the door is left open for these students to experiment with other drugs when they come to college.

"It's the whole idea of wanting to feel better and assert your rights, so taking these drugs is something that is a manifestation," Miller said. "We are not a drug culture, and that I

When a student chooses to use on campus, the main reason they get caught is because they are seen breaking campus policies or displaying abnormal behavior.

Miller said the university doesn't track prescriptions, so behavior is the main reason students are caught using pharmaceuticals illegally. Even then, she said there are more students using than are being caught.

"I only see the handful who are brought to my attention because of their behavior or their possessing drugs where they shouldn't," Miller said. "I know there is more drug use than the people I see."

The User

Lyja is a casual user who lives off campus, and the main difference between her house and the others on the block goes beyond just the address.

"You walk into our house and you have the coffee table that is the center of our house," Lyja said. "It's where our bong and our weed are. It's the middle of our day-to-day lives."

Although Lyja said her drug habit didn't necessarily hinder her grades at Cal Poly, she said it did

"I use (marijuana) as an incentive," Lyja said. "If I sit here and get all my homework done, then I can smoke a bowl and relax."

The relaxation Lyja seeks doesn't just come in the form of green herbs. She has taken drugs like ecstasy and mushrooms, but these are saved for more special occasions — such as concerts, raves and vacation time.

Yet, Lyja still finds the time to make the grades and work a normal job. She is an example of the student Miller spoke of who uses marijuana but doesn't allow it to interfere with academics or get her sent to Miller's office.

The Medical Marijuana User

Under federal law, marijuana is recognized as an illegal controlled substance with potential for abuse. Conversely, the possession of marijuana is either an infraction or a misdemeanor (in some states it can be a felony), according to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws website.

At Cal Poly, even if someone has a California Department of Public Health Medical Marijuana Program identification card, they are not al-

Have you ever used drugs
(alcohol not included)
while enrolled at Cal Poly?

Yes ☒ 71.7%

No ☐ 28.3%

If yes, how many times?

I haven't used while at Cal Poly ☐ 28%

1-4 ☐ 15%

5-9 ☐ 10.2%

10+ ☐ 46.7%

On a scale of 1-5, how
easy is it to get the drugs
you desire?

1. Really easy

☐ 24%

2. Pretty easy

☒ 39.8%

3. I don't care/ no idea/ don't
take drugs

☐ 32.5%

4. Somewhat difficult

☐ 3.3%

5. Impossible

☐ 0.4%

Have you used drugs,
other than marijuana, dur-
ing this time?

Yes ☐ 30%

No ☒ 49%

I haven't used while at Cal
Poly ☐ 21.1%

Have you ever used or
been under the influence
of drugs while on cam-
pus?

Yes ☐ 41.1%

No ☒ 58.9%

PHOTO BY [illegible]

Police Blotter

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Feb. 1, 00:53- Police logged a narcotics code violation in Tenaya Hall. No report was completed.

Feb. 2, 18:08- A non-injury traffic collision occurred in the H-10 parking lot.

Feb. 3, 13:50- Vandalism was reported on the Sage Restaurant sign on Vista Grande.

Feb. 4, 05:38- There was an alcohol violation near Crandall Gym.

Feb. 5, 00:07- Michael John Burns was arrested for public intoxication on Orange Drive and Bond Street and was booked in the county jail. He was released on his own later that morning.

Feb. 5, 10:37- A laptop was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the H-10 parking lot.

Feb. 6, 00:59- Police received notification of annoying phone calls occurring in Cerro Vista Housing. The source of the calling was not found.

Feb. 6, 03:56- Police arrived at Tenaya Hall after receiving a disturbance phone call about a man with a knife. Upon further investigation, police found a dispute between two people, neither of them wielding a knife or any weapon.

Feb. 6, 22:17- A narcotics code violation was cited in Muir Hall.

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

COMPILED BY NIKOL SCHILLER
GRAPHIC BY MELISSA WONG

Drugs

continued from page 1

fit into our society," Allen said. "We have to keep in line with all (laws). We don't pick and choose what laws we follow. We look to the CSU, state and federal laws and they still haven't completely released (marijuana use). It is still considered a certain type of drug that is not legal."

Marijuana is illegal on campus because the university has to ultimately abide by federal laws, and the federal government provides the university with funding, Director of Cal Poly's Disability Resource Center (DRC) Trey Duffy said.

If a student went to Duffy with a medical marijuana card and documentation from a doctor stating reasons why the student needs this form of medication, the DRC would look into more than just the medical marijuana card before trying to accommodate this particular situation by allowing the student in question to use marijuana on campus.

"We would look at who it was recommended by and what condition it's for," Duffy said. "The stu-

you reek like bud."

Alex said he told the RA he hadn't been smoking, but the RA still followed him to his room and asked Alex to let him in because the UPD was on its way.

Alex said he let the RA in, and he "handed (the RA) my jacket and said, 'Does this smell?' and he said, 'Yes.'" So Alex told them about how he smoked off campus the day before.

"I had smoked a joint 1,000 feet off campus," Alex said. "That is the legal distance because I have a medical marijuana card."

Once they arrived, the UPD did not cite him, nor did they search his room. He did receive several housing violations "because (University Housing) still thought I was smoking in my room," Alex said; the charges included drug possession and a fire hazard.

"At the time, I was mad because I went through the system to smoke weed legally, but they told me it wasn't legal," Alex said.

The Prescription Side

When asked what was the most common drug of choice besides marijuana, the majority of Mustang Daily poll respondents answered with some form of prescription pill.

"I was mad because I went through the system to smoke weed legally, but they told me it wasn't legal."

— Alex
Landscape architecture

dent who has had cancer versus a student who has had two DWI's and two drug arrests — you're going to determine the case differently."

If the student presented the documentation and proved they needed it (just like a student with a learning disability who requests extra help), Duffy then goes on record to recommend to the university that the student's needs be met, he said. However, he said this has yet to happen at Cal Poly.

As of now, marijuana use and possession is still illegal for all students on campus and there will be repercussions for those caught with the drug, Allen said. The university's Student Conduct Code states those who are in violation of any of the codes can be suspended, required to do community service, lose their financial aid, be barred from entering university grounds, expelled or have their degree withheld.

"At this point it is still considered marijuana; just because (the student is) not arrested, doesn't mean (he or she) won't have consequences for possessing it," Allen said.

The consequences for having marijuana on campus as a medical patient with a physician-assigned card is what landscape architecture student Alex was forced to deal with as a freshman.

Back in his hometown, Alex got a medical marijuana card for migraines and stress. Naturally, when he packed up and moved to Cal Poly, he brought his medication with him.

A few weeks after moving into the Yosemite residence halls, Alex got back from having a meal at VG Cafe at Vista Grande on campus, and was greeted by a residence advisor (RA) saying, "Hey,

The pharmaceuticals listed ranged from Adderall (the main choice) to Oxycodone to Vicodin.

"Synthetic opiates and prescription drug abuse is nationally on the rise, and we are seeing that here too," said Mary Peracca, the Cal Poly Alcohol and Drug Specialist Counselor.

Students often times have an "upper-downer combo" Peracca said, but it is the downers, or opiates such as Vicodin and Oxycodone, that pose the most problems.

"Opiates have a low addiction threshold, so using and abusing them can move rapidly to becoming dependent," Peracca said.

At Cal Poly, synthetic opiates such as Vicodin are sold at the Health Center, but the other popular pill of choice, Adderall, is not.

"Whether they are sold on campus or off, there are a lot of opiates that are prescribed for real medical conditions and pain treatments, so it's pretty easy access," Peracca said.

If the students who are using an "upper-downer combo" cannot control their use, they may have to meet with Peracca because their use crossed the line into abuse — which is the overuse of a substance that results in negative consequences and the ongoing use despite the consequences, she said.

"There is a difference between use and abuse," Peracca said. "If students are using, and they don't have consequences, then it's just their choice."

see Drugs, page 6

The

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Science Café explains genealogy with 'The Tree of Life'

Anieca Ayler

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Charles Darwin, one of the first evolutionary biologists, was born 202 years ago. Students and faculty chewed to his success and birthday with celebratory cake Wednesday, three days before his actual birthday.

The celebration was a precursor to a timely discussion called "The Tree of Life: A Genealogy of Earth's Organisms," where students and faculty explored the metaphor of a branching tree in genealogy, a description of life found in Darwin's research.

The talk was part of Science Café, a series of discussions hosted in the Robert E. Kennedy Library on art and science topics between different disciplines and facilitated by an expert, this time by Kirsten Fisher, assistant professor of biological sciences at California State University, Los Angeles. She spoke about the significance of the tree of life, how to interpret it, common misconceptions and how the tree is used.

The tree of life metaphor became popular to display concepts like ancestry and genealogy because of the way figurative "parent" and "offspring" relationships are pictorially drawn. By visually representing these relationships with lines, the results become reminiscent of a tree. They're very useful in showing recency and common ancestry, Fisher said.

She began the lecture by explaining the tree's origin, which dates back thousands of years.

"It was a common motif in ancient mythology to describe the knowledge and interface between divinity and man," Fisher said.

Now, the tree of life is increasingly important for the sciences, Fisher said. Scientists rely on it for an evolutionary framework, and it displays our understanding of biological diversity. It's also used in more applied sciences, in areas such as forensics, conservation, agriculture, medicine and pharmacology.

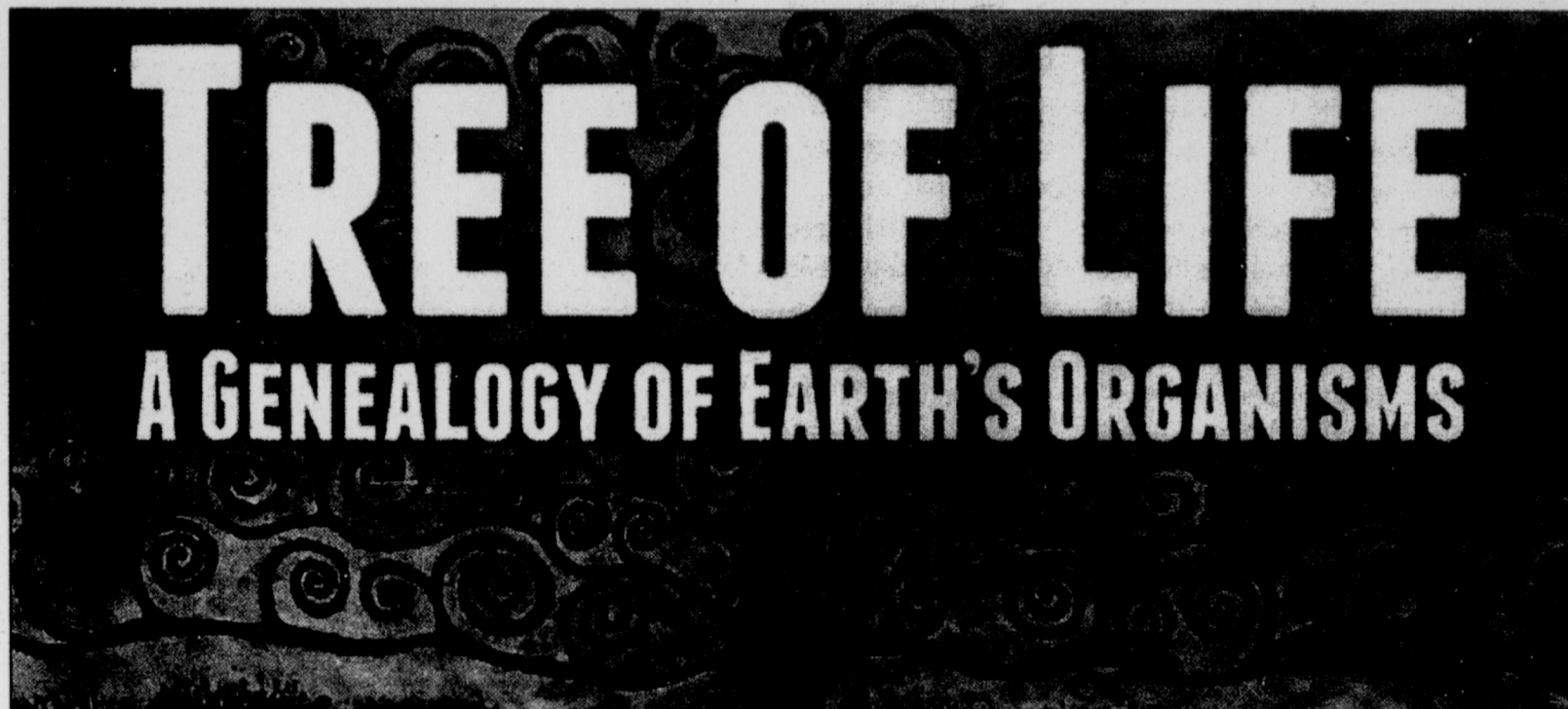
But trees are more complex than most people think, Fisher said.

"We assume they're easy to interpret, but they're not intuitive at all; they're not free of biases," Fisher said.

This difficulty is in part due to the way trees are drawn or constructed; they can be confusing and reinforce common misconceptions about evolution.

One misconception is that evolution is working toward a goal indicated by the increasing complexity of the tree (lots of branches, busy at the top). This implies evolution is progressing toward perfection.

Another falsity is organisms are living at the same time as their ancestors, which Fisher said is impossible if they have been evolving for the same amount of time and come from a common ancestor.



COURTESY PHOTO

The "Tree of Life" has been a biological metaphor and useful tool in evolution and genealogy for scientists as far back as Darwin.

A prime example of this is humans have evolved from monkeys. This can't be true because they have evolved from the same common ancestor and for the same amount of time, and it would be impossible to coexist, Fisher said.

She proposed solutions to avoid these misconceptions: not giving humans their own spot on the tree of life and avoid presenting the tips of the tree in the order people expect to see them.

"It would be more accurate to have them at the same level since we all coexist today," Fisher said.

Fisher was invited to speak by Cynthia Perrine, the Science Café

coordinator and former colleague of Fisher's, to discuss the tree of life.

Attendance at the café varies from event to event, ranging from 15 to 100, depending on the topic and peoples' schedules, but the informality of the talks allows people to come even after they start or leave before they finish, said Eileen Akin, programs specialist for the library.

"It's really not a lecture," Akin said. "It's a conversation. It's a give and take; questions and comments can happen throughout."

Perrine wants the Science Café discussions to encourage the application of science in every day life.

"We're promoting science lit-

eracy and using scientific principles to communicate and be able to converse — as well as reading and writing coherently — and make good decisions accordingly," Perrine said.

The café is part of an international movement called Café Scientifique that originally started in Europe, Akin said.

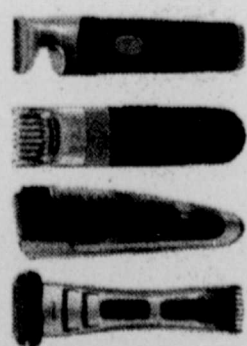
"It's for people interested in a casual, informal way to talk about science related topics, led by an expert or two, but open to the public," she said.

The next Science Café talk, "Underwater Exploration: Discovering ancient shipwrecks and cargoes" with featured lecturer Timothy Gambin, will be Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

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SCANLIFE

Possible 2012 Republican presidential candidates will speak to nation

Paul West

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

A handful of possible Republican presidential hopefuls will address the nation's largest annual conservative gathering this week, opening a window into the likely influence of the tea party in choosing Barack Obama's 2012 opponent.

Every four years, the Conservative Political Action Conference assumes outsized importance as potential candidates try to impress a largely youthful audience of movement activists and score high in a straw poll that has actually proved a poor predictor of future nominees.

Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Tim Pawlenty, Haley Barbour, Mitch Daniels, Michele Bachmann and John Thune are among those slated to appear in what is essentially three days of auditions before 11,000 hard-core conservatives. Two other possible 2010 candidates, Sarah Palin and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, will not attend.

Social conservatives have dominated the event, which gained prominence after Ronald Reagan became a regular speaker. Record attendance is expected for this year's edition, which opens Thursday. Reflecting the tea party's

emergence as a new force inside the Republican Party, there will be several panel discussions on fiscal issues, featuring participation by prominent tea-party organizers and politicians.

In the 2012 campaign, "I think you'll see every candidate try to claim tea party support," said Ryan Hecker, a Houston lawyer and tea party leader. "I think you're going to be seeing candidates that are much more ideological on conservative issues."

The tea party appears well-positioned to build on the previous year's successes.

In primaries across the nation, entrenched Republicans deemed insufficiently conservative were dumped from office and replaced by tea party favorites. Tea party organizers say their members remain as energized today as they were in 2010.

"This thing couldn't be more wide open," Curt Anderson, a Republican strategist not yet aligned with a presidential contender, said of the GOP nomination contest. "This is probably one of those upset-the-apple-cart elections where everything goes out the window."

Historically, Republicans have nominated the man whose "turn" it is — including both George Bushes, Bob Dole and John Mc-

Cain. But the tea party has shifted the party to the right, weakened the establishment's hold and put greater emphasis on conservative ideology.

Tea party backers are more uncompromising than other Republicans, insisting that their leaders in Washington "stand up to Obama," rather than compromising, according to a Pew Research Center poll last month.

From the presidential campaign of TV evangelist Pat Robertson in 1988, through Pat Buchanan's anti-establishment crusades in the 1990s and John McCain's initial challenge to George W. Bush in 2000, insurgent candidates have flourished during the early primaries, only to fall short.

But this time could be different. Insurgent energy is running high at the grassroots, while the Internet and social networking have diminished the importance of traditional fundraising networks.

Romney, the early establishment favorite, is regarded as a particularly weak front-runner by Republican politicians.

"In 2012, we may see for the first time that it is the anti-establishment or insurgent candidate who wins. That type of persona has the best chance to become the nominee that we've seen, other

than Goldwater, in the modern era," said a Republican strategist, who requested anonymity because he is privately offering advice to several likely candidates.

Tea party potential to shape the Republican ticket may be particularly strong in the early primary states that are likely to narrow a large field of contenders.

In Iowa, whose leadoff presidential caucuses are less than a year away, the Republican Party "is literally being taken over by the tea party," said Dave Funk, a former tea party candidate for Congress who now co-chairs the largest county central committee in the state.

Tea party enthusiasts are likely to turn out in significant numbers at next winter's precinct caucuses, expanding the overall number of votes, he said.

In New Hampshire, the first primary, where independents can vote in the Republican contest, the tea party "will be a big factor," predicted Mike Dennehy, architect of John McCain's 2008 campaign there.

South Carolina, which is the next primary state, is a tea party hotbed. It produced some of the tea party's most impressive 2010 victories, including Nikki Haley's election as governor after an en-

dorsement by Sarah Palin, arguably the nation's leading tea party politician.

But the rise of the tea party is creating strains for Republicans, who worry about how well their party is adapting to the latest influx of conservative activists.

GOP leaders in Washington are already struggling to keep tea party House members in line.

Intraparty divisions could be seen in the dueling responses to Obama's State of the Union speech last month by a designated party spokesman and the tea party's Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn.

As the presidential campaign gathers steam, traditional divides between social and economic conservatives are likely to be thrown into bolder relief.

Polls show that many tea party backers also identify themselves as social conservatives. But tea party groups tend to focus on issues of the economy, the federal debt, the size of government and its reach into the private lives of ordinary Americans.

A nationally televised tea party town hall meeting in Washington this week began with an announcement by moderator Amy Kremer of Tea Party Express that any questions about social issues wouldn't be allowed.



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Briefs

State

SACRAMENTO (MCT) —

Gov. Jerry Brown said his administration will abandon the proposed sale of 11 government buildings that would have netted an estimated \$1.2 billion to help balance the state budget.

Brown said the building sale, negotiated by the administration of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, amounted to a budget gimmick. State offices would have remained in the buildings after the sale and paid rent under the previous administration's plan. The plan would have provided some short-term cash, Brown said, but ultimately cost taxpayers more money over time.

"The sale of the buildings didn't really make much sense," Brown said at a Wednesday morning Capitol press conference. "It is in effect a gigantic loan with interest payments of 10 percent every year."

...

IRVINE (MCT) —

A group of 100 faculty members at UC Irvine signed a letter asking the Orange County, Calif., district attorney to drop criminal charges against 11 Muslim students who disrupted a speech by the Israeli ambassador to the United States.

The group, which includes five deans, said the Muslim Student Union was wrong to disrupt the speech last year by Ambassador Michael Oren but that the students and the group had already been disciplined by the university.

Orange County prosecutors announced last week they were charging the students with two misdemeanor counts, including conspiracy to disrupt the speech. If convicted, each faces up to six months in jail.

National

MICHIGAN (MCT) —

A 46-year-old Canadian woman sued two unidentified female U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents in Detroit federal court Wednesday, saying one of them strip-searched and groped her without justification as the other one watched at the Ambassador Bridge last March.

Loretta Van Beek, of Stratford, Ontario, an interior decorator who said she travels to the United States about five times a year to vacation at her property in Georgia, said agents sent her to secondary inspection last March 2 because she failed to disclose that she had raspberries in her vehicle.

She said agents questioned her about her occupation, property and family status during a two-hour session, then ordered her to a windowless concrete cell and ordered her to strip.

...

WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) —

House Republican leaders unveiled a dramatic list of cuts Wednesday for the remainder of fiscal 2011 — snaring a wide swath of programs and grants, including law enforcement, NASA and welfare — as they prepare to uphold their campaign pledge to rein in domestic spending.

In presenting the outline, Rep. Harold Rogers, R-Ky., the chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee, said the list was just a preview of the broader package of spending reductions his committee is preparing for release Thursday, in advance of next week's floor debate and vote.

"Never before has Congress undertaken a task of this magnitude," Rogers said. The forthcoming cuts "will represent the largest reduction in discretionary spending in the history of our nation."

International

COLOMBIA (MCT) —

Left-wing Colombian rebels on Wednesday released the first of five hostages they plan to free this week.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, released politician Marcos Baquero, whom they had kidnapped in June 2009, the Red Cross said.

The 35-year-old was handed over at an unidentified location to a humanitarian group made up of opposition politician Piedad Cordoba, a Red Cross representative and a Peruvian doctor. He was then flown on a helicopter to the city of Villavicencio, where he was greeted by relatives.

On Friday, FARC is due to release politician Armando Acuna and marine Henry Lopez. On Sunday, a police major and a soldier are due for release.

...

GERMANY (MCT) —

Germany returned an ancient Mesopotamian battle axe to Iraq on Wednesday, after police discovered the item with an antiques dealer in Munich.

Iraqi ambassador Hussain Mahmood Fadhlalla al-Khateeb accepted the decorated axe head, which dates back roughly 4,500 years and was found on territory belonging to modern-day Iraq.

Police found the axe in 2004 and sent it to the Roman-Germanic museum in Mainz for evaluation, after the owner was unable to produce a certificate documenting its origin.

The axe is typical of the military equipment used by early Mesopotamian city states, the museum found.

Al-Khateeb said it was important to crack down on trafficking in stolen goods, as this was an income stream for terrorist groups.

Clash between Washington and Wikileaks heats up

Mark Seibel

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The unfolding battle between the United States government and WikiLeaks over the publication of hundreds of thousands of once-secret U.S. documents moved into a new phase Tuesday with the unsealing of court motions asking a federal magistrate in Virginia to quash a subpoena for the Twitter records of three people with ties to WikiLeaks.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Theresa C. Buchanan ordered the motions unsealed at the request of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which filed them on behalf of a member of Iceland's parliament whose Twitter records were among those sought, apparently as part of a criminal investigation into how secret U.S. documents allegedly downloaded by Army Pfc. Bradley Manning found their way to WikiLeaks. Two private law firms joined in the filing on behalf of the other two Twitter users.

In addition, the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation asked Buchanan to make public any subpoenas issued to other Internet services as well as the U.S. government's original request for the records. Buchanan did not act on those motions, however. She set a hearing on the matter for Feb. 15.

The U.S. government is investigating whether it can charge WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange with a crime in connection with

the organization's publication of hundreds of thousands of classified and secret documents. U.S. officials believe Manning downloaded the documents while he was stationed as an intelligence specialist in Iraq and then passed them to WikiLeaks, which began publishing them online in April.

U.S. investigators have been unable to tie Manning to Assange, Pentagon officials briefed on the investigation have said. Manning, who has been charged with eight criminal counts that could send him to prison for 52 years, is being held at the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Va.

In December, Buchanan issued the subpoena to Twitter, ordering it to produce a wide variety of information about the Twitter accounts of Manning and Assange, as well as three people who have worked with WikiLeaks, including the parliament member, Birgitta Jonsdottir, and two computer programmers, Rop Gonggrijp of the Netherlands and Jacob Appelbaum, an American.

The challenge to the subpoena, which was filed Jan. 26, also had been filed under seal. The ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation asked that it be unsealed in a separate motion Jan. 31.

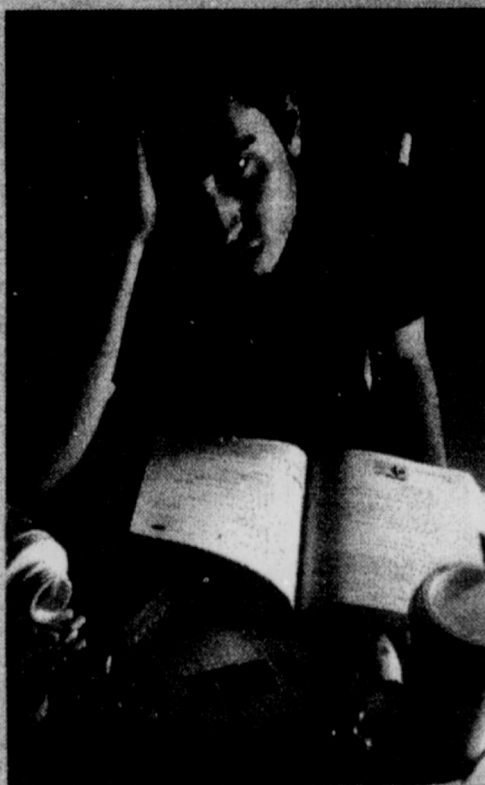
"The government's fishing expedition into information about all the parties, Twitter postings, and about parties' direct messages over a six-and-a-half-month time period may chill the parties' and other individuals' rights to speak freely and associate with them," the motion said.

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Drugs

continued from page 2

Possession and Access

During his 16 years involved with Cal Poly University Housing, Allen has reviewed most, if not all, of the activities reported in the dorms.

"I would be lying if I didn't say that drug use is a large part of it," Allen said.

He has seen students try to get away with trafficking "harder drugs," such as cocaine, but their behavior usually gets them caught, he said.

So now, students are keeping their habits off campus to avoid trouble with housing.

In the Mustang Daily poll, 100 (39.8 percent) of the 250 Cal Poly students who participated said it was "pretty easy" to get the drugs they desire. Only seven students (3.3 percent) said it was "somewhat difficult."

"The way the whole system works here in SLO is it's a pretty connected community," Lyja said. "You go to

parties and people have the same weed as you, but didn't get it from the same place. You know it came from somewhere higher up."

Unlike Lyja, business administration student Walter chooses not to use drugs. However, he is in a local fraternity, and has seen drug use through his involvement.

"In the past, I've heard of people, like a clique, who would do certain drugs together," Walter said. "There would be a certain group really into using right before every party, but no one is using things like cocaine now compared to a few years ago."

Since becoming involved in the fraternity, Walter has seen brothers who use, and the ones who do it consistently were always the ones people went to for drugs because of their connections, he said.

When it comes down to it, gaining access is all about location.

"It's our catch-22," Allen said. "If it's not on campus, then students will go smoke and drink off campus."

The Reasons Why

In the poll, students were asked, "What is the most likely reason students choose to use, and in what setting?" The responses ranged from wanting to have a good time at a party, to wanting to escape, to relaxing with close friends.

From the student point of view, it also varies. Lyja said it is to relax. Alex said it's for medical purposes. Walter said it is before parties.

From the university standpoint, it is a result of adjusting to the college experience.

Students are using drugs to relate to others in social settings when they feel out of place, or they do it for a break from demanding schedules, Allen said. The students who are able to continue using drugs and succeed at Cal Poly are able to do it because they put school first and indulge second.

"If a student is strung out on drugs, their reason for being here isn't academic success or graduating; being under the influence has a priority in their lives," Allen said.

Many students who choose to use are simultaneously balancing drugs with academics.

"A lot of the other drugs are harder to get or are so addictive that students can't keep up with the Cal Poly schedule if they're taking them," Miller said.

Lyja is one of those students. She balances using drugs as a recreational activity with schoolwork and still enjoys parties. Still, she feels safer when she smokes at home than when she goes out for a "legal" night of drinking.

"Alcohol scares me a lot more than weed does because of the ability to get to the point where you have no control or idea of what you are doing," Lyja said. "That's not something that happens when you're high, you're always aware of what is going on, and you're not in that alternate universe."

Word on the Street

What's your registration appointment for next quarter, and are you happy with it?



"I'm dead last, so I'm definitely disappointed."

— Nolan Uchizono, electrical engineering senior



"I'm at the end, but I should still be able to get into some of my major courses."

— Emilie Schneider, soil science junior



"I'm last, but I'm using a priority."

— Aimee Wong, business administration sophomore



"I'm in the middle, but I still have some priorities, so I'm not too worried."

— Chris Blackmer, general engineering senior



"I haven't checked, but I'm not too worried."

— Jake Hustedt, mechanical engineering junior



"I haven't checked — I'm graduating next quarter so I should be getting what I need, but who knows."

— Nancy Lopez, architecture senior

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Valentine's Day: a day of candy, flowers and STIs

Laci Rogers

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's Educational Resources on Sexuality, known as E.R.O.S., is hosting its annual Love Carefully Week just before Valentine's Day to promote safe sex practices among Cal Poly students.

"We just want to bring awareness because with Valentine's Day coming up, love is in the air — or not," said E.R.O.S. Coordinator, Carla Globerson-Lamb. "We just want to remind people to stay safe, because people don't realize how prevalent some things are."

People ages 16 to 24 are most likely to contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI), said Geri Beaman, the Communicable Disease Investigator for the San Luis Obispo Public Health Department. This is a result of their tendency to participate in serial monogamy, or having numerous significant others throughout the year.

To illustrate, young adults are likely to only have sex with their partner while in a relationship, Beaman said. However, these relationships often do not last very long, which means they may have many sexual partners within a given year. The high rate of sexual partner exchange exposes this age group to higher risk of infection.

This age group also has a greater chance of contracting an STI because they tend to use condoms at the beginning of a relationship, but then start to regard condoms as unnecessary once trust is established, Beaman said.

For chlamydia, one partner's infection will quickly lead to the infection of the other when no condom is involved.

In fact, chlamydia is the most common STI students have at Cal Poly, said David Harris, head of medical services at the Health Center. The Health Center diagnosed 19 cases of chlamydia during the 2009-2010 school year.

The second most common STI among students is the herpes simplex virus type 1, with 16 reported cases in the last school year. Type 1 typically causes cold sores around the mouth, but it may also cause sores in other areas of the body, including the genitals. Herpes simplex virus type 2 causes sores mostly in the genital region, but may also manifest as sores elsewhere. The Health Center diagnosed five reported cases of the herpes simplex virus type 2, which accounts for a rate of 27 percent positive results for those tested for both types of herpes.

The Health Center had no positive results for STIs other than chlamydia and herpes during the 2009-

2010 school year.

"The rates of STIs are very low in our student population," Harris said.

The most common reportable STI among all adults in San Luis Obispo also is chlamydia, Beaman said. In 2010, there were 694 reported cases in San Luis Obispo County.

Chlamydia is the most widespread, because it often lacks visible symptoms, Beaman said.

Up to 80 percent of infected individuals could have the disease without ever showing signs of its presence, proving that having no visible symptoms of infection is not a reasonable excuse to ditch the condom.

There are more reported cases of chlamydia among women, Beaman said, because females are more likely to visit the doctor for birth control and annual Pap smears.

"It's not that men aren't infected," he said. "They just don't know it."

The LGBTQIA community also stresses the importance of safe sex practices. The Pride Center will join the E.R.O.S. team today to spread awareness about safe sex among non-heterosexual groups.

Pride Center members will be there to talk with students and make their presence known as a resource for people with questions about safe-sex issues, said Seth Winkenwerder, a student assistant at the Pride Center.

The E.R.O.S. team will be hosting a variety of games and activities with prizes in order to spread safe-sex awareness in a fun way, Globerson-Lamb said.

Participants will have the opportunity to win condom lollipops, rose KISSES, lube and latex dental dams used for oral sex. They will also be able to "marry" anyone of their choosing in a fake ceremony — plastic jewel rings will be provided for the brides and grooms.

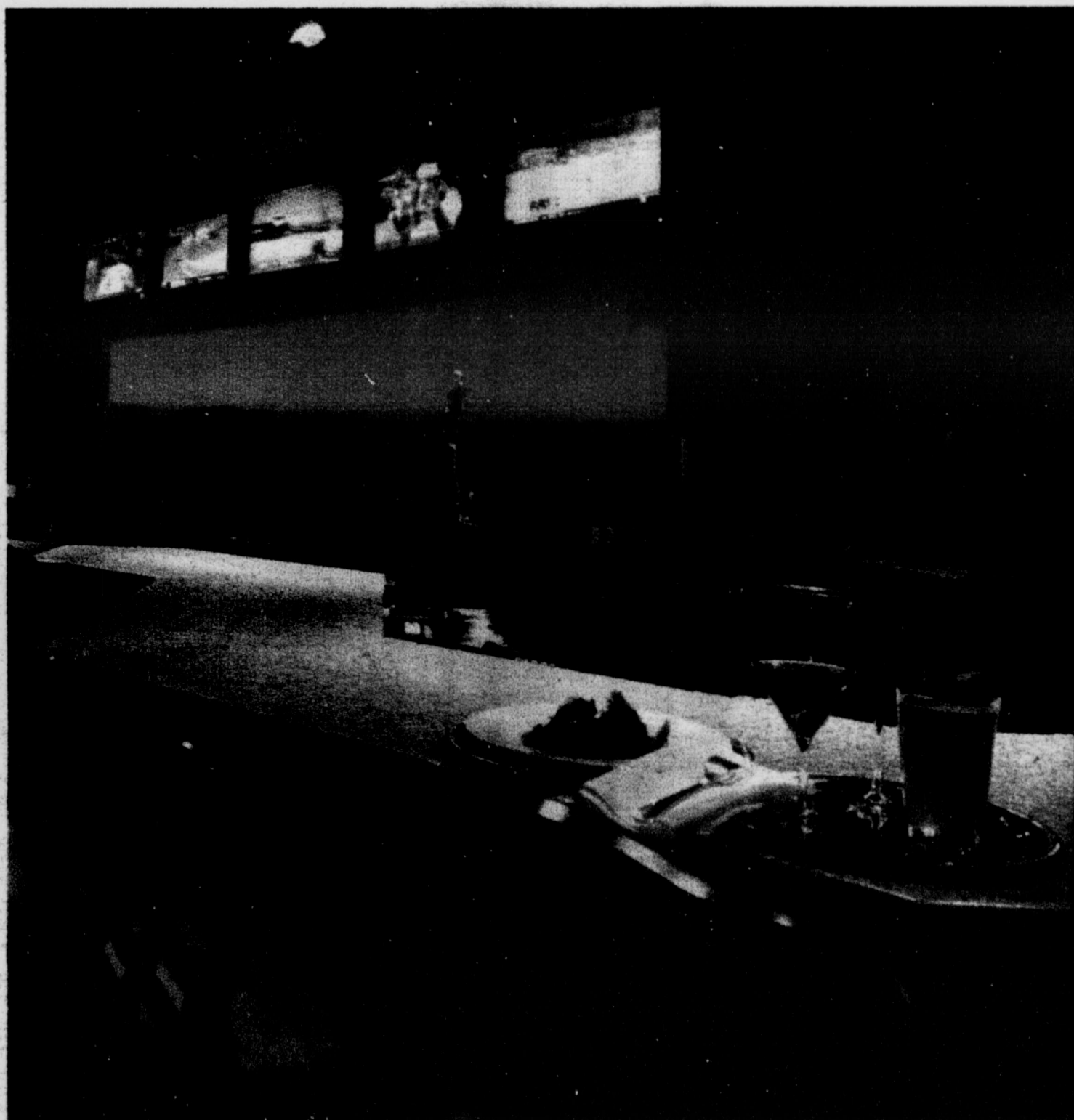
"The marriage booth is just a silly fun thing for people to do with their friends," Globerson-Lamb said.

The Pride Center will be handing out rainbow ribbons, condoms and peer counseling magnets.

E.R.O.S. team members will start most of the conversation by way of a trivia wheel, so those who are too shy to ask questions will be able to participate and learn without feeling uncomfortable. Students can also compete to see who can put a condom on a dildo the fastest.

If someone does not feel comfortable discussing sex in public, E.R.O.S. encourages them to visit their headquarters on the lower level of the Health Center, where they can speak with someone in private.

The E.R.O.S. and Pride Center booths will be in the University Union today. Events will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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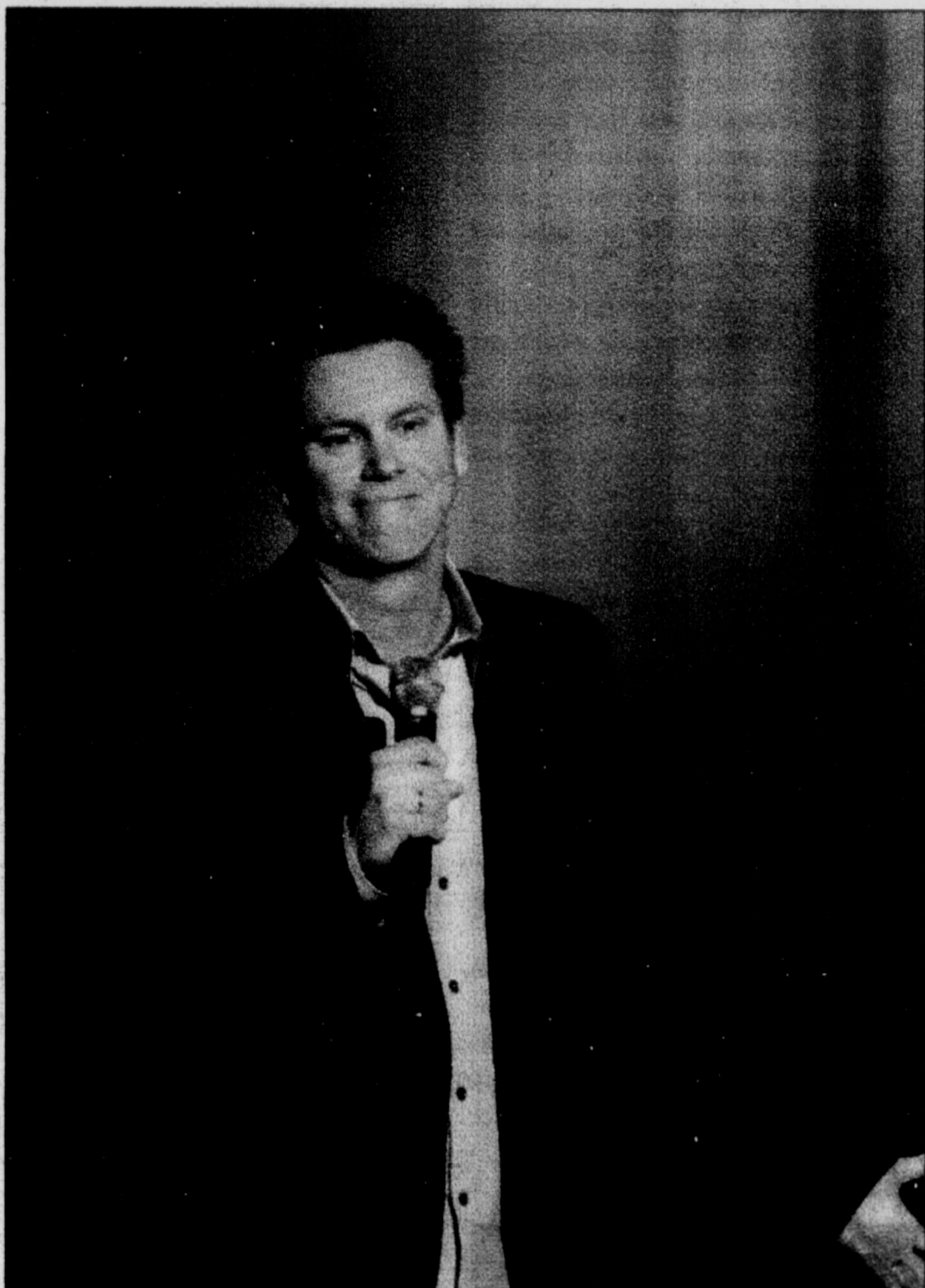
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Comedian Brian Regan brings act to PAC



COURTESY PHOTO

Although fans describe Brian Regan's style as "family-friendly," the comedian, who will be at the PAC Sunday, said he "just (likes) to talk about every day things."

Kelly Cooper

KELLYCOOPER.MD@GMAIL.COM

This Sunday, the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC) better prepare for the roaring laughter that will ensue. Funny guy Brian Regan is coming to town, and he's got new material.

A regular on David Letterman's "Late Show," Regan has been in the comedy scene for more than two

decades and has released two CDs and three DVDs. His most recent CD, "All By Myself," is yet another extension of his recognizable observational humor.

Regan said his tour is not in promotion of his recent album release — it's really just part of the job.

"The tour is constant — I started in 1984," Regan said. "This tour has been going on for about the eighth decade in a row. When I come out

with a CD or DVD, it really has nothing to do with the tour."

Although he's been filling up theaters — yes, full-size theaters — for years, Regan started just like any other comedian, auditioning over and over to get a part at a small comedy joint.

Regan's stomping ground? A small club in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I auditioned like five times without getting passed, and it was the fifth time when the manager took me into the kitchen," Regan said. "My heart was pounding. He picked up my Budweiser, and he said, 'I'm gonna pay for this.' And I thought, 'All right, I'm already getting free beers!'"

When the manager said those magic words, "You've passed your audition," Regan knew he was in. Although he's been on shows including Letterman, Conan O'Brien and Comedy Central multiple times, Regan still considers passing his audition at that small comedy shop a major milestone in his career.

And finally, in '84, Regan packed his bags, went on tour and has been spitting out jokes ever since.

"Comedy was starting to explode at that time, so I was able to work all the time," Regan said. "It was like, if you can stand on stage for half an hour and not melt, you'd get booked. I was able to get by, so I had a long time to be able to work at it and get better and better."

And he did. Regan gained a following so loyal, he didn't need to seek out other ways of exposure aside from CD and DVD releases. But, of course, it's something he used to consider.

"I didn't do this by design," Regan said. "I was trying, just like anyone else, to see if I could get a sitcom. I always wanted to get a sitcom to get the exposure so that I could jump to theaters. But somewhere along the way I got to the point where I had a big enough following so that I could perform in theaters."

Perhaps his strong following comes from his style, often described as "family-friendly" and "clean." Regan has transcended age barriers with his expertise in making everyday experiences seem downright hilarious.

Business administration senior Hannah Harrison said she attended one of Regan's performances a few years back with her 10-year-old sister and was glad they could both enjoy the content of his act.

"I think that's the best part — he doesn't have to resort to crude jokes," Harrison said. "He can be just as funny to a 10-year-old as he is to an older person."

However, Regan said he didn't plan for his act to lack R-rated puns.

"I don't define myself as clean or family-friendly," Regan said. "I don't sit in front of a paper and say, 'Man, I'm gonna write some clean jokes today! I'm gonna write jokes as clean as virgin snow!' I think a lot of times people miss the point. I just like to talk about every day things that don't go in certain directions."

Whether or not he's dropping F-bombs, Regan's comedy is a favorite among the Cal Poly crowd, due in large part to his formula: vividly and cleverly turning everyday circum-

stances (childhood events, run-ins with strangers, etc.) into a recipe for laughter.

"It's simple stuff that everyone can relate to," Harrison said. "I love when he talks about his childhood and at school. It's just so funny and it's stuff that everyone goes through and can relate with."

Business administration senior Brian Schultz said watching Regan's stand up is an event he shares with his family.

"He's got this skill where he doesn't have to go into dangerous territory," Schultz said. "What he says is clean and family-friendly. It's hard to do that — that's what I appreciate about him."

Schultz also respects Regan's comedy because of his ability to make fun of himself more than anyone else, he said.

"He makes fun of people a lot, but he makes fun of himself more," Schultz said. "It's that self-deprecation that really gets me. He does it in his own special way."

The show begins at 8:30 p.m. and is in association with the Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo. Tickets range from \$35 to \$60 and are available online at pacslo.org and the PAC box office.

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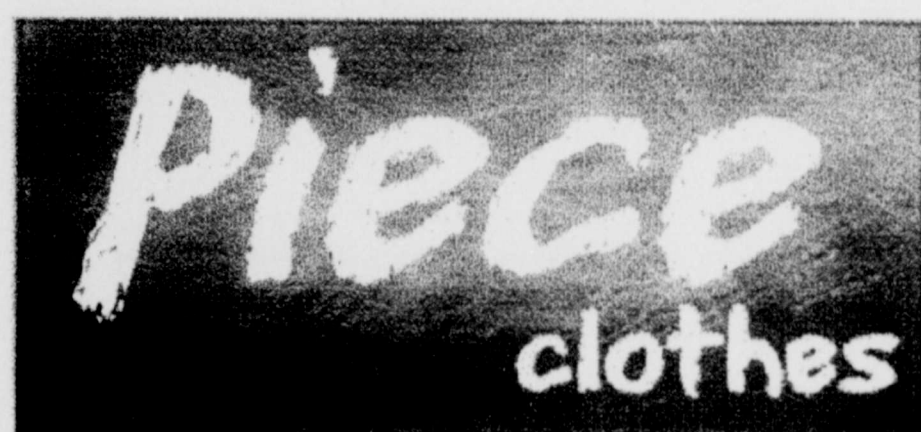
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Lest you consume all!

picture of the day
by Leticia Rodriguez

"Construction blues"

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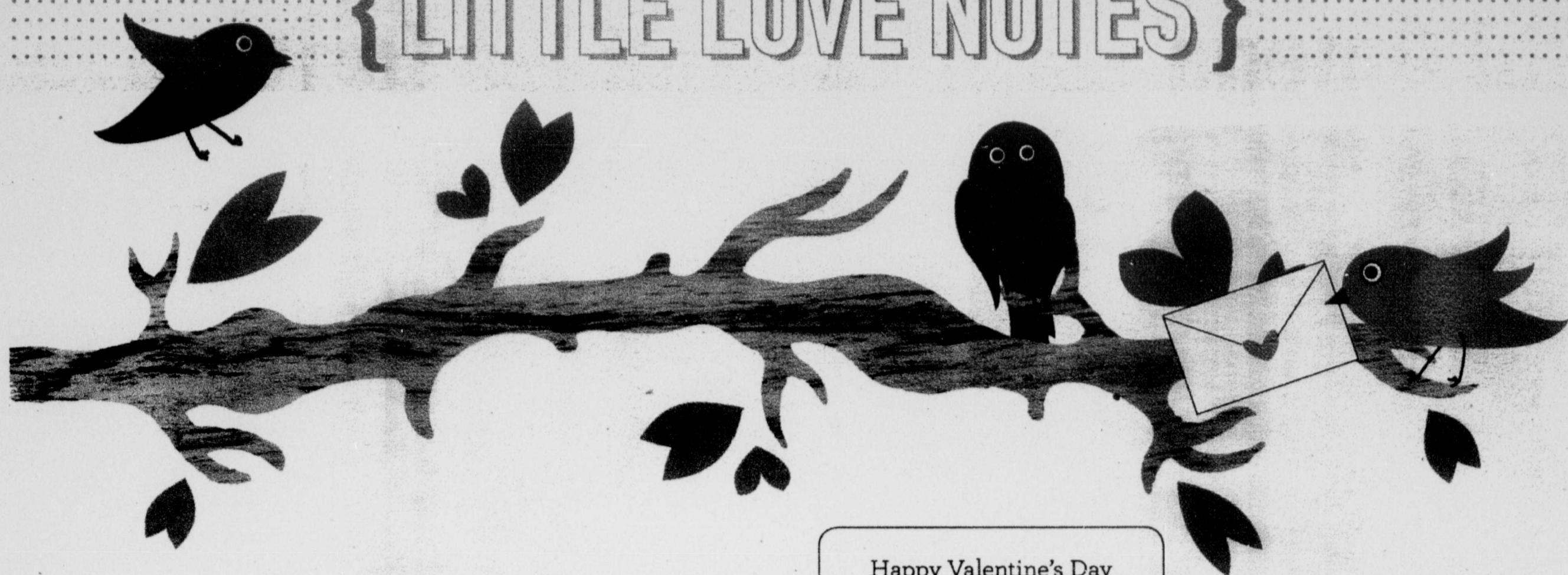
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- from the girls <3

Andrew, thanks for always
brightening my days and
just being you!
Love, Tarah

Happy Valentine's Day
Sleepy Bear!
I love you a buschel
and a boo!

Miley, You are the most
amazing guitar player EVER.
I wish I was you.
XOXO



Happy Valentine's Day
baby reindeer!

Tyler, you make me so
happy every day. I couldn't
ask for a better boyfriend.
XOXO



Alicia,
Camera1, Camera2 ;)
I will be patient You and hope our
relationship continues to deepen.

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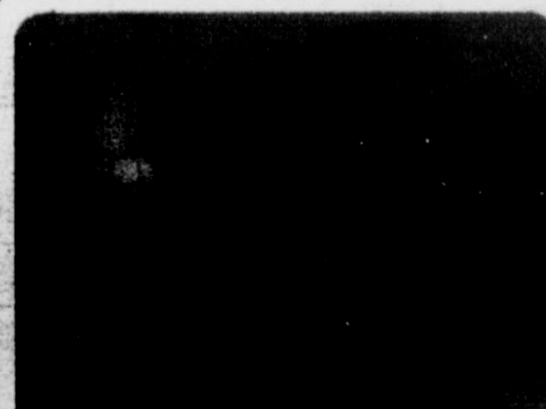
One day closer to seeing you!
I love you babe!
Happy Valentine's Day!

Happy Valentine's Day
to all my lovely AXOs!
Love you all! xoxo

Rochelle-Ashlee-Lindsey-Tricia
APT 6 - snooks!
SISTERS <3 Panda
You are my sunshines!
XOXO

Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Mustang Daily

Merkel, Your trumpet plays
the music to my heart.
- Your Secret Admirer



College of Liberal Arts
Ambassadors &
Dr. Penny Bennett:
Thank you for everything!
-Tricia Rosas

Uncle Paul,
You're the Bomb.com and the
Paul to my wall!
<3 the MD



BB: You're a chache above
the rest! Let's go find it :)
Lovies, MT



Sara, I hope you don't feel down
this St. Valentine's. The day would
be too dim without your smile.
Sometimes it's All I Need to
brightnen mine. Thom



Jethro, you are the scum
between my toes.
Luv, your blonde buttercup.



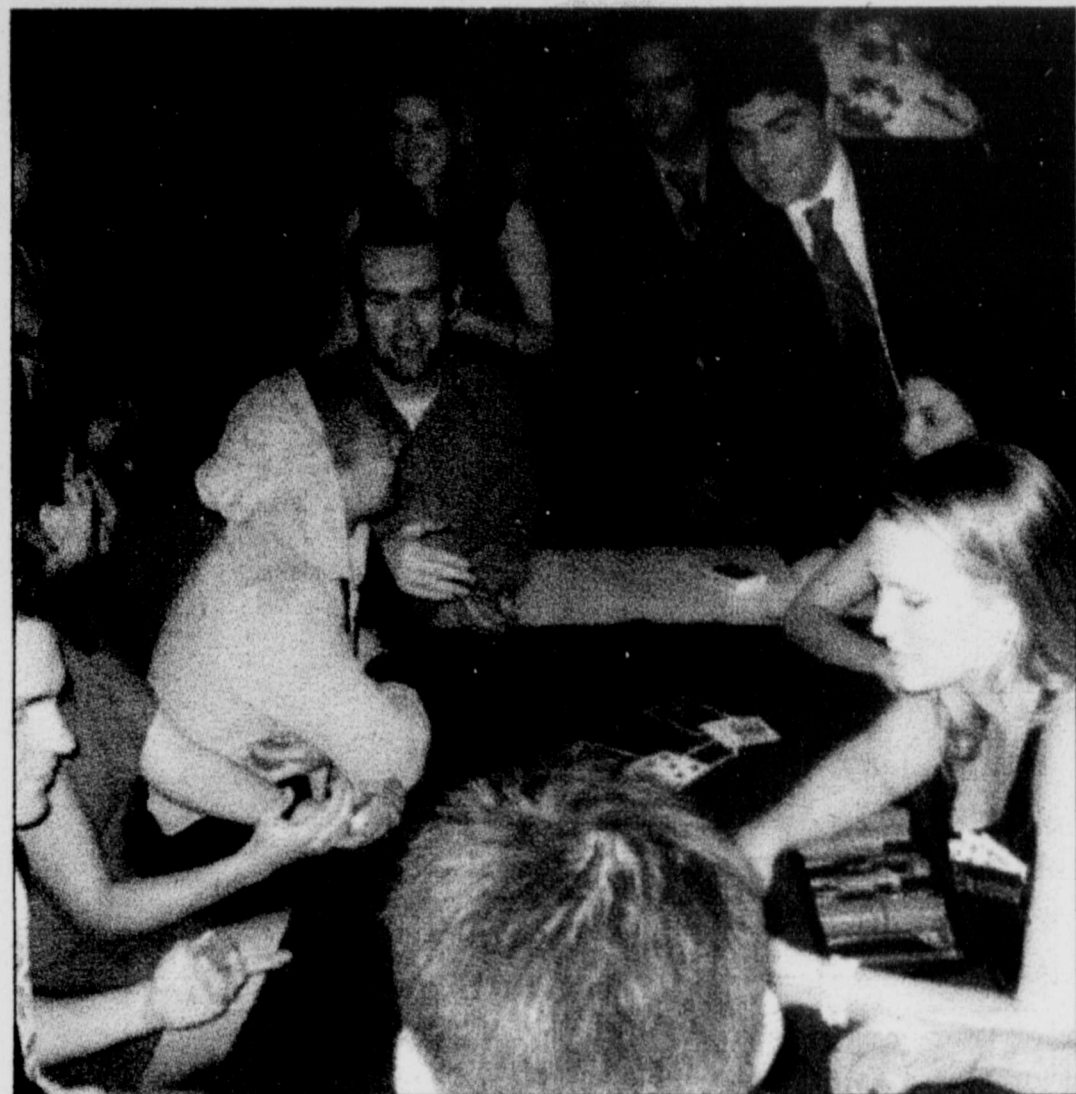
Panda Bear,
Your hugs-from-behind
brighten my day.
Love, Kristy-Kat

Hello! Happy Birthday
Megu, I hope you have an
amazing day!
Love Love Love

Rachell & Jaclyn:
You guys are the most
thoughtful two half-brains.
I love you both.

STEINMETZ:
I love YOU more than you
love your concrete canoe!
xoxo - LH

Chi Omega sorority gambles for charity



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of Chi Omega work as dealers for the games at the charity event Chi O Casino. Because the girls do not know how to play all the games, they undergo a six-day training session to learn how to do so properly. Every \$5,000 Chi Omega raises from its casino night grants one wish for a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Victoria Billings

VICTORIABILLINGS.MD@GMAIL.COM

For one night only, the women of Cal Poly's Chi Omega sorority will be turning the San Luis Obispo Veterans' Hall into a Vegas-style casino to raise money for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Last year, the second annual casino night raised \$10,000 — enough to grant two wishes — sending one boy with thyroid cancer to Walt Disney World and another girl with seizure disorder

on a cruise to the Caribbean.

Shanna Taylor, the CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties, said this partnership between Chi Omega and the Make-A-Wish Foundation is nationwide. However, Cal Poly's

Chi Omega chapter always sponsors children in San Luis Obispo County so the members have the opportunity to make a local impact.

"We choose (to sponsor) one where the women can be involved in the presentation (of the wish)," Taylor said.

The sorority also tries to present the wish at a time that is convenient for the Cal Poly students. This means they can't present the wish over the summer, when most students have gone home or during finals.

"Volunteers go out and they meet with the family and they ask

the child, 'If you could have anything, if you could go anywhere, if you could meet anyone, what would it be?'" Taylor said.

Then, items representing the wish are gathered, and a wish-granting party is thrown for the child. This could mean presenting airplane tickets accompanied by a set of suitcases if the child has asked to travel.

Taylor said that because Chi Omega helps sponsor the wish, they attend the party for the child and meet with their family, often bringing party decorations or cake.

Journalism sophomore Amy Checho is in charge of marketing for the "Chi O Casino." Checho, who recently had ice cream with one child who benefited from last year's proceeds of Chi O Casino, said meeting with the children makes the women of Chi Omega more committed to the cause.

"It hits people close to the heart because we get to see what our money goes towards," Checho said. "Because we get to see the result, we put so much more effort into it."

This year, the women of Chi Omega have raised the bar for themselves by setting a fundraising goal of \$15,000 — enough for three wishes.

Philanthropy chair for Chi Omega and biological sciences junior Dani Katz said the club has already gathered more than \$11,000 in donations from businesses and ticket sales for Chi O Casino.

"Now it's looking like we might be able to make our goal of \$20,000," Katz said. "That would just be exceeding our expectations."

see Chi Omega, page 11

Dates That Left You Dazzled!

The Mustang Daily wants to hear about your *Best Date!* A date so charming, it could sweep anyone off their feet. In the spirit of love and Valentine's Day, we are giving away a **diamond heart**, sponsored by All That Glitters jewelry store to the most compelling submission. Please submit your stories to

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HOROSCOPES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You'll have more questions to ask, even after you've presented your situation to the experts.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — A private failure needn't become a public one. You can minimize the damage done by someone who has stepped out of line.



ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You'll want to get together with certain individuals to share ideas and explore options; be sure to listen as well as talk.



Scorpio

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You receive word of a surprise development far from home that nevertheless affects you in a direct and possibly dramatic way.

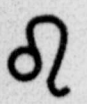


GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may behave in odd ways, but there is certainly a method to your madness. A friend or loved one knows just what is going on.

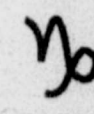


Pisces

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A sensitive situation arises that demands more from you than discretion and circumspection.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Are you truly prepared for what you have brought about? Today, you'll have only so much time to arrange things in the proper order.



Leo

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You're likely to enjoy the unknown far more than expected, but by then, of course, it will be known.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Money matters require a certain worldview at this time; you can adjust your outlook slightly and improve things dramatically.



Libra

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be expected to shift gears quickly and more than a few times, but all transitions can be smooth and productive.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — The path you have taken to get where you are is likely to reveal certain hidden dangers, but you are safely past them.



Sagittarius

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — What you are trying to orchestrate at this time may require more from you than your usual organizational skills. Tact will be the key.

Chi Omega

continued from page 10

Along with gathering donations, Katz has been working at finding a venue, gathering prize donations and renting game tables from casino table company Casino Knights after taking office as philanthropy chair in June. As part of the preparation, the sorority members are trained as dealers in the different games.

"A lot of the girls in our sorority have never played cards, before" Katz said.

To help the women learn how to run a roulette table or deal blackjack, the sorority arranges a six-day training session. The lessons are broken down into two-hour classes based on each game, and the women attend the classes of their respective game.

Having all of the sisters participate helps them feel invested in the Make-A-Wish Foundation's work, Katz said.

"They're really involved, so

they know that they're making a difference," Katz said.

Also, the family dynamic and philanthropic goal of the evening means gambling addiction isn't a worry, Katz said.

"I don't see this as one of those atmospheres because it's open to the community," Katz said.

While many casinos only accept those 21 or older and serve alcohol, Chi O Casino is a dry event, to which all ages are admitted.

Mechanical engineering junior Rick Hayes, who has attended the Chi O Casino for the last two years, said part of the relaxed atmosphere stems from guests playing for raffle tickets instead of real money.

"It's really open," Hayes said. "Not like the hardcore, everyone's wearing sunglasses, don't talk to the big guy next to you (places)."

Hayes went to the first casino night after receiving an invitation from the Chi Omega sisters, who he said were "really pumped about it." He had never gambled before, but said he felt comfortable with the dealers explaining how to play

each game.

"All the years, I've lost my chips probably in half an hour," Hayes said, but people usually shared their spare chips with him.

Chips for gambling at Chi O Casino are not purchased and do not represent money. Instead, guests pay \$10 at the door to get in or \$5 for presale tickets, and are given a set of chips to gamble with or exchange for raffle tickets to enter into drawings.

Most of the prizes available are gift baskets donated by local businesses or the sisters, valued at \$100 each. Raffle tickets that aren't pulled in the gift basket drawing are entered into a drawing for the grand prizes: a \$1,000, \$3,000 or \$5,000 photo package that can be used for wedding photos, family photos or anything else.

All of the money the sorority raises will go directly to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Chi O Casino will be open Feb. 11 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Veterans' Hall, located at 801 Grand Ave.

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ters should include the writer's full
name, phone number, major and
class standing. Letters must come
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Please send the text in the body of
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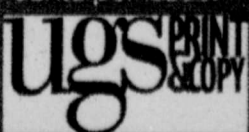
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corrections

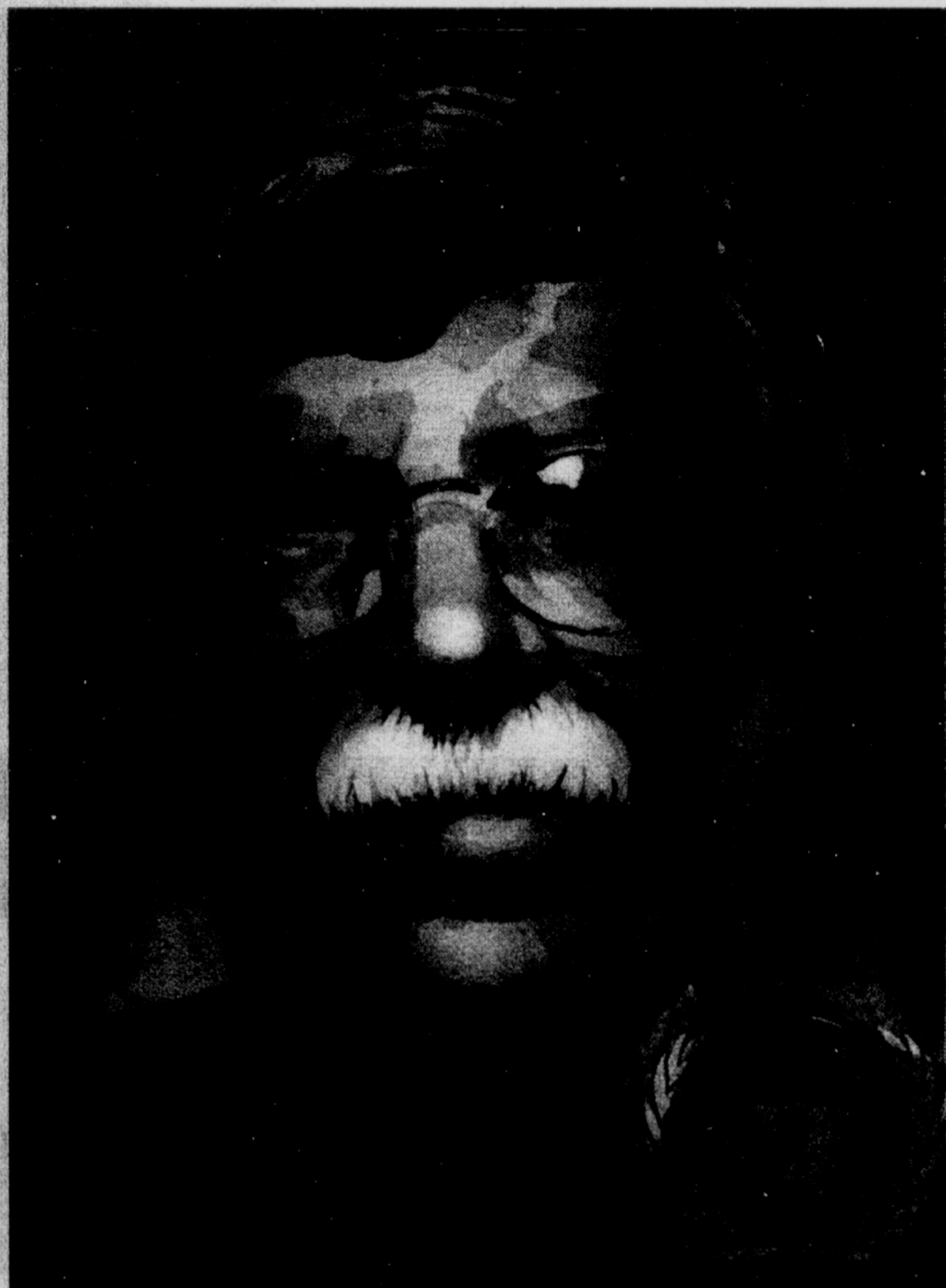
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Mustang Daily

"Did you give Karlee a blowie?"

Bolton looking ahead to 2012 race

Kevin Ferris is assistant editor of the
Editorial Page of the Philadelphia
Inquirer.John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador
to the United Nations during the
Bush administration, was in town
recently to accept the Philadelphia
Freedom Center's Patrick Henry
Award. Before his speech, he dis-
cussed national-security threats
facing the United States, his assess-
ment of the Obama administration,
and why he's considering a run for
president in 2012.Afghanistan: "The surge was the
right thing to do in Afghanistan.
... The difficulty is when (Presi-
dent Obama) gave the famous West
Point speech announcing the surge
at the same time he said we'll begin
withdrawing forces in the summer
of 2011. ... I'll guarantee you that
for domestic political reasons, as
much as anything else, in the sum-
mer of this year we will see with-
drawals. I think they're trying to
create the impression that every-
thing's going fine. ..."But I think Taliban in both Af-
ghanistan and Pakistan are simply
going to bide their time. ... When
we withdraw, as I am very much
afraid is going to happen in Iraq,
then people who have simply been
waiting for us to leave will make
their move, and we could find real-
ly grave situations in both Iraq and
Afghanistan sometime in 2012. ..."Iraq: "If we were pressing (Iraq
to extend the presence of U.S.
forces) ... they would probably
agree to it, but the government of
Iraq is not going to be more Catho-
lic than the pope. If we're saying,
'Hey, we're getting out of here,'
then they're going to say the samething, and it allows Iran to extend
its influence. ..."There's a very real risk that you
could see the gains in representative
government that we've had in Iraq
in the past 10 years disappear be-
cause of the influence of Iran if it's
not countered by another external
presence like us."Iran: "The administration esti-
mated that, in a kind of push, Iran
could have nuclear weapons in a
year. That was April of last year, and
that's just based on what we know
about the Iranian program. I think
that estimate is still true. ..."But what about what we don't
know? For example, what's the level
of Iranian cooperation with North
Korea? My guess is it's pretty high.
... If the Iranians and the North
Koreans are enriching uranium in
North Korea, we don't have a clue
where it is or how much it is. We
know that they were trying to build
a nuclear reactor in Syria that the
Israelis destroyed in September of
'07. ... That's an example of the
depth of cooperation on the nucle-
ar front. ..."So there's a lot of possibility
there for activity that's going on we
simply are utterly unaware of. And
that can't possibly make you feel
better about your estimate of their
capabilities. ..."If you guess wrong on their
nuclear capability, and they've got
it before you think they're ready for
it, everything changes."China: "This is going to be a
huge issue for the next two years.
(Defense Secretary Robert) Gates
has announced substantial cuts in
the Pentagon ... all while China is
dramatically building up its mili-
tary capability, admittedly froma low base other than manpower.
(They are) increasing their strategic
nuclear capability, their delivery
capabilities, beginning to acquire
a blue-water navy and submarines,
(and) what they call anti-access and
area-denial weapons ... designed
to keep us from being able to ap-
proach the Chinese coast or de-
fend Taiwan. ... They clearly have
a game plan that they're following."People say, 'Oh, their budget is
so much smaller than ours.' Well,
their budget that they declare. Peo-
ple act like the Chinese budget pro-
cess is (open) like ... in this coun-
try. Good luck with that, is all I
can say. We know from Gates's visit,
when they flew that J-20, the
stealth fighter ... Gates himself
said, 'Gee, they were farther along
on that than we thought.' Well,
how about reconsidering your de-
cision to cancel the F-22?"President Obama: "The presi-
dent is so focused on his domestic
agenda that his lack of interest in
international affairs, his belief that
the United States doesn't face ma-
jor threats around the world, and
his disinclination to assert Amer-
ica's interests and those of our
friends and allies means that the
challenges are growing internation-
ally while we're not paying atten-
tion to them. ..."Obviously, we've got a sig-
nificant economic problem we're
trying to resolve, but a president
should be able to walk and chew
gum at the same time. He's not do-
ing that."Europe's view of United States:
Obama "remains very popular per-
sonally in Europe, no doubt about
it. He remains popular personally in
the United States, but that doesn't
mean we're working in tandem. ...
Ironically, the best demonstration
of this ... is in the economic area,
where, particularly in Britain and
Germany, you've got governments
clamping down on deficit spending,
reducing commitments the public
sector has made in the past, [and]
trying to bring government spend-
ing under control. ... Obama is still
doing the exact opposite over here."Will 2012 GOP candidates fo-
cus on foreign policy?: "I don't
know, and that's one of the reasons
I'm thinking of running myself, be-
cause I don't know any other way
to raise this back up to the priority
that I think it should be. ..."A president necessarily gets
delegated a lot of discretion in for-eign policy. Most people don't view
that as central to their daily lives,
for understandable reasons, so they
want somebody that they trust
and believe in his judgment and
discretion and ability. If you don't
have a debate on which voters can
even make that very broad judg-
ment, you risk getting somebody
like Obama, who I think lacks the
competence to make judgments
and who is now widely perceived
around the world as a very weak
president."The 2012 campaign: "I've never
run for office before. ... It would be
an unusual campaign, but I think
we're in an unusual circumstance.
... The Republican nomination is
wide open. ..."I'm not at all sure the 2012
campaign is going to be about the
economy. ... The best thing that
happened to Obama was the elec-
tion of a Republican House. ...
There's a confidence level now for
business that didn't exist for two
years, (and businesses are ready to
invest the) \$2 trillion in assets sit-
ting on the sidelines. ..."So if people think that they can
get elected president just by criti-
cizing Obama's economic perfor-
mance, if the economy is roaring
uphill, that's going to be a hard ar-
gument to make. And there better
be other reasons people should be
concerned about an Obama presi-
dency, and I think that threats to
the national security obviously
should qualify."2012 debates: At some point
"there's going to be a foreign-pol-
icy debate between the Republican
nominee and Obama. And Obama
gives a pretty good speech when he
has to, and he's got a good stage
presence, and he'll be good at pre-
tending to be commander-in-chief
after four years in office. ..."Individual citizens may not be
into the intricacies of what our pol-
icy in Lebanon ought to be, but I
really think it's true, going back to
at least the Reagan-Carter debates,
they look at the candidates debat-
ing foreign policy, and they say,
'Which of these two do we trust
more with these critical decisions
about our national security? Who
has the judgment and the character
and perspicacity to make the right
decisions?' And if we're not able to
go toe to toe with Obama on that,
whoever the nominee is is going to
be in real trouble."

“But all in all, it was one of the
more worthwhile presidential
interviews I’ve seen in a little
while.”

— Kevin Ferris
Philadelphia Inquirer

Americans see similarities in Egyptian revolution

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

The stunning live images out of Egypt last week had millions of Americans glued to their TVs and computer screens. Once again, cable TV news brought real-life, real-time history into our homes and offices. The narrative was irresistible, the suspense palpable and the stakes high. The Egyptian revolution was real reality TV at its best.

But the allure wasn't just news value, or even human drama. For Americans, who were far more engaged in the events than were Europeans — at least based on a quick survey of newspaper coverage — there was also a mixture of self-congratulation and envy.

In his blog for Commentary magazine, Max Boot, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and an L.A. Times opinion page contributing editor, wrote that he imagined most Americans were "rooting wholeheartedly for the protestors against the thugs." The New York Times' David Brooks gushed that it was "truly a great time to be alive" because "every few years we turn on

the TV and we see the main square of some foreign capital filled with people and before long, a dictator falls."

Revolution is our provenance. We tend to view ourselves, with pride, as the founders of the modern democratic rebellion. As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the wake of the stirring (and admittedly problematic) French Revolution: "This ball of liberty ... is now so well in motion that it will roll round the globe, at least the enlightened part of it. For light & liberty go together. It is our glory that we first put it into motion."

Last week, as we saw others attempting to throw off the yoke of tyranny, we not only congratulated them but also ourselves, for having shown the world the way. "Egyptians: They're Just Like Us," read a headline on Esquire magazine's blog. While watching events in Cairo, the writer couldn't help but think of our own "messy and imperfect democratic revolution."

Even observers who weren't harking back to the Minutemen and the Declaration of Independence still found a way for the U.S. to take some credit. There were countless news reports full of talk about the

role U.S.-invented social media platforms played in fostering the unrest.

"To be clear," declared one Hollywood journalist on the Huffington Post, "the visionary products created by Mark Zuckerberg at Facebook and Evan Williams at Twitter are foundation stones of what is becoming a regional revolution."

That can no doubt be easily disputed (the Indian-born, New York-based filmmaker Parvez Sharma, for one, lost patience with "self-congratulatory social networking types in the West" when he posted on the website Mondoweiss that not only don't most Egyptians have cell-phones (they make calls at kiosks), a "substantial" number have never used the Internet).

But the point isn't whether American history and our innovations are owed credit for global "democracy movements," but that we try to claim that credit, one way or another.

In addition to the self-congratulation, one could also sense what might be called revolution envy. President Obama called the Egyptian demonstrators "an inspiration

to the people around the world, including here in the United States." With our politics so mired in division and bitterness, I can't help but think Americans watching the roller-coaster events — especially the brave turnout in Tahrir Square — were on some level yearning for something to unify us, something to remind us of the excitement and joys of democracy.

For decades, critics have accused television of undermining our ties to community and our willingness to participate. It's been said we've turned into a bystander society, and TV is a good part of the problem. There's something to it; we're

revolution voyeurs. But every time we fixate on the images of a revolution somewhere on the globe, we also have the potential to be more than bystanders. We can revalidate and renew our political ideals. As events have unfolded and keep unfolding in Egypt and Tunisia, and so many of us have had a chance to see something of ourselves reflected in the streets of Cairo, we may finally have forged a bond with Arabs — with Muslims — a world away.

In these fractious times, that's not bad for a week spent watching TV. Stay tuned.

There were countless news reports full of talk about the role U.S.-invented social media platforms played in fostering the unrest.

— Gregory Rodriguez
Los Angeles Times columnist



Thank you ... you have done all parties involved a great service!

— Devin

In response to "Blow his mind with a classic blowjob"

"At Tufts University in 2000, FIRE defended a Christian group that had been de-recognized by the university for refusing to allow a homosexual student to take a leadership position in the group ... In 2003 and 2004, FIRE acted on behalf of Cal Poly student Steve Hinkle, who was punished for posting a flier on a public bulletin board announcing a College Republicans-sponsored speech by a black social critic."

Missing from the article is this kind of information; while the First Amendment is something that should be treasured and guarded against, there's definitely a case to be made that this kind of support borders support of hate speech; also notable, is the existing tie FIRE has to the College Republicans — his speech here was no coincidence or happenstance.

— John

In response to "Students get FIRED up for free speech at lecture"

To say that not allowing a homosexual to take a leadership position in a privately-organized and run religious organization on a college campus is anywhere near meeting the definition of hate speech is a ridiculous statement, and certainly not grounded in any part of the U.S. Constitu-

tion. As is equating, the posting of a book's cover on a campus flier (like the Hinkle issue).

But more importantly Mr. Lukanoff is a First Amendment lawyer with years of experience. And the most basic glance at his history would show you he has worked for the ACLU and other civil rights groups that probably lean left, as well as his writing for the Huffington Post. Certainly not groups that support many of the beliefs of the College Republican members as a whole.

— Ian

In response to "Students get FIRED up for free speech at lecture"

Ending your statement by saying that your thoughts are "based on the Austrian School of Economics" doesn't make you sound any smarter

or make your argument anymore valid. I know you feel like you're citing your credibility by putting that in there but it would be like the sex columnist saying she knows her stuff because she read Twilight. Yeah, it's in there, but it doesn't necessarily mean it's right.

— Wildcat

In response to "America, spend today to invest in tomorrow"

What a hilarious idea! Bravo to the members of the Cal Poly AIGA Student Group for bravely wearing those bodysuits to raise funds.

This is a great example of AIGA's wildly imaginative student groups, who are active on campuses across the U.S.

— Jen

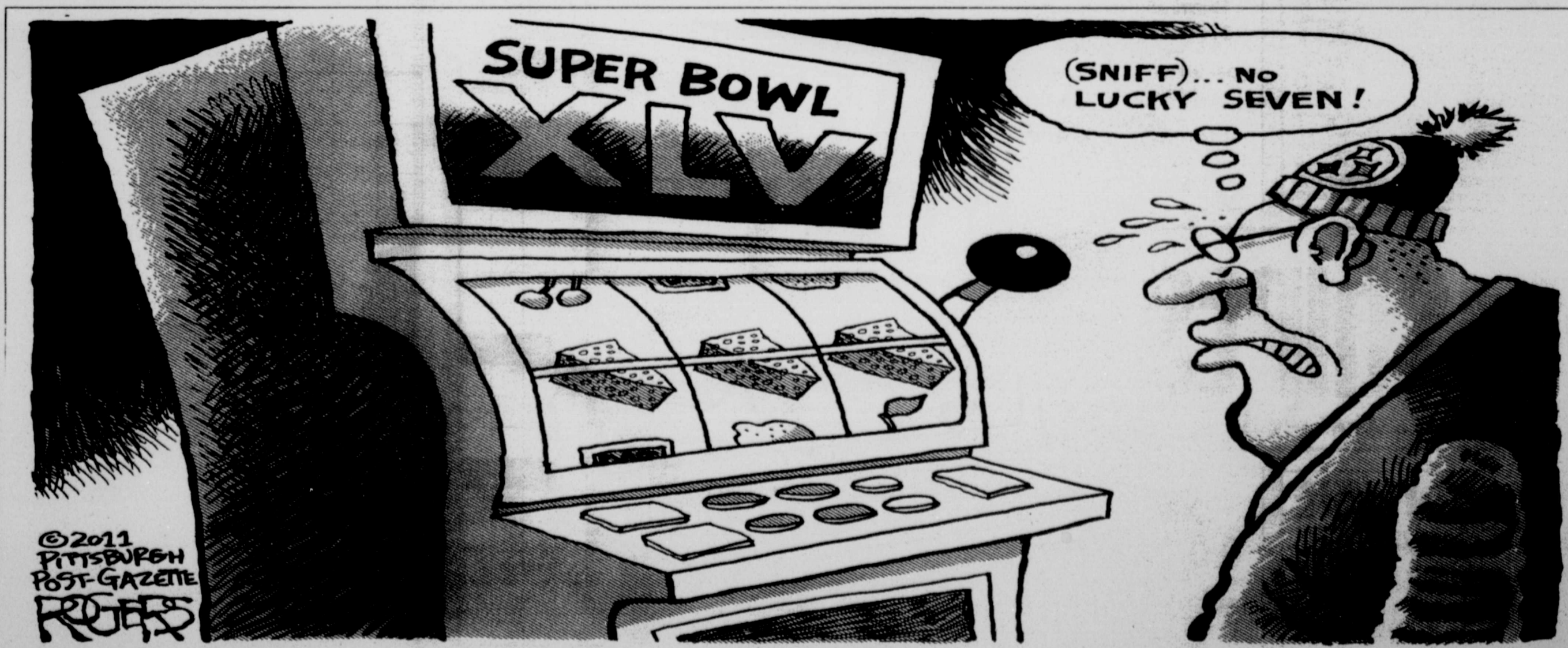
In response to "Spandex-clad AIGA spreads love for Valentine's Day"

Great to see the enthusiasm still in the air! Since it seems like educating the student body is needed at Cal Poly, perhaps the Mustang Daily should bring back the Green Spot — it would be a great addition to the overall socio-environmental student consciousness increase, wouldn't you agree?

— Jorge

In response to "Students think Cal Poly gets gold for going green"

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.



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Last Down clue is 57

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

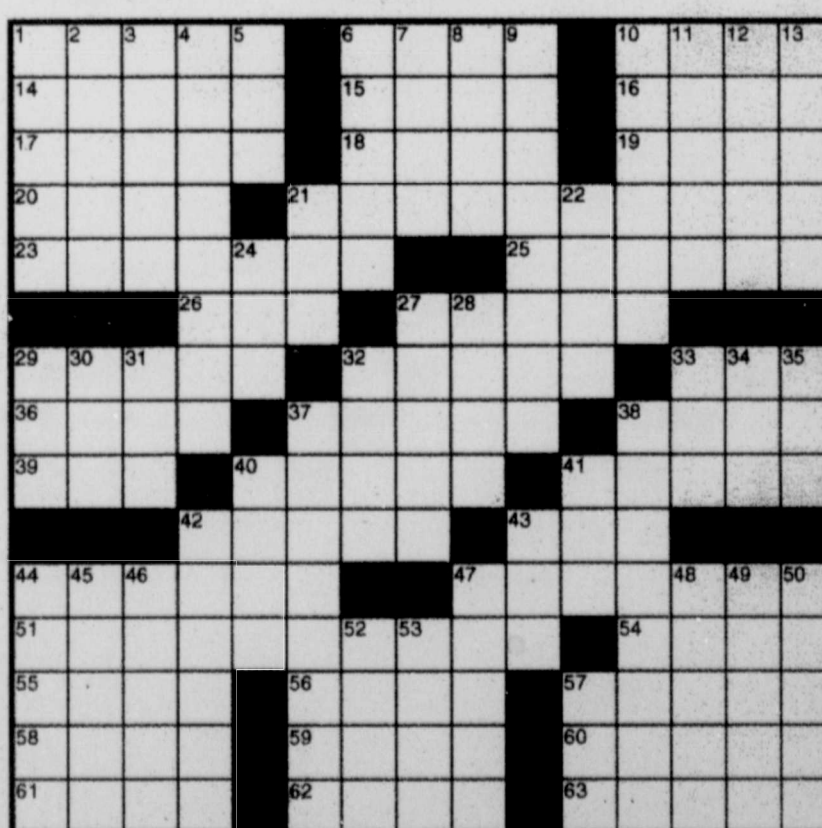
- 1 Ginger or nutmeg
- 6 From the US
- 10 Kiddie talk?
- 14 Weighed down
- 15 Prescribed amount
- 16 Europe-Asia range
- 17 Minneapolis exurb
- 18 Rich soil
- 19 Warrior princess
- 20 Pairs
- 21 Tropical wildcat
- 23 Shogun's warriors
- 25 Most pristine
- 26 Toon pooch
- 27 Answer back
- 29 Made public
- 32 Quay
- 33 Pickle
- 36 Felt grateful
- 37 Confronted
- 38 Also starring
- 39 Really big tees
- 40 "Dearly beloved" spot
- 41 Bard's teen
- 42 Latch onto
- 43 Cousteau domain
- 44 Mysterious
- 47 Tissue claim
- 51 Purple flower
- 54 Joke response (hyph.)
- 55 Amino —
- 56 Limerick locale
- 57 Swiss peak
- 58 Icy crystals
- 59 Pet-adoption org.
- 60 Fracas
- 61 Long white robes
- 62 Muscle injury
- 63 Web habits

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

P	A	G	O	D	A	M	P	G	R	A	R	E
S	H	A	P	E	S	A	I	R	O	L	E	G
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- 4 Bleeped
- 5 Actress Hartman
- 6 Ike beat him twice
- 7 Synthesizer VIP
- 8 Genesis hunter
- 9 Surveyed again
- 10 Nonessential
- 11 Sherlock's lady friend
- 12 Smoothies wood
- 13 Braid
- 21 Calendar div.
- 22 Decide, as a jury
- 24 Embarrassed
- 27 Brief review
- 28 At any time
- 29 Kind of camera
- 30 Leather punch
- 31 Matter, in law
- 32 Back muscles
- 33 Muppets' Henson
- 34 Did lunch
- 35 Electrical unit
- 37 Having lost the most fizz
- 38 Dignitaries
- 40 The younger Guthrie
- 41 Lib. section
- 42 Handbooks
- 43 Skiing champ Tommy
- 44 Tara's owner
- 45 DeMille of epics
- 46 Scale
- 47 Primitive weapon
- 48 Bird of prey
- 49 Like chiffon
- 50 Container weights
- 52 Not green
- 53 Porpoise relative
- 57 Trendy meat



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

continued from page 16

a room. Hanson has two posters of Justin Bieber and a quilt his mother made for him when he was born. He's obsessed with keeping their room clean and keeps everything organized.

McKnight also said Hanson is a horrible cook, but he loves going out to places like Panda Express, Firestone and Chipotle. McKnight considers Hanson a great roommate and a great friend.

"Really loving, caring towards us, always looking out (for us)," McKnight said. "Kind of fatherly, shepherding us to make sure everything's going all right."

When he's not playing basketball, Hanson enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and has tried to take up surfing, but admits he's horrible at it. He also attends all of his roommates' sports games when he can.

To me, he's like a big brother ... and a great leader out there on the floor.

— Maliik Love
Men's basketball guard

His other roommate and best friend, business administration senior Ricky Franklin said, they often walk down to the Chevron by their house to get hot chocolate and a DVD from the Redbox rental kiosk.

Hanson likes to relax in solitude, and watch movies like "Step Brothers" and "The Hangover" or "really stupid" reality shows.

"He loves 'The Hills' and 'Jersey Shore,'" McKnight said. "(Television) shows he finds entertaining. He never had cable growing up."

Yet, Hanson's main priorities are "God, family, friends, basketball, in that order," Franklin said.

Sometimes, these priorities overlap for Hanson. Guard Maliik Love said he knows his captain is always there for him. He describes Hanson as dead serious and competitive on game day but relaxed and loose off the court. Love said Hanson is the funniest person on the team.

"To me, he's like a big brother," Love said. "And a great leader out there on the floor."

As a forward, Hanson is considered short for the position, standing 6-foot-5-inches tall. Forwards from

other schools, such as UC Santa Barbara's Jaime Serna and Jon Pastorek or UC Davis' Mike Kurtz and Alex Tiffin, are all four to seven inches taller than him. That doesn't stop Hanson, who scored a career-high 29 points against Cal State Bakersfield Jan. 29.

"I'm definitely undersized but I think I make up for it by being faster than the guy that's guarding me which allows me to get open more," Hanson said.

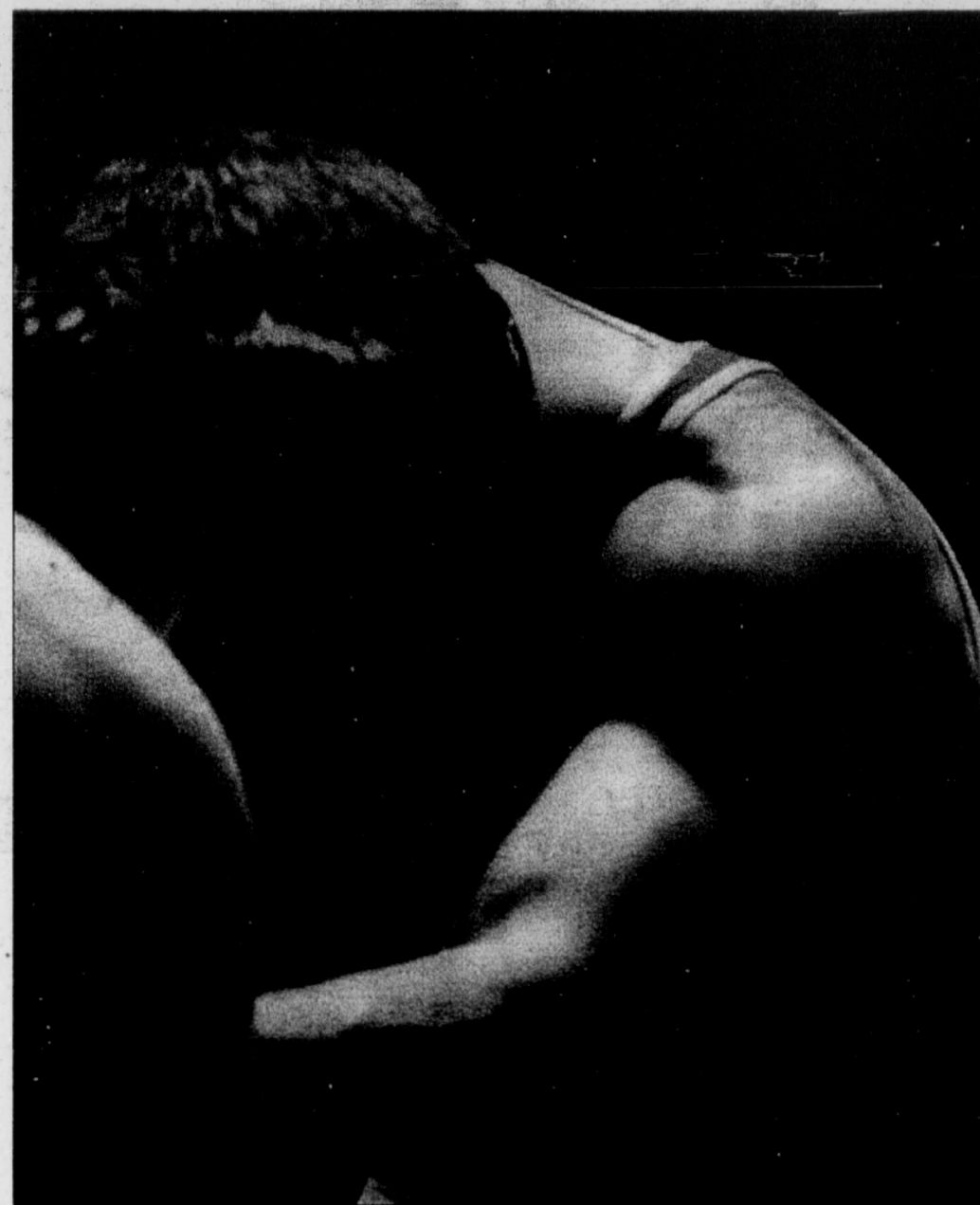
He said he doesn't let the pressure of being captain of the team get to him and has just embraced it.

"I knew coming into this year that it would be a really big year for me and the team was going to need me," Hanson said. "So I put in a lot of work in the summertime and I was really focused. I was confident coming in."

While every win is something to celebrate, he takes from basketball something more than that.

"The memories that you make with the guys and the people you meet, in the arenas you play in," Hanson said. "I think that's the experiences that you remember."

Wrestling gears up for regular season finale



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly wrestling team finishes off its regular season this weekend with a pair of dual meets against Stanford and San Francisco State. Ryan DesRoches will try to pick up his 29th win; to do that he has to get through Stanford's Lucas Espercuetta. The two battled in the finals of the Midlands Tournament in December, with DesRoches coming out on top, but only by two points. Cal Poly will face Stanford Friday and San Francisco State Sunday.

su|do|ku

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

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

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Men's Basketball UC Riverside

SUNDAY

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RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Forward David Hanson is Cal Poly's leading scorer this season, averaging 16 points and six rebounds per game.

Katelyn Sweigart

KATELYNSWEIGART.MD@GMAIL.COM

There is a distinct difference in forward David Hanson's personality on and off the court. When he's playing, he is focused, aggressive, serious, instinctual and completely set on getting the team a win.

Off the court, however, his friends and family describe him as an easygoing, laid back prankster who likes hot chocolate, reality shows like "Jersey Shore" and teen-pop sensation Justin Bieber.

"He is completely bipolar," said his brother Matthew, a Cal Poly alumnus who is now playing professional basketball in Australia. "You will see two different sides of him, but that's what makes him so effective."

Even while in high school, Hanson displayed his leadership abilities as captain of the basketball team three out of his four years. His high school coach Jeff Wahl said it was like having another coach on the floor.

"He had a knack to bring out the best in others," Wahl said.

Hanson also displayed his kindness and good nature, as a well-liked student in his small Christian school — Maranatha Christian Academy — of less than 800 students, in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

"He was classy all the time, befriended everybody," Wahl said. "Everyone wanted to emulate him."

Hanson grew up in Minnesota as the middle child of 10, with seven brothers and two sisters. He ended up playing basketball because of his brothers. His father, Tim Hanson, said his son gets along with many people because of his good character and his desire to "be a blessing" to people he meets.

"(His faith) accounts for the really positive qualities in his life," he said.

In fact, one of the biggest aspects of Hanson's life is his faith. He was raised Lutheran and is devoted to attending church, Campus Crusade and Athletes in Action, where athletes use sports to help answer questions of faith. He reads the Bible every day and even holds Bible studies when traveling to away games.

"My faith in the Lord, my relationship with him, that's first priority," Hanson said. "Everything that I do — basketball, school, relationships — it filters down into all those things."

He attends church with his best friend and roommate Joel McKnight, an agricultural business junior. Hanson best exemplifies his off court personality at home, where they share

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women's basketball

Mustangs to host UC Irvine in conference matchup



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's basketball team looks to build another winning streak as it comes home to host UC Irvine this weekend in Mott Gym. The Mustangs reeled off eight straight wins before the streak came to an end against UC Davis last weekend. In order to start one again, the Mustangs will have to get past the fifth ranked team in the Big West. UC Irvine ranks third in the conference in scoring, averaging 67.9 points per game. Defensively, the Anteaters rank fourth in the conference, allowing 65.3 points per game. Tipoff is set for Saturday at 4 p.m.