Future could hold budget woes

By Micah Paulson

As removal is becoming more common, the only question is

To tattoo or not to tattoo?

By Michael Hill

In a nationwide poll, 15 percent of respondents said they had a tattoo. Mothership Tattoo in Pismo Beach is popular among locals.

"I don't want to make a decision that would effect me for the rest of my life." — David Serwitz, business junior

"I've always wanted one but it sounds like a pain in the butt." — Meredith Peterson, nutrition science junior

Word of the Street

Students speak on campus issues

Would you consider getting your tattoo removed?

Today's weather

HIGH TEMP: 58-70
LOW TEMP: 48-60
Full forecast, page 2
BUDGET continued from page 1
a 15 percent increase in health benefits, new buildings on campuses, insurance cost increases and energy cost increases, according to the CSU Public Affairs office.

Despite the $220.5 million includ
ed by the Board of Trustees to fund enrollment growth, all 23 CSU campuses are assuming a two-growth policy, according to the CSU public affairs office.

Cal Poly was already forced to cut enrollment this fall by about 450 stu
dents, largely due to the budget cuts. There are currently just more than 15,000 students enrolled.

California State Treasurer Phil Angelides warns that the $8 billion state budget deficit could become more out of control if Schwarzenegger’s deficit borrowing is put into action.

“Clear and simple, this massive deficit borrowing will mortgage our children’s future,” Angelides said in a prepared statement. “And our chil
dren will be saddled with this debt at the very time that the governor also wants to close opportunities that will help them become successful, taxpay
ing Californians — opportunities such as valuable outdoors programs for the University of California and California State University systems.”

Schwarzenegger has proposed a $1.9 billion package of proposed mid
year cuts that are called a “deep virtual elimination of recruitment and outreach programs planned in order to help the university prepare for college.

The cuts are an effort by Schwarzenegger to fulfill his promise to voters to curb spending.

If the cuts are approved, public university officials are worried that minority students would be harmed the most.

According to Cal Poly 2002-03 enrollment statistics, from Fall 1997 to Fall 2002, Cal Poly’s minority stu
dent population dropped from 34.9 percent to 24.9 percent.

Among minorities at Cal Poly blocks experienced the biggest decline, representing half the number of students admitted in 2002, were admitted in 1997.

Cal Poly has no plans for cutting academic programs, according to the Cal Poly Public Affairs office.

Despite all the budget-mandor
mints, the Cal Poly officials say they have planned ahead in preparation for pos
sible budget cuts.

Cal Poly has set aside a bud
get contingency and program man
agers have been kept approved of developments in the statewide budget crisis. In addition, there is currently a non-locally hiring freeze in place, the 1CSU Public Affairs office said.

News

TATTOOS continued from page 1

Oroville-area dermatologist, said she used to do five laser treatments a month in the 1980s. Recently, she said she did twice that in one day.

All sorts of people come in for removals, doctors say. Some had such slogans as “Timmy Forever” commis
ioned to ink, only to find love was fleeting. Others like the tattoo tattooed in their youth and later regretted being imprinted with a flaming death head on a Flying V guitar.

There are a few common tattoo removal methods — people try to rub them out with chemical lotions or have a doctor abrade or surgically cut them out. State-of-the-art removals are done with earthing penetrating \textendash; through the outer layer of skin and fragment the tattoo pigment.

Doctors say several treatments over a period of weeks, can cost hundreds of dollars and can be painful.

Also, a faint trace of the tattoo typically remains.

Researchers at Wright State’s School of Medicine in Ohio are studying the effectiveness of a cream used for removing tattoos as a comple
ment to laser treatment. Complete results are unknown, though researchers do say the cream has been found to reduce the size of tattoos on the first day:

Professionals — from artists who create tattoos to doctors who remove them — get ill-considered tattoos in the first place. Their advice. Think! Will you enjoy having your tattooed letter on your backside in a decade?

T-Bone, an artist at Lark Tattoo in Albany, said people must sign a con
sent form before getting a tattoo. Still, the occasional customer has a change of heart after the fact. He echoes the advice of doctors: Don’t get a tattoo of your sweetheart’s name.

California blocks first genetically altered pet

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California regulators blocked sales of the first bioengineered fish pet Wednesday, closing the door to glowing zebra fish in a state that buys a quarter of the nation’s ornamental fish.

California is the only state with a ban on transgenic species, and plans of the fluorescent GoldFish are expected everywhere else next month.

The state Fish and Game Commission rejected an exemption from the ban on ethical grounds, despite accepting recommendations from scientists and the California Fish and Game Department that there is no danger to state waterways even if the fish escaped.

“Too many of a species, it’s a question of values,” said Commissioner Sam Schacht. “I think telling genetically modified fish is a question of values.”

The 3-1 vote came moments after commissioners approved the state’s 14th license for research into geneti
cally modified fish. But commission
ers drew the line for petting a bioengineered fish that was developed by Singapore researchers but which would be sold for pure visu
al pleasure.

Environmental, public interest and commercial fishermen fought the exemption, arguing that the fish have been found to survive in non-natural tropical waters. They hailed commis
sioner’s decision, which comes after federal agencies decided they have no jurisdiction over a bio-engineered fish pet that is not intended for consumption.

“That’s why the rest of the country has its eyes on California today,” said commissioner Jim Kellogg, who raised the first objections to approving a pet with no medical or research value.

Yorktown Technologies of Austin, Texas, and the state of Florida, in which the fish are grown, convinced the department and the commission
ers that the altered fish are even more cold-intolerant than the natural zebra fish and could not survive in California waters.

California adopted its regulations for fear transgenic farmed fish, such as salmon, could get loose and devastate the state’s wild populations.

News

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WASHINGTON — Productivity of U.S. companies rocketed at a
9.4 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the best showing in
20 years, offering an encouraging sign that the economic resurgen-
to take hold.

The increase in productivity reported by the Labor Department on
Wednesday was even stronger than the 8.1 percent pace initially es-
pected for the July-to-September quarter a month ago. It was up from a 7
percent growth rate posted in the second quarter.

SAN DIEGO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger kicked off a tour to
rally support for his fiscal plan, stumping a lunchtime crowd in a down-
town shopping mall to tell lawmakers to put a proposed $15 billion
Kinder Morgan pipeline on the ballot. That’s when Maine Express
_spacecraft as it heads for a Christmas rendezvous with the Red Planet.
The blurry pictures, taken from 36.6 million miles away, show little more
than part of a polar ice cap. Instead, the image shows the spacecraft’s Ger-
man-made high-resolution camera in working order before it begins orbiting Mars
and snapping pictures close up.

The camera test, performed Monday, was one of many checks and
rehearsals ahead of a sequence of intricate navigational maneuvers starting
Dec. 19. That’s when Mars Express will turn loose its British-built Beagle 2
lander toward the Martian surface on a mission to probe for signs of carbon-
estrial life.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The head of the Iraqi Governing Council renewed
his demand Wednesday that a proposed transitional legislature be elected
by Iraqi voters, a move opposed by U.S. occupation officials.

Abdel-Aziz al-Sabah, a Shiite Muslim cleric who has recently been a vocal
critic of American plans for restoring sovereignty to Iraqis, held the rotating
presidency of the U.S-appointed council for the month of December.

His assumption of the post could point to tighter relations with American
administration.

BEIJING — Rescue squads battled thick snow, treacherous roads and
numerous aftershocks as they struggled to help the victims of a power-
ful earthquake that killed at least 11 people in northwestern China, official
media reported Tuesday.

Affected residents were being relocated to warmer housing as cleanup efforts
continued in the rugged region near China’s border with Kazakhstan, in an eth-
nic minority area known as the Il Kulakh Autonomous Prefecture.

Temperatures in the area had dropped to nearly zero.

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials reacted with disappointment
Wednesday after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed
his demand Wednesday that a proposed transitional legislature be elected
by Iraqi voters, a move opposed by U.S. occupation officials.

Abdel-Aziz al-Sabah, a Shiite Muslim cleric who has recently been a vocal
critic of American plans for restoring sovereignty to Iraqis, held the rotating
presidency of the U.S-appointed council for the month of December.

His assumption of the post could point to tighter relations with American
administration.

The network first debuted this summer after the U.S. government,
in an effort to snuff out the influence of al-Qaida, began paying the cable chan-
el their $20 million annual subsidy.

The channel was specifically tailored to reach women and its pro-
grams focused on a cheerleading training

levels. Now, “Camp Jim” is set to be titled “Camp Cool” and will follow teens on
their quests from dud to stud.

Following are tips to help keep your residence secure:

• Ask a neighbor or friend to pick up your daily
newspaper deliveries.

• Leave blinds and shades in a position that you
would normally have them in while home.

• Have neighbors place your garbage cans at the
curb and bring them in after you pick up your
normal trash collection days.

• Don’t announce your absence on your
answering machine.

When you’re out, thieves might be about!
Visalia — Voters next March will be asked to decide on a $95 million general obligation bond. If approved, the money would pay for a $64 million education and agriculture campus in Tulare, a $18.4 million education center in Hanford and a $7.5 million four-year center in Visalia, and more.

College of the Sequoias President

"This is really about our students’ futures and the needs of this community." Kamiran Badrkhah

PLAGUE RESEARCHER FACES CHARGES

Plague researcher faces charges

By Betsy Blaney

Urbrock, Texas — The researcher acquitted of most of the serious charges he faced after reporting plague samples missing from his lab was a victim of an overzealous prosecution, several scientists said.

Thomas C. Butler was convicted Monday of 7 of the 69 charges stemming from a federal investigation into his work with the deadly bacteria. He was acquitted on charges of lying to the FBI, smuggling plague samples into the United States and illegally transporting samples.

"There’s a lesson in there for the Justice Department," Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists said Tuesday. "They overreached. The jury’s verdict suggests clearly that the government was overrestrained in this case.

Defense attorney Jonathan Baker vehemently denied that contention.

"This was not a post-Sept. 11 scare," he said. "This was not a bioterrorism scare in west Texas, added 54 counts alleging he had been convicted under statutes that have been long been on the books since the 1930s.

In September, prosecutors had added 54 counts alleging he had illegal shadow contracts with pharmaceutical companies with which he also had clinical studies contracts. He was convicted of 44 of those charges.

Baker said the three convictions from the first indictment were the most serious.

"This was not a post-Sept. 11 scare," he said. "This was not a bioterrorism scare."
Catholic church tells court that contraception is a sin

By David Kravets

SAN JOSE — The Catholic Church urged the California Supreme Court Tuesday to be excused from a requirement that it provide prescription contraceptives to its thousands of employees who work for the church's charity and medical branches.

In an hour of, at times heated, oral arguments among the justices and lawyers, California's highest court examined a state law requiring employers that offer prescription drug benefits to also provide contraceptives. The church told the court that contraception is a sin under its doctrine, and therefore should be excused from the rule lawmakers enacted in 2000 to combat gender discrimination in the workplace.

"The church teaches that the practice of artificial contraception is morally unacceptable," argued James Sweeney, an attorney for Catholic Charities of Sacramento, a church branch that offers social services to the downtrodden and others.

He told the court that the constitutional right of religion was being "treaded upon because the law forces the church from practicing what it regards as a sin.

The law, similar versions of which have been adopted in 25 states, compels 25 employers to "practice the religion confessional," Sweeney said.

"It was not clear how the court would resolve the issue. But the justice played devil's advocate for both sides in a debate televised to schools on the public affair cable network, California Channel.

Justice Carlos Moreno wondered aloud whether those who work for the church, some 52,000 in California, have a right to prescription contraceptives regardless of the church's doctrine.

"What about the rights of the employees?" Moreno asked.

General Timothy Matusc replied, that before, the law, about half the state's employers that offered prescription benefits did not provide contraceptives.

He said the new law ended decades of discrimination in the workplace.

Chief Justice Ronald George asked Matusc whether it would be male gender discrimination "not to provide coverage for Viagra."

"It probably doesn't fall within your health care need," Matusc said.

Matusc pointed out the position of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which told the court in briefs that contraception gives women a chance to plan for pregnancy and makes for healthier mothers and babies.

Under the California statute, the church is exempt from having to provide contraceptive coverage to employees who work inside parishes and houses of worship. That is known as the "religious employer exemption" because the parishes generally serve worshippers and employ those with similar religious views.

The church neither requires its workers at its charity branches or hospitals to be Catholic. Nor does it demand that its charity and health care recipients practice Catholicism.

The court is expected to rule within 90 days.

Employers have tough signature vote for insurance

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Business groups announced Monday that they had gathered fewer than the 373,816 signatures necessary to force a public vote on a new law that could require employers with 20 workers to help pay for their employees' health insurance.

The measure's opponents said they had collected more than 620,000 signatures. The measure requires businesses of at least 373,816 registered voters to put the measure on the March ballot for voters to rule on.

The law, strongly supported by labor leaders, would require companies with more than 20 employees to begin offering health benefits by 2006. Smaller companies with 50 employees or less would have until 2007 to offer coverage. Companies with 20 to 49 workers would only have to provide health insurance if the legislation passed a 20 percent tax credit for those firms.

Employers would have the option of buying the coverage themselves or paying into a state fund that would buy the insurance.

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people... The step follows similar action by building on our current health care system," said Art Pulaski, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, charged that signature gatherers went door-to-door tricking people into signing referendum petitions by claiming it would provide health care.

"Why are the big corporations trying to prevent this?" he asked. "Because they think taxpayers should foot the bill for their employees' health care."

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people by building on our existing health care system. The law eases small businesses and it will save the state $600 million."

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CRUELTY

Police say parents beat girl to death

By Mark Niesse

ATLANTA — An 11-year-old girl's parents tied her up in the garage, starved the child and beat her until she died during the Thanksgiving holiday, police said.

The sixth-grader tried to escape her home in Stockbridge just south of Atlanta, but she was only punished more severely — she was left without food, water, a bathroom or a bed, police said.

The girl, Jolissa Reaves, was beaten over her entire body with an umbrella and paddle for several days, according to the arrest warrant. Her cause of death was listed as blunt force trauma.

When she attempted to escape, she was hogtied. She was left with no food or water or sanitary or sleeping necessities," the warrant said.

Jolissa was being punished by her parents, according to the warrant. Police, attorneys and child welfare officials would not say if she had been angry her parents.

The father made the 911 call for help Monday morning, said Lt. Jodi Tuman of Henry County police. Jolissa was dead when emergency workers arrived.

"She made very good grades. She had a very personable student," said Jim Davis, principal at Eagle's Landing Middle School. "She had some friends, she was relatively quiet.

Rodney Reaves, aparer's mate on the USS Wasp based in Norfolk, Va., said he is innocent, said his attorneys, Robert Hardy.

"Mr. Reaves absolutely denies any liability for the tragic death of his daughter," Hardy said. "We categorically deny that."

Harvey declined comment about parent leading to the girl's death.

An attorney for Charlott Reaves did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Google stops accepting unlicensed pharmacy ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google Inc. stopped taking ads from unlicensed pharmacies, joining other major online advertisers, as the search giant beefed up its screening system to verify a pharmacy's legitimacy.

The system has made it easier for legitimate pharmacies to operate and we will work hard to ensure there is always consumer choice and value in online pharmacies," the Mountain View, Calif.-based company said Monday in a statement.

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people by building on our existing health care system. The law eases small businesses and it will save the state $600 million."

The system has made it easier for pharmacies to easily make it easier for illicit operators to sell potentially dangerous drugs.

A major trade group for legitimate pharmacies and the US government has been pushing for an Internet marketing ban on illegal operators.

"Google supports end user choice in commerce, and we will work hard to ensure there is always consumer choice and value in online pharmacies," the Mountain View, Calif.-based company said Monday in a statement.

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people by building on our existing health care system. The law eases small businesses and it will save the state $600 million."
Echinacea ineffective, study says

By Lindsey Tanner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Echinacea failed to relieve children's cold symptoms and appeared to cause skin rashes in some cases, a study of 407 youngsters found.

"We did not find any group of children in whom echinacea appeared to have a positive benefit," said the researchers, led by Dr. James Taylor of the University of Washington's Child Health Institute.

Symptoms lasted an average of nine days in children given echinacea and in those taking the placebo, and the overall severity of symptoms were similar.

Mild skin rashes occurred in 7 percent of children treated with echinacea and in those taking the placebo group — results Blumenthal said suggest that echinacea might have helped prevent subsequent colds.

Taylor called those results could be just a fluke. The study was not designed to examine prevention.

Blumenthal said the rashes that developed may have been a side effect from pollen in the echinacea plant flower. The echinacea used in the study was made by the German company Madusa AG and contained extract mostly from the flower.

Health

U.S.-born Hispanics more likely to have health issues

By Mason Stockstill

LOS ANGELES — Hispanic women who were born in the United States are more likely to experience health problems while pregnant than their immigrant counterparts, according to a UCLA study released Wednesday.

David Hayes-Bautista, a professor at UCLA's Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, said immigrant Hispanic mothers are less likely to participate in behavior that could lead to pregnancy complications.

"We've seen similar results in smaller studies ... where U.S.-born Latinos tended to smoke more, drink more, use drugs more and have more sexual partners than the immigrants," he said.

The report did not analyze the reasons behind the different behavior, but Hayes-Bautista said he suspects that assimilation with mainstream American culture may lead to the disparity.

Researchers found that Hispanic women born in this country had complications at a rate of 9.5 percent compared to 7.8 percent of more than 1,000 births to immigrant Hispanic mothers.

The report also found that Hispanic mothers overall — who account for more births than any other ethnic group in the state — had lower rates of obtaining prenatal care.

Only 82.2 percent of Hispanic mothers in California began prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancies, the study found, compared to 89.5 percent of white mothers.

The problem could become particularly acute in Los Angeles County, Hayes-Bautista said, where officials have slashed public health care spending.

"As we increase the population without health insurance but can't help the system that could have helped them, these trends do not bode well," he said.

The Movies Experience

Downtown Centre Cinema 546-8600

The Missing
In the Big Fremont
Thu 3:00 6:00 9:00
RADIO (PG)
Thu 6:15
RUNAWAY (PG-13)
Thu 5:30 8:15
LOONEY TUNES (PG)
Thu 7:45

LOVE ACTUALLY (R)
Thu 3:30 6:30 9:30
BAD SANTA (R)
Thu 5:15 8:15
THREE KINGS (PG-13)
Thu 6:15

THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
RADIANT (PG-13)
Thu 6:00 8:30
RUN ANGE (PG)
Thu 6:15

TIMELINE (PG-13)
Thu 2:45 5:45 8:45
BRAIN DAMAGED (R)
Thu 6:15

THE CUP IN THE MAT (PG)
Thu 3:15 6:15
MASTER AND COMMANDER (PG-13)
Thu 5:30 8:30

THE TROUBLE WITH MOTHERS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BAD SANTA (R)
Thu 5:15 8:15
THREE KINGS (PG-13)
Thu 6:15

THE MISTRESS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BRAIN DAMAGED (R)
Thu 6:15

THE TROUBLE WITH MOTHERS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BAD SANTA (R)
Thu 5:15 8:15
THREE KINGS (PG-13)
Thu 6:15

THE MISTRESS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BRAIN DAMAGED (R)
Thu 6:15

THE TROUBLE WITH MOTHERS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BAD SANTA (R)
Thu 5:15 8:15
THREE KINGS (PG-13)
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THE MISTRESS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BRAIN DAMAGED (R)
Thu 6:15

THE TROUBLE WITH MOTHERS (PG-13)
Thu 4:30 7:30 10:30
BAD SANTA (R)
Thu 5:15 8:15
THREE KINGS (PG-13)
Thu 6:15
GOP race heats up

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin has joined the race against Sen. Barbara Boxer, an incumbent described by the challenger as an overly partisan Democrat who embarrasses the state.

"Her knee-jerk attacks on our national defense are frankly an embarrassment to California," Marin said Tuesday in a blistering speech announcing her candidacy. "When I get to the United States Senate, you will once again be proud of the voice of California when it comes to protecting the national security interests of America here and abroad."

Marin, who emigrated to the United States from Mexico at age 14, made her announcement in Huntington Park — a largely Hispanic suburb of Los Angeles where she once served as mayor.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Marin said her background as an immigrant and generally moderate views on social issues like abortion made her the best qualified person to take on Boxer, who is running for a third term.

"The reality is that no one brings to the table the unique experiences that have brought me to where I am," Marin said. "I was the mayor of a city. I served as mayor. I ran for mayor. I was the mayor of a city. I served as mayor.

"Barbara Boxer is a strong supporter of the nation's military, and no one has been a stronger supporter of military personnel," Behr said.

Marin, who also served in the administration of Republican former Gov. Pete Wilson, will face at least two other Republicans on the March 2 primary ballot — former Los Altos Mayor Tony Casey and Ventura County Assemblyman Tony Stocklind. Former Secretary of State Bill Jones has also expressed interest in running but had to resolve several business commitments first.

"I'm thrilled I stuck around to see it through. It's done," Scully said in an interview.

Scully, 46, who has run the Medicare and Medicaid programs for nearly three years, has often expressed a desire to spend more time with his three young children and earn more money.

"The fact is, I played this absolutely by the book," Scully said. Scully said his intention to leave the administration once the Medicare bill was finished "was the worst kept secret."

Many Republicans privately say they believe that Jones would pose the stronger challenge to Boxer, now that other well-known Republicans have opted out of the contest. On Tuesday, Jones said he was leaning toward running but had to resolve several business and personal commitments first.
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December 13-14
11:00am - 5:00pm

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December 8-12
9:00am - 5:00pm

Dexter Lawn
December 8-12
8:30am - 4:30pm

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December 13
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No snow? No problem.

One Mustang Daily reporter gives relief to those who are craving some cold weather action.

Story by
Lauren Johnson
Photo by
Spencer Marley
Making SLO a winter wonderland just takes a little imagination

By Lauren Johnson

This is the holiday wish of every SLO-head: skiing. As the cold weather sets in, the days grow shorter and there is a future for ice blocking and snow activities in San Luis Obispo become a reality.

Cold remedies

Tissues pile high in thrashcans, orchestras of coughs and sneezes can be heard around campus and noses are red from constant rubbing. Cold season has made its way to the Cal Poly campus, prompting faculty, staff and students to stock up on health supplements that many believe to play an integral role in promoting healthy immune systems and decreasing the length of illnesses.

Dry ice in the Jacuzzi

Dry ice in the Jacuzzi and decreasing the length of illnesses. Cold remedies like the ones sold at New Frontiers offer a natural alternative but may not necessarily help relieve symptoms, experts say.

By Meghan Reerslev

Cold ice blocking is usually reserved for hot summer days, but why not make it a winter tradition? Ice Roggan is made of high impact plastic and handles like an ice block. The IceRoggan comes with two screws that allow you to attach it to any standard block of ice without any tools. IceRoggan eliminates the snow and wet bottoms of ice blocking past because there is no need to sit directly on the ice. To use your IceRoggan to carry the block of ice back up the hill, which is much easier than carrying it yourself as traditional ice blocks do. Visit IceRoggan.com to purchase your very own for $14.99.

Anyone who has been snowboarding knows the best way to wind down at the end of the day is in an outdoor spa surrounded by snow, where the rising steam becomes so thick you luckily can't see the couple making out across from you. Around here it doesn't get cold enough to lose your Jacuzzi fog, but there is a way to fake that steam action.

Dry ice can be dropped directly into a heated spa to create a steamed up winter wonderland. Put 50 to 100 pounds of dry ice into the water and — poof — thick fog immediately begins to rise. This amount of ice will steam things up for about an hour so don't waste any time getting in and enjoying your fauna-ski resort experience.

Ice-skating is just as fun for college students as it is for children. It's just too bad there are no skating rinks in San Luis Obispo County. What to do, what to do? How about turning the sidewalk into an icy runway? On a particularly cold night, water down the sidewalk and take advantage of the slick surface.

STUFFED UP

Surviving the cold season takes chicken soup, common sense, cleanliness and decreasing the length of illnesses.

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staphylococcus

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Tissues pile high in thrashcans, orchestras of coughs and sneezes can be heard around campus and noses are red from constant rubbing. Cold season has made its way to the Cal Poly campus, prompting faculty, staff and students to stock up on health supplements that many believe to play an integral role in promoting healthy immune systems and decreasing the length of illnesses.

Staphylococcus

Cold remedies like the ones sold at New Frontiers offer a natural alternative but may not necessarily help relieve symptoms, experts say.

By Meghan Reerslev

Cold ice blocking is usually reserved for hot summer days, but why not make it a winter tradition? Ice Roggan is made of high impact plastic and handles like an ice block. The IceRoggan comes with two screws that allow you to attach it to any standard block of ice without any tools. IceRoggan eliminates the snow and wet bottoms of ice blocking past because there is no need to sit directly on the ice. To use your IceRoggan to carry the block of ice back up the hill, which is much easier than carrying it yourself as traditional ice blocks do. Visit IceRoggan.com to purchase your very own for $14.99.

Anyone who has been snowboarding knows the best way to wind down at the end of the day is in an outdoor spa surrounded by snow, where the rising steam becomes so thick you luckily can't see the couple making out across from you. Around here it doesn't get cold enough to lose your Jacuzzi fog, but there is a way to fake that steam action.

Dry ice can be dropped directly into a heated spa to create a steamed up winter wonderland. Put 50 to 100 pounds of dry ice into the water and — poof — thick fog immediately begins to rise. This amount of ice will steam things up for about an hour so don't waste any time getting in and enjoying your fauna-ski resort experience.

Ice-skating is just as fun for college students as it is for children. It's just too bad there are no skating rinks in San Luis Obispo County. What to do, what to do? How about turning the sidewalk into an icy runway? On a particularly cold night, water down the sidewalk and take advantage of the slick surface.

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Arts & Culture

Linkin Park translates well to 'Live' medium on CD/DVD package

By Nathan Lichtman

The statement, however wistful, is not entirely far-fetched, and Linkin Park is living proof that dreams are attainable.

The DVD, filmed in 55mm and mixed in Dolby Digital 5.1, gives a stunning glimpse of what it's like to stand before a football stadium of rabid fans and deliver with vicious precision. From backstage banter to walking onstage, it's all captured in tremendous detail. It's as good as a live DVD can get, and the closest thing to standing onstage with the band. The DVD could double as a motivational video for fledgling bands.

Highlights include the bouncy, angular melodies of fan favorite "Papercut," the symphonic jab of "Faint" and a savage take on "One Step Closer" that sends the crowd into a seething frenzy and sees Linkin Park injecting plenty of punch into a song that they should be sick of playing at this point. The patchwork visuals on the extended, remixed breakdown of the song provide one of the most compelling and enduring moments in the collection.

Jarring, stunning, and completely cinematic, "Live In Texas" is Linkin Park at its finest. The group has come so far, so fast, that it must feel like a dream. This excellent DVD/DVD package is a reminder to each of them that it's all real. Very real.
Holiday Customer Appreciation
SALE 30% off

one day only Thursday December 4

Save 30% off
on all Cal Poly gift merchandise
including: sweatshirts, tees, glassware, license plate frames, jackets, polos and more!

Also included
all Holiday gift merchandise, figurines, ornaments, gift wrap, boxed cards, plates & mugs, stuffed animals, and toys

Save 30%
on all regular priced general books
holiday books, cook books, fiction, travel, journals, childrens, gift books and more

Save 30% on all art, office, and school supplies

*excludes computer, textbook, and photo departments

www.elcorralbookstore.com
Not a creature was stirring...

The holiday season is not usually known for its vast array of sexual opportunity. Compared to the sexual smorgasbord of summer and fall, romance is on the wane, and cold and old flames tend to lose their luster in the post-high school years. Indeed, for most students, the Christmas holiday is the most romantic time of the year. No sex, however, no sex, instead they use the time to gradually prepare for the upcoming sexfest.

Yet despite this sad and dreary outlook, the Christmas season holds claim to be the birthplace of human sexuality. It's the ultimate sexual shenanigan. It's the origin of the tradition of giving someone else sex. The traditions of dating a cousin or cousin-in-law that are so common today were passed down to us from our forebears. If they had any idea what students were doing on any given Friday night, they probably would be out of the will on the spot. Preserving this tradition is an honor, a part of our running the flow of human sexuality. At the same time, who wouldn't want to have a little sex to top off the flavor of the Christmas spirit? Thus the sneaking.

When you walk in the house saying complimentary things like, "Gosh, Mrs. Jones, your Christmas tree is just the most glorious thing I have ever seen in my entire life," your cousin will go in the bathroom and put on argyle socks, sweater and argyle socks. Moms gush over that stuff. When you throw darts at your girlfriend's parents' house, it's not a matter of taste, it's a matter of survival. The holidays are not about merit. The holidays are about, of course, about sex in some sort of way. The holidays are not about romance. The holidays are about sex in some sort of way.

Andrew Miller is a mechanical engineering senior.

Hunting is a legitimate pastime

Editor,

Pat Maruda posted another letter on campus today, bemoaning hunting, as "Hunting shouldn't be for the Neil's" (Dec. 3). Maruda uses the "not against hunting" line to make his point, as well as the "not against bags" line. He then proceeds to "killing innocent animals...that can't shoot back" reveals his fundamental, indefensible objection to hunting in general. I can respect those who don't approve of hunting for moral reasons, but those who prosecute the killing of a small animal, then both and/or dismemberment upon a hunter aren't thinking straight.

Hunting is not about passing judgment. It's a pastime. It requires a lot of preparation, but does not need to be a fair to its targets. Hunting expenses more not moral capital than eating a hamburger or wearing leather shoes. Many people who kill animals do not want to kill animals, or that hunting calls stronger specimens from the population, but now does Maruda mention or use these reasonable points.

So far, I've just talked Christmas, black, Pola, and sneaks in a little sex if you can. As for me, I will be spending my Christmas frolicking on the beach, Norman Rockwell style, posing organdy and gingham dresses and having my picture sheeted as an angel. I'm also lightning fast, like a porpois fast-forward. But, hey, it's still sex, and even better, Pola was only a few feet away.

The next day you will arise from your little coach bed like a new, refreshed and invigorated. You will take your home with you to college: the knowledge that at one point in your life you were a brown coated, breaking all the rules of overnight courtesies. You will have pulled off the modern day equivalent of looking up with the farmer's daughter, infection and injury free.

by Success.

Florida's Christmas Creek, black, Pola. Try and sneak in a little sex if you can. As for me, I will be spending my Christmas frolicking on the beach, Norman Rockwell style, posing organdy and gingham dresses and having my picture sheeted as an angel. I'm also lightning fast, like a porpois fast-forward. But, hey, it's still sex, and even better, Pola was only a few feet away.

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by Success.
Surgery makes feet fabulous

More power to those who want pretty feet.

Modern medicine has done it again. A new trend in cosmetic surgery is busting past through. "Botox" augmentation and liposuction. Cosmetic foot surgery is becoming a frequent request for surgeons all over the country. Believe it or not, this is not a fad.

Dr. Suzanne Levine, a podiatric surgeon at New York Presbytarian Hospital, was quoted by WHED-TV as saying, "We had one model that wanted liposuction..." Jimmy Choo, companies that are notorious for making shoes suitable only for the most perfect feet. There are also constant requests in trendy shows like "Sex and the City," "Will & Grace" and "Newlyweds.

The rise in this trendy new trend relates to the operation as a way to ease comfort for those suffering from hammertoe and bunions. Those poor individuals would never be caught dead with sandals on because of the unsightly mess going on down there. However, doctors are now starting to link the fact that many patients who request this particular procedure are getting onto the operating table for vanity rather than easing pain.

I say more power to them. If someone wants to shell out between $1,000 and $5,000 to have pretty feet to fit in a pair of great shoes, then go for it.

Cosmetic surgery has entered millions of people all over the world for the last 20 years and will probably continue to do so in the future. Now that people have finally achieved the tiniest tummy, the perkier rack and the smoothest face, they want the cutest feet, as well. With foot surgery, doctors are shortening and straightening diggs and rotating those stubby pinky toes so everything is facing forward and looking as fabulous as the feet you see in numerous ads in major fashion magazines.

Unfortunately, I have been walking with great looking feet, but hey, I would definitely buy into getting my feet fixed if they looked like they took a beating. After reading numerous testimonies and doctors' accounts, this procedure seems to have a short recovery time. Post-operative recovery seems to be limited to only a few days with your feet elevated and possible infection, swelling or bleeding.

There are many cosmetic surgery opponents denouncing those who decide to go under the knife for vanity. Frankly they have no right to point the finger at someone who is doing something for personal benefit. It's her or his body, money and time, to get over it and let someone pay to have more attractive feet. Vanity will always play a huge role in the way people think, feel and express themselves. Cosmetic foot surgery is just another request.

Who knows, a year from now there might be a procedure to make fingers look thinner and smaller to dawn beautiful diamonds from Jacob the Jeweler. It's your world, live how you want.

Amanda Hipp is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Just say yes to drug use education

The hypocrisy and immorality of the U.S. government's drug policy never ceases to amaze me. The degree to which the American people have been brainwashed to just accept this situation is almost beyond belief.

Tobacco and alcohol kill hundreds of thousands of people every year.

Commentary

Marijuana has not killed one person ever. How can you agree with some people's views. Just because you may have been brainwashed to just accept this you might look to for consciousness expansion. Is a drug like marijuana bad for your health? It is as bad as nicotine.

People were given false information in school about drugs by the Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education program and ended up looking at authority figures as being completely full of crap, which is true for the most part.

What we need is propogation for education for the youth. Education on the physical and psychological effects of drugs, not cops telling them, "Just say no." As long as you know the risks you are taking, who has the right to stop you?

Remember, citizens that believe in true democracy should fight for the rights of all people to express themselves freely and as equals, even if they disagree with some people's views. Just because you may be disgusted by junkies, or even occasional marijuana smokers, your right to try to eliminate them from society by force.

Erie Blevins is a writer for Sidelines at Middle Tennessee State University.

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Mustang Daily

Loosen the Bible belt

For Republicans promoting the pro-life judicial nominees from the top federal courts to virtually everyone in Congress promoting the exclusion of the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, elected officials know that social issues provide great opportunities to stand up and kook principled.

And even when politicians would prefer to avoid such concerns—as many say is the case now with presidential candidates and the issue of gay marriage—they can't quite be pushed below the surface. These issues are flashy and easy to understand, and most people quite faithfully name them the "social issues." So it's no wonder that social issues—abortion, gay rights, gun control, religion in the public sphere—enjoy prime attention in the national political debate and, as a result, come to define the divide between the Democratic and Republican parties.

And it's also no wonder that such a divide would shape up to be largely geographic. The Northeast and the Midwest are more pro-choice, in the hope that a moral policy is not enough to push religion below the surface. These issues are flashy and easy to understand, and most people quite faithfully name them the "social issues." So it's no wonder that social issues—abortion, gay rights, gun control, religion in the public sphere—enjoy prime attention in the national political debate and, as a result, come to define the divide between the Democratic and Republican parties.

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Wishing to fly high versus Air Force

The Cal Poly women’s basketball team, off to a 2-1 start, plays its last two home games of the non-conference season this week, hosting Air Force (0-4) on Thursday at 7 p.m. Both games will be played in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs opened the 2003-04 season with home victories over Sacramento State and Portland State, then went on the road on Nov. 23 and 25 to defeat UC Davis 75-66 and 66-59 to The Falcons. Air Force has made just 37.6 percent of its three-point attempts while averaging 25 turnovers a contest. The Falcons scorers are freshman guard Letricia Castillo (14.0), senior guard Aman Jackson (12.2) and sophomore forward Shawna Neff (10.3). Jackson also averages 6.8 rebounds a game. The Falcons finished 7-21 a year ago and last in the Mountain West Conference with a 1-15 mark.

Cal Poly has 11 players on its roster who did not play Mustang basketball a year ago, including eight freshmen, a pair of redshirts, Paterson and Taylor, and one junior college transfer, junior forward Kasey Groce-Davis.

Cal Poly will take a break next week for Fall Quarter finals, returning to action with the first of four straight road games on Dec. 13, at Loyola Marymount. The Mustangs also visit Texas-Pan American, 71-66 to Boise State 95-49 to Illinois State and 79-59 to New Orleans. Air Force has made just 37.6 percent of its three-point attempts while averaging 25 turnovers a contest. The Falcons scorers are freshman guard Letricia Castillo (14.0), senior guard Aman Jackson (12.2) and sophomore forward Shawna Neff (10.3). Jackson also averages 6.8 rebounds a game. The Falcons finished 7-21 a year ago and last in the Mountain West Conference with a 1-15 mark.

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