Friends, family remember fallen Cal Poly student

By Stephen Curran

When Erika Sy thinks about her younger brother Jason, she does not think about the ordinary trials and tribulations of childhood. Instead, she remembers a resilient young man who, despite being five years younger, served as a mentor and confidant.

She remembers her brother as quietly confident; a young man who was not only an accomplished student, but a role model as well. She spoke of her brother in the present tense, acknowledging that the shock has not fully sunk in.

"The first two days (after his death) I was in shock," she said. "It's never going to where I can talk about it." Jason Sy, 18, was killed Wednesday in a train accident across from Mustang Village and the Cuesta College of Business. He was an aerospace engineering freshman.

Throughout what she described as a "tough childhood," the two siblings formed a bond far beyond a typical brother-sister relationship. They were friends, not just relatives.

"We were the largest people in each other's lives," she said. Growing up, his life was filled with instability; she remembered, being shuffled between parents and older siblings. And, throughout this instability, the two became strong forces in each other's lives.

"I was always there next to him," Sy said. "I was the one person who was stable in his life." Business administration sophomore Daisy Chand said Jason was a large part of her life. However, she is neither a classmate nor a relative, but a friend. She remembered her roommate Sarah Bailly's boyfriend as a shy but loving person.

"Chand only knew Jason for a few months, but she remembered an inseparable couple that was as much a part of her life as any friends could have been." They were just so cute," she said. "They were the most adorable couple.

They had been together since

see TRAGEDY, page 4

Ward Churchill discusses global indigenous issues

By Sonia Slutzki

Ward Churchill discusses global indigenous issues

Ward Churchill, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado, speaks to a room full of students and faculty about the poor treatment of Native Americans and how that treatment still continues today.

"What they forget was the fourth world," he said. "According to the U.N. (and the world), people in the United States entails a

see CHURCHILL, page 2

Extending a hand to the SLO community

Students, community reach out to others for Thanksgiving

By Emily Schwartz

Before going home to share their love and thanks with family around the Thanksgiving table, some Cal Poly students donated their time to help make community members' Thanksgivings more memorable.

Volunteers from Cal Poly's Student Community Services Youth Education program invited children, grades Kindergarten through sixth to join them in celebrating the cultural history of Thanksgiving Saturday afternoon. Titled "Thanksgiving Extravaganza," the event was held at the San Luis Obispo County Library in the children's section. The kids learned about Thanksgiving traditions by making festive arts and crafts including dreamcatchers, turkey drawings, Indian vests and pilgrim hats.

"Our goal was to educate the kids on Thanksgiving in a fun way," said Anastasia Magnulis, a kinesiology junior and co-director of SCS Youth Education program. Melissa Mettogal, a Cal Poly librarian, brought her 7-year-old son, Tim, to the event. Since her family doesn't usually do much for Thanksgiving at home, Mettogal said the extravaganza gave Tim the opportunity to celebrate the holiday with the community.

"It's nice to have things like this in the community for Thanksgiving," Mettogal said. "It's such a positive thing for the kids to interact with such enthusiastic and capable people like these college students."

The event was also a good way of inviting children to use the library, said Liz Krieger, head of Children Services at the library. She said it's important for kids to be familiar with the library at a young age because it can be used as a great teaching tool.

The event today is for good for the kids because it welcomes them to their library," she said. "The library is a place where kids can learn about themselves, and what their talents are."

While the SCS volunteers helped the children in celebrating Thanksgiving, other students helped those who are less fortunate in the community.

Residents of Trinity Hall, in connection with the AIDS Support Network, held a food drive Saturday in front of Albertson's Food and Drug Store on Foothill Boulevard. ASN, Trinity Hall's designated community service agent, is a nonprofit organization that assists individuals living with the HIV disease or AIDS by providing them with things like food, subsidised housing and education.

About 12 Trinity Hall residents collaborated with the SLO community to collect goods.

By Sonia Slutzki

Ward Churchill discusses global indigenous issues

Ward Churchill discusses global indigenous issues

Ward Churchill is one of the most outspoken Native American activists. He is a prolific writer and a professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado. "I am an indigenous land," he said soon after his introduction. "If you are not indigenous you are a settler. You are not simply an immigrant, because there was no immigration. There was colonization of the planet.

He continued by providing a different perspective on the classification of countries, deviating from the common first, second and third world titles historians and political scientists have provided throughout the years.

"What they forget was the fourth world, comprised of indigenous people," he said. "The fourth world is the foundation, the bedrock on which the third, second, and first worlds were formed.

Implications to the "colonization of the earth" he has led to current arm struggles throughout the world, he said.

"And struggle is not going to go away until the problem is resolved," he said and cited examples of current liberation movements such as the ETA in the Basque region of Spain, the Zapatista movement in Mexico and the Kurds in Turkey.

"According to the U.N. (and the U.S. government) every people have a right to self determination," he said.

"Yet, every indigenous people are subordinated.

The current situation of indigenous people in the United States entails a
Students take advantage of bargain airfares

By Stephen Curran
HOODYS DAILY STAFF WRITER

Construction management professor Peter Michelen is making his holiday plans. In typical American form, these holiday plans involve trips to several of the nation's busy airports.

However, unlike past holiday seasons, Michelen and other flyers will have to contend with armed guards, an intensive screening process and the memories of recent events.

"This is a sentiment echoed by travelers throughout the country. As the nation's airlines continue to struggle, many student are opting to stay in the continental United States this year.

"(The fare) is a coincidence," he said. "There are some really great fares if people are flexible," said travel consultant Bobbi Primo.

Primo stressed the importance of booking flights in advance, even though flights on top airlines remain largely under-booked. She added that travel time travel services on the Cal Poly campus is advertising fares from $1,300, she said. "We're really pushing domestic travel.

While flights to Europe are down, students take advantage of bargain airfares for their winter break. Michelen said that neither the flight nor the fares were a concern for him. He was quoted a fare of $465 Los Angeles to London for $379 and Boston. He was quoted a fare of $465.

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**National Briefs**

**Bush signs airport security bill**

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed a bill into legislation that will put more airport security in the hands of the federal government. Lawmakers and the administration wanted to act before the holiday season to encourage travelers to get back in airplanes after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The law will put 28,000 federal employees in charge of airport screening, inspecting checked and carry-on baggage and computer-assisted pre-screening. Within several months, passengers will be required to pay $2.50 per flight to help cover the costs of the increased security. By 2002, the law mandates that all checked bags be inspected with explosives detection machines.

The cockpit doors on 4,000 aircraft have already been fortified by airlines, and the Transportation Department is starting on criminal background checks for the around 750,000 airport employees.

The American Automobile Association forecast that 46 million people will travel by air for the Thanksgiving holiday, a 27 percent decline from last year's 63 million.

— Associated Press

**Is your turkey tainted?**

WASHINGTON — The Center for Science in the Public Interest said Monday that 13 percent of raw U.S. turkeys carry salmonella, according to government data. This number is higher than other types of raw meat. Americans partaking in the holiday feast may be at risk of contracting the food-borne disease if the bird is not thoroughly cooked.

An estimated 1.3 million Americans become ill with salmonella and about 500 die from it each year. Healthy adults generally recover from the illness after a few days and suffer vomiting and diarrhea.

The National Turkey Federation has said that the rate of salmonellosis among turkeys has dropped 30 percent in the last three years from 19.4 percent. The Center for Science in the Public Interest suggests cooking turkeys to a minimum of 180 degrees.

The Center is trying to persuade the U.S. Department of Agriculture to publish the rates of contamination of various plants on the Internet.

— Reuters

**U.S. oil companies planning merger**

WASHINGTON — Phillips Petroleum and Conoco, both U.S. energy companies, announced plans for a merger that would make them the third largest oil and gas company in the United States for production. ConocoPhillips, the new company, will have a market value of $35 billion. The merge has yet to be approved by shareholders and U.S. regulators.

Its headquarters will be in Houston, Texas, and have prospects on five continents. It will be the fifth largest global oil refiner.

— BBC News

**L.A. firm hires Gore**

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles-based financial services holding company has hired Al Gore as its vice chairman. The company, Metropolitan West Financial, said that Gore will help identify and evaluate new business opportunities and play an active role in shaping the future of the company. He will also develop strategies in biotechnology and information technology and examine opportunities for international expansion.

Gore is taking on these new responsibilities in addition to his positions as a research professor for the University of California, Los Angeles, and teaching at Middle Tennessee State and Fisk Universities.

— USA Today

**International Briefs**

**South Asia**

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four journalists have been killed in Afghanistan by gunmen who ambushed the convoy in which they were traveling.

Drivers said the gunmen forced the journalists from their vehicles when they were 50 kilometers east of the Afghan capital, Kabul, and made them march up into the surrounding hills.

Driver Mohammed Farrad said he heard three or four bursts from a Kalashnikov rifle.

"They took the journalists, and when the journalists turned to look at them, the gunman shot."

This brings to seven the number of journalists known to have been killed reporting on the war in Afghanistan.

A passenger on a bus traveling along the same route said the bodies had been laid out along the road. The victims had apparently been robbed, because their pockets were ripped open and empty.

The journalists were ambushed in an area which is now controlled by the Northern Alliance, but some Taliban fighters, including Arab volunteers, are believed to be in the area. Bandits also operate in the region.

— BBC News

**Middle East**

PAKISTAN — The Pakistan government has announced that it no longer has ties to its old allies, the Taliban.

Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said even though they had not yet de-recognized the Taliban, it meant they weren't going to continue recognizing them.

After the fall of Kabul, there was no more business to be conducted between the ruling faction and Pakistan. But the country has not severed all ties; the Taliban's ambassadors in Islamabad still remains open.

Pakistani government used to be its strongest supporter. It was the last country after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to still recognize the Taliban as the ruling party.

Sattar has said he hoped that the United Nations would find a broad-based government for Afghanistan as quickly as possible.

— BBC News

**Asia-Pacific**

JOLO, Philippines — Hundreds of Muslim rebels have attacked army units in the southern Philippines, breaking a 1996 promise with the government.

The regional army commander said 31 followers of former rebel chief Nur Misuari and four soldiers had died on the island of Jolo.

An aide to Misuari said the attacks were intended to prevent elections later this month in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which he feels are a violation to the peace agreement.

The military southern commander, Lt. General Roy Cimatu said 27 soldiers and 13 rebels were also wounded in the attacks. The army has since countered and are now in control of the situation.

— BBC News

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contribu­tor Anne Guilford and managing editor Tori Walsh.
By Jacob Jackson

**COMMUNITY continued from page 1**

lected food from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As customers walked in the store, students gave them a handful of information on ASN as well as a list of misspellings on items that they could contribute to the food store. All donations were to aid people with the HIV disease and AIDS in San Luis Obispo. Mike Hamilton, the Trinity Hall residence advisor, who organized the drive, said they were going to take the collected food to ASN, and then distribute it to the needs for the holidays.

"As a resident advisor, my job is to help people," he said. "And if I can help people outside the residence halls, too, that's even better."
While many of the students at Cal Poly were still learning to walk and talk, and before most of them were in grade school, some Cal Poly students and staff had the opportunity to work with a very intelligent woman — Joann Seremet.

"I worked closely with her," said Nishan Havandjian, journalism department head. "She was intelligent, energetic, had a quick understated wit and was competitive when it came to business matters. She had an extremely optimistic look on life." Joann Seremet was the Mustang Daily's general manager from 1982 to 1985. Havandjian said she quit to further her career goals and became an agriculture business lecturer. According to the Napa Valley Register, Seremet also published cancer research material on the Elaine Mackie Charitable Trust Web site and worked as a marketing consultant for the Small Business Development Center.

"During the time period she was at the Daily, she was always very strong and outgoing, independent and vigorous," said Malcolm Nix, former secretary for the journalism department and a close friend of Seremet. Seremet had been battling cancer for the last 13 years. The illness began as breast cancer, and eventually moved for the last 13 years. The illness began as breast cancer, and eventually moved into the bone marrow.

"She was intelligent, energetic, had a quick understated wit and was competitive when it came to business matters."

Nishan Havandjian, journalism department head

Seremet wrote a newsletter for the Elaine Mackie Charitable Trust Web site a month before she died and praised the treatment she had received and the amount of time she was able to live because of it.

"During these 12 years, advice from excellent physicians, information about alternative therapies, pharmaceuticals and clinical trials have enabled me to combine a number of diverse allopathic, complementary and alternative treatments, which has significantly extended my life," Seremet said in the Elaine Mackie Charitable Trust online newsletter a month before she died.

Seremet loved to travel, and after she was diagnosed with cancer she traveled even more in search of a cure for her cancer. Nix said she never felt sick when she traveled.

"She loved to travel, and while she was sick, traveling was her escape," said Nix. "She had an indomitable spirit. I knew the end would come, but it still came as a surprise when it did."

A.J. Schuermann, the current general manager of Mustang Daily, had many good times with Seremet. In 1990, she decided to go travel in the Middle East. Schuermann said he thought it was brave of her to go to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf war.

"When she got back she said 'I'll tell ya, I don't like the way they treat the women over there. I say bomb them.' And then she laughed," Schuermann said. "She was a brave, beautiful woman."

Some of Nix's favorite memories of Seremet were of their antics while working at Cal Poly. Former co-ordinator Dean Klighard, who recently retired from his position as the technical adviser for the journalism department, Nix and Seremet used to take two-hour lunches in Monto Bay.

"You couldn't get away with that today," Nix said.

Nix said six months ago Seremet came up and spoke the night with her and they talked about the support they received from each other.

"I told her she was my hero," said Nix. "She helped me through my divorce. She said that she thought of me as her hero. We told each other how we felt. It was the last time we really talked."

Joann Seremet, pictured circa 1980, and left in 1997, was the Mustang Daily's general manager from 1980 to 1985. She went on to teach agriculture business at Cal Poly. Seremet died Oct. 21 at age 49 after a long battle with breast and bone marrow cancer.

Wanna Job?

Do you feel like you're going into the job market BLIND?

The Mustang Daily Advertising Department is hiring motivated self-starters as Ad Reps!

Only a few positions are available, so contact Nick @ 756-1143
Letters to the editor

Some departments lack Jewish representation

Editor,

Your article on religious diversity ("It's religious diversity lacking at Cal Poly") Nov. 13 prompted me to write. I am a Jewish electrical engineering faculty member and, in the 15 years I have been here, I can probably count the number of Jewish electrical engineering majors I have met on my fingers. It really admires how one can observe reality, something is missing; I cannot speak for other "minority" faiths, but, for some reason, bright Jewish future IEs are not making Cal Poly their school of first choice. The few Jewish students I have known have often felt isolated and alienated. Religious diversity is as important to our university as ethnic and political diversity. It is indeed time to address this issue. We need representatives of all religions on campus, not just token members who are often isolated and alienated.

Marty Kaliski is an electrical engineering professor.

IFC rules attack what Sigma Chi has fought for

Editor,

After Sigma Chi fought a long battle to secure its name and become an off-campus fraternity, the Inter-fraternity Council (IFC) passed a measure on Oct. 13 banning the participation of all Cal Poly fraternities with any greek group not recognized by Cal Poly. This was a direct attack against Sigma Chi, with the direct purpose of stopping Sigma Chi from participating in greek activities.

The hope of IFC members, who is this bright future smarting but, is that Sigma Chi, the San Luis Obispo Chapter, forever. As a member of Sigma Chi, I stand by the Progressive student Alliance, and I will support any and all actions that it decides to take in the future. I stand by the progressive student Alliance, and I will support any and all actions that it decides to take in the future. This was a direct attack against Sigma Chi, with the direct purpose of stopping Sigma Chi from participating in greek activities.

Matthew Heintz is a computer science junior.

No, the Germans are not trying to take over U.S. policy

This letter is in response to "U.S. Policy from a D.C. perspective." Nov. 19 by Tamas Simon. Wow! You sure seem to know a lot about Germany. Why doesn't the U.S. stop trying to influence Germany? Why doesn't the U.S. stop trying to influence Germany? Why doesn't the U.S. stop trying to influence Germany? You have your political goals, and you are right. But before you go and start making claims about Germany, a a German, let your legal U.S. residence be the frame of reference. Have you ever looked at how Americans have influenced the policies of other countries? Have you ever looked at how Americans have influenced the policies of other countries? Have you ever looked at how Americans have influenced the policies of other countries?

Dear Editor,

The Cal Poly fraternities do not realize that the Germans are not trying to take over the U.S. policy. The Germans are not trying to take over the U.S. policy. The Germans are not trying to take over the U.S. policy. The Germans are not trying to take over the U.S. policy. The Germans are not trying to take over the U.S. policy. They show theirs elsewhere. And so you show your support of the Republican party, then you have surely done them justice.

Ashley Campbell is a political science junior.

Disagree, but refrain from overusing McCartney label

Editor,

In the interest of trying to keep this debate elevated, I will try my hardest to respond only to debatable points raised in Professor McCartney's letter against me and the Progressive Student Alliance. I will not resort to ad hominem calling, nor will I second-guess anyone's immigra- tion stances.

Sonia Stutz, editor in chief

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Do not send letters as attachments. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Clayton Whist is a social science sophomore and co-director of the Progressive Student Alliance.

"But your head always looks funny."
News

Ramadan dawns bright with new moon Friday

By Jane Huh

(U-WIRE) CARBONDALE, Ill. - For Muslims, this month of the month signifies more than the approach of winter. Following the age-old lunar calendar, the month of Ramadan began Friday with an extra moon. Because it starts with the new moon, the holiday can take place in any season.

The month of Ramadan, or Holy Month, holds for people of the Islamic faith an opportunity to reaffirm their faith by abstaining from food, drink, sex and other activities that run counter to an individual's pursuit to righteousness.

"We try to be righteous as much as we can and strive for anything that may be wrong," said Ebrahim Elahi, who is in Carbondale with his husband, Southern Illinois University student from Egypt.

Muslims fast from sunrise to dusk. At sunset, family and friends gather to enjoy a meal together to break the fast.

"It's a good month to make good relationships with others," Elahi said.

Ramadan brings a real sense of how the hungry and arid people in the individual go through in their daily lives, said Munima Siga, a student graduate in physics from Rajahpi, Bangladesh.

Fasting is one of the main supports of the fifth pillar of Islam. The other pillars are believing in Allah and his prophet, Mohammed, prayer, charity and pilgrimage to Mecca, situated in Saudi Arabia.

While the adults refrain from food and drink, children learn to gradually accustom to the practices of the faith. Hence, children may eat during the day.

"Some people I know think the idea of fasting is stupid and don't even think it's possible," said Farah Hurun, a senior in marketing.

Hurun said her class schedules during the day make it difficult to pray five times a day but her strong Islamic faith helps to make time for praying.

"It's about giving thanks, praising Allah and devoting yourself to Allah," Hurun said.

Resisting temptation to human instincts and other types of immediate pleasures sharpen the focus of immersing oneself to the will of God and practicing the commandments of friendship and compassion outlined in the five pillars.

Norah Noh, a senior in marketing from Malaysia, said the religious practices keep her from straying too far into the materialistic culture of today's world.

The observances, however, do not isolate Muslims from going about their daily business such as attending school or work.

Logan security license revoked

By Linda Boulten

(U-WIRE) BOSTON - Argenbright Security, which handles security for several airlines at Boston's Logan International Airport and other facilities, insisted its employees not attend work as usual Friday, despite having its license to operate in Massachusetts revoked.

Col. John DiFara, Logan's interim head of security, issued a cease-and-desist order Thursday to Argenbright.

The order came in part as a response to the company's recent perceived security lapses at Logan, including leaving an exit door at a Delta Airlines concourse unattended for four minutes on Tuesday.

The order also comes after a barrage of legal troubles for the company. Argenbright pleaded guilty to felony charges for hiring convicted criminals, and was then brought back to court for not complying with the agreement to conduct background checks on all employees, according to a news release from the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Argenbright's representatives refused to comment, but released a statement in which newly elected CEO David Beaton, represented the timing of DiFara's decision.

"We are concerned that this decision would put our airline partners in the terribly difficult position of considering a disruptive security transition during one of the busiest travel weeks of the year," Beaton said. "Col. DiFara's announcement creates a potentially chaotic situation at Logan International and other aviation and commercial facilities across the state." However, Massport officials are not concerned with Argenbright's performance over the busy Thanksgiving week, said spokesman Barbara Platt.

Argenbright is closely monitoring their operations, she said. "And, of course, we have been at a heightened state of security since Sept. 11." According to Massport, Argenbright will continue to operate for Logan for the rest of the month under an FAA exemption before a Nov. 30 hearing to discuss DiFara's charges.
If you were a Native American, how would you celebrate Thanksgiving?

- I would try to take it as a time to reflect on historical events with the Native American culture.
  - Brooke Diskin
  - Business Senior

- I don't think much relevance revolves around Thanksgiving. It's mostly an American tradition, a homemade celebration.
  - Mike Bush
  - Materials Engineering Senior

- I would do it the traditional way.
  - Ryan Self
  - Mechanical Engineering Junior

- Probably the same way I do now because it was originally a celebration between the natives and the settlers. The whole point is tradition and remembering the friendship that happened.
  - Tegan Lentz
  - Mechanical Engineering Freshman

- I guess you would have to accept that you are part of this country now and it's a tradition.
  - Brent VanWagner
  - Animal Science Sophomore

- I wouldn't be happy with them invading it.
  - Andi Lourdermilk
  - Environmental Horticulture Science Junior

- I would rather dwell on what I'm thankful for rather than what happened. Although, you can't forget.
  - Andrew Badger
  - Kinesiology Senior

- I probably would not want to celebrate Thanksgiving just because of the history behind it and how it was established by the settlers. At the same time the idea of Thanksgiving and being thankful is good.
  - Enzo Zabatta
  - Business Junior

Mustang Daily survey

How do Cal Poly students celebrate Thanksgiving?

**How often do you go home?**
- Always: 84.6%
- Sometimes: 14.1%
- Never: 1.3%

**When you or your family make dinner, how often are canned products used?**
- Never: 23.1%
- Seldom: 32.7%
- Sometimes: 32.6%
- Often: 9.6%
- Always: 0%

**How many hours of TV do you watch?**
- None: 5.3%
- Less than 1: 18.4%
- 1 to 3: 42.1%
- 4 to 6: 19.7%
- 6 or more: 14.5%

**About how many people participate in your Thanksgiving celebration?**
- 1 to 5: 15.8%
- 6 to 9: 28.9%
- 10 to 15: 30.3%
- 15 or more: 25%

**Does everyone bring food or does the host make it all?**
- Everyone: 61.5%
- Host: 34.6%

**Do you make dinner or go out to eat?**
- Stay In: 98.6%
- Go Out: 1.4%

**Do you watch football?**
- Yes: 75%
- No: 25%