CRIME 
ROUNDUP
Events from the week of March 27

March 27
The University Police Department received a call at 3:34 p.m. regarding a petty theft. A student reported a stolen tire from a bicycle locked to the racks in front of Fremont Hall. No estimated value was available.

March 28
A student in Muir Hall reported that textbooks were stolen from his room over spring break. The value of the books is about $200, according to UPD.

March 30
UPD arrived at an avocado orchard on Highland Drive at 3:48 p.m. in response to a reported theft. No arrests were made; however, the instance was classified as a grand theft because the value of the produce taken exceeded $100.

April 1
A vandalism was reported to UPD at 9:21 p.m. regarding the Chumash Challenge Ropes course. According to reports, about $200 in damage was inflicted after a hole was punched in a wall and a shingle was knocked off the roof. The vandals are still at large.

April 2
The San Luis Obispo Fire Department was called to the campus bowling alley to extinguish a small fire at 1:09 p.m. No injuries or damage was reported.

A student was reported missing at 3:45 p.m. following multiple attempts to contact her by phone. Later that evening, UPD located the student in good condition.

April 3
Officers arrested an intoxicated resident of Sequoia Hall at 2:50 a.m. The 18-year-old was taken into custody in the C-2 parking lot and transported to San Luis Obispo County Jail.

April 4
UPD officers were called to the soccer field at 1:32 p.m. after 15 individuals refused to leave the premises. Following a brief encounter with UPD, the group agreed to leave.

Students to vote on fees Wednesday

If both referenda are approved, students will see a $35 per quarter tuition increase next year.

POLY ALUMNUS ‘WEIRD AL’S’ PARENTS FOUND DEAD 

FALLBROOK (AP) — The elderly parents of Grammy-winning recording artist “Weird Al” Yankovic were found dead in their home, apparently victims of carbon monoxide poisoning, officials said. Nick Yankovic, 86, and his wife, Mary Yankovic, 81, were found dead about 1 p.m. Friday in their suburban San Diego home by three family members, said sheriff’s Sgt. Conrad Grayson, a fire investigator.

The relatives came to the house because they had not seen the couple in a while and were concerned.

Paramedics found Nick Yankovic in a chair in the front living room. His wife was lying on the bathroom floor.

A fire had been recently set in a fireplace in the house, Grayson said. “The house was full of smoke when they opened the door,” Grayson said. “We examined the fireplace. They were burning wood. They (family) had found the fire door closed.”

“Weird Al” Yankovic, 44, had no comment during a performance in Mankato, Minn., Saturday night and media were told he wanted to perform for his loyal fans.

Before the show, a graphic projected on the screens at the back of the stage dedicated the evening to Nick and Mary Yankovic, KTOE-AM reported. Yankovic also canceled a meet-and-greet with select fans.

Yankovic’s parents were described by a neighbor as nice people who were proud of their son’s accomplishments.

“Weird Al,” sometimes known as Nick, also expressed his disapproval of the family in a 2002 interview.

Rocking against Bush

NOFX headlined politically-driven tour, in ARTS & CULTURE, page 6

Scoring the athletic referendum

OPPOSING VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING VOTE

IN OPINION, page 9

KNOWLEDGE Library and the University Union. Polling stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The referenda are expected to be held on March 28, 2004, with the results expected to be announced on April 1. The ASI Athletics Scholarship fee would increase $20 per quarter during the 2004-05 school year, and $5 more each year for the next two years.

The Health Services fee proposes a $15 increase per quarter during the 2004-05 school year. If both referenda are approved, students will see a $35 per quarter increase in tuition, equalling $105 in additional fees next year.

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School board to hold gender-dispute meeting

WESTMINSTER (AP) — A last-minute proposal to resolve an Orange County school district’s dispute over gender identification will be unveiled today at a special meeting.

The three of five members of the Westminster School District on moral grounds have repeatedly refused to adopt a state-mandated change to discrimination policies intended to protect transgender students.

The state Department of Education has threatened to withhold two-thirds of the district’s funding if the board does not adopt the changes.

Westminster is the only school district in California that has refused to comply with a state law passed in 2000 that requires revised language to curb discrimination against transgender and transsexual students, faculty and staff.

School board members Judy Ahrens, Blossie Mangel, Woodcock and Helena Rutkowsk on Saturday asked for the special meeting, but would not comment on what they would propose to avert the state action.

They indicated, however, that they still consider the state-requested language to be unacceptable on moral grounds.

The statutory vote planned Thursday to terminate the district’s legal counsel. Many parents believe the trustees removed attorney Dave Larson because he advocated changing the district’s policy.

Westminster policy currently defines “gender” only as a person’s biological sex.

The district, about 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles, serves 10,000 elementary and middle school students. More than $40 million of its $68 million budget comes from state and federal sources.

The board members’ stance has angered many in the community. Teachers protested at last week’s board meeting, recall petitions are circulating for two of the three board members and a state senator proposed the district be taken over by the California Department of Education.

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STUDY

Nebraska ranks near bottom for high school graduation rates

Mary Dalyrmple
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service audited fewer corporations, small businesses and partnerships last year but more individual taxpayers, according to a study of government data.

Syracuse University's Transactional Records Clearinghouse, in its analysis of IRS data, concluded that the audit rate for businesses of all sizes slid slightly last year to 3.1 audits for every 1,000 businesses, down from 2.2 audits per 1,000 businesses the previous year.

At the same time, the IRS audited 14 percent more individual tax returns.

Official audit rates released by the IRS last month show a similar trend.

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The agency's own data — indicate that the actual performance of the IRS differs in significant ways from some of the Bush administration claims when it comes to cracking down on corporate scofflaws," the report said.

Researchers point specifically to declining audits of the largest corporations and a type of business organization that passes income and taxes on to its shareholders or partners — an arrangement found to have been improperly used in some corporate accounting scandals.

Associated Press News Executives Council's annual awards honor the best in newswriting in California, Nevada

The Tribune wins top honors in AP contests

Spot News Coverage
1st Place: Staff of The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Quake Kills Two.
2nd Place: Staff of The Sun of San Bernardino, "Fire Crews Make Final Stand."

Sports Writing
1st Place: Mark Puttou, Santa Barbara News-Press, "Shadow of War."
2nd Place: Eric Branch, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Agony of the Fen."

Feature Writing
1st Place: Laurie Phillips, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "How One Trouched Many."
2nd Place: Silvia Hunter, Reno Gazette-Journal, "Teresa's New Look."

Fairbanks Public Service Award
1st Place: Silas Lyons and Stephanie Thompson, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Our County's Next 100,000."
2nd Place: Matt Weiser, The Bakersfield Californian, "Smog A Growing Concern."

Local Columns
1st Place: Greg Clark, Record Searchlight of Redding, "There Is Such a Thing."
2nd Place: William P. Warford, Antelope Valley Press, "How About Our Service."

Business Writing
2nd Place: Scott Hoadley, Santa Barbara News Press, "Fishing's Bleak Future."

Investigative Reporting
1st Place: Ben Schneyerson, The Sun of San Bernardino, "Gaming Nation."

Without this Athletic Scholarship Fee referendum, SPORTS WILL BE ELIMINATED!

Athletics is an important student activity for both athletes and non-athletes. Cal Poly is not a commuter school — student life is important!

PLEASE HELP maintain the programs that we, as alumni, helped build!

VOTE YES on the Athletic Scholarship Fee Referendum

Paid for by the Cal Poly Alumni Association
State Briefs

LOS ANGELES — California Indian tribes that have received millions of dollars from their casinos are funneling some of that money to various universities for the study of Native American issues.

If you would like to read these stories, you will need to subscribe to the service that provides them. The stories are extracted from various sources and are not available in plain text format.

National Briefs

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush insisted Sunday he was satisfied that federal agents were on top of the terrorist threat after reading a pre-Sept. 11 briefing detailing Osama bin Laden's intentions on U.S. soil.

For two years, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice left Americans with the impression that the memo from Aug. 6, 2001, focused on historical information dating to 1998 and that any current threats mostly involved overseas targets.

Yet the release, under public pressure, of the briefing showed that Bush had received intelligence reporting as recent as May 2001 and that most of the current information focused on possible plots in the United States.

CAMARILLO, Calif. — Gas prices climbed another 2 1/2 cents in the past two weeks as high crude oil prices and tight capacity contributed to record prices at the pump, a national survey said Sunday.

The nationwide average in the past two weeks that ended Friday was $1.82 for all grades, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg survey, which regularly polls 8,000 stations across the United States.

WASHINGTON — The legal wall that for years divided FBI intelligence and criminal agents is blamed largely for the government's failure to grasp the threat posed by al Qaeda inside the United States before the Sept. 11 attacks.

One FBI agent, frustrated at his inability to track two soon-to-be hijackers known to be in the United States, wrote in an August 2001 e-mail that "someday someone will die, and wall and not, the public will not understand why we were not more effective and throwing every resource at certain problems."

The problem, since resolved, is expected to be among the topics when current and former Justice Department and FBI officials testify Tuesday and Wednesday before the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

Associated Press

World Briefs

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II celebrated Easter Mass on Sunday with calls for world leaders to resolve conflicts in Iraq, the Holy Land and Africa, as Christians around the world marked the holiest day on the church calendar.

John Paul delivered a message of peace on the flower-decked steps of St. Peter's Basilica, praying that hope would conquer the "inhuman" phenomenon of terrorism and urging Christians, Muslims and Jews to seek greater unity with each other.

NUEVO PROGRESO, Mexico — Mexican soldiers and American firefighters searched through debris Sunday, a day after a gas explosion killed six people and injured more than a dozen others in this Texas border town.

It was unclear if more people were still trapped in the rubble. Mexican authorities had received no reports of missing people, but were exploring the wreckage with care in case survivors remained.

OSINNIKI, Russia — The coal-blackened faces of exhausted rescuers and the red-rimmed eyes of anxious relatives told a grim story of disappearing hopes Sunday, a day after a methane blast tore through a Siberian mine, killing at least 42 miners.

Five miners remained missing in the latest disaster to strike Russia's gas-ravaged coal country. The blast occurred early Saturday about 1,840 feet down in the Taurina mine in a coal-rich strip of western Siberia called the Kuzbas.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen shot down a U.S. attack helicopter near Baghdad on Sunday, killing two crew members. A fragile cease-fire held between Sunni insurgents and Marines in the city of Fallujah, while the U.S. military suggested it's open to a negotiated solution in its showdown with a radical Shi'ite group in the south.

Associated Press

THIS WEEK

IN ASI EVENTS

UU GALLERY

Featuring ART FOR THE PEACE MOVEMENT Opening Reception on Monday, April 12
7-9 p.m. in the UU Epicenter

Sasha Facir is a fourth year graphic design major whose art focuses on the United States' treatment of Iraq. Through her posters and images of war, she wants people to reflect through April 30.

M O N D A Y M O V I E M A N D A S S

Featuring LAST SAKURAM
Monday, April 12
6:05 & 8:30 p.m. showings in Chumash Auditorium • FREE

Check out this hit film featuring Tom Cruise on the big screen before it's available for home rental. Seats are limited.


Featuring JOOSE
Wednesday, April 14
6 - 8 p.m. UU Gallery (in the UU Epicenter) • FREE

Joose is a diverse group of musicians whose influences have helped to create original sounds. They perform a unique brand of music that spans all genres and styles.

UU HOUR

S P E C I A L H I P - H O P P E R F O R M A N C E

Featuring POTLUCK
Thursday, April 15
6:00 & 8:30 p.m. showings in Chumash Auditorium • FREE

Potluck is a multitalented hip-hop group that offers a positive vibe, promotes racial harmony, and encourages higher education. Potluck president and senior Matt D. credited with creating artwork for the group's poster at various locations.

WWW.ASI.CALPOLY.EDU/EVENTS

756-1112
DEATH

Police officer killed on duty

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A San Francisco police officer has been shot and killed on duty, the first such death since 1994.

Authorities said the shooting took place late Saturday in the city's Bayview District after the two undercover officers approached a suspect who was acting suspiciously.

"They were going to talk to him and called out to him, and that's when he turned around and started shooting," said Sgt. Neville Gittens.

Funeral arrangements for Espinoza were pending. A police memorial service was scheduled for later this week, Gittens said.

Police on Sunday followed several leads for the unidentified suspect, described as a black man in his 20s with cornrows in his hair, wearing a dark pea coat jacket.

"We have some situations we're looking into," Gittens said. "Something might be breaking soon, but right now we're not putting anything out."

Gittens said he and other officers were working round the clock to find the man who shot their fellow officer.

"This is a serious situation, when a person just opens up shooting at police officers," Gittens said. "It's a sad and tragic situation."

The last officer to be killed on duty in San Francisco was James Guelff, who was shot by Vic Lee Boutwell, a carjack, in November 1994.

Low-carb diets fuel cattle theft from Cali farms

ELDERWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities say the rise in popularity of low-carbohydrate, high-protein diets has fueled an upsurge in cattle stealing across California farms and ranches.

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False information: Officer Isaac Espinoza, 29, died after being shot twice. He was an eight-year veteran of the department. His partner, Officer Barry Parker, 36, was shot in the left leg. Parker, who joined the department about four years ago, was treated and released from San Francisco General Hospital, Gittens said.

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Second Annual
ENVIRONMENTAL
CAREER
SYMPOSIUM
& RECEPTION

Tuesday, April 13, 2004
Panel: 4:15 - 5:45pm Phillips Hall (PAC-Rm 124)
Reception: 5:45 - 7:15pm Fisher Science (Rm. 285)
A panel of guest speakers will be speaking about how
they prepared to work in their current field, what their
work entails, and how they feel their career impacts
the environment on a daily basis.

student fee
REFERENDUM
April 14th and 15th
Two separate proposals
1. Increase Health Services Fee
2. Increase ASI Fee supporting
student athlete scholarships
have been approved for a student referendum on
April 14th and 15th
The following Open Forum has been scheduled where students can ask
questions and learn more about these two important proposals

Monday April 12,
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Location: UU 220

Additional information including an Objective Statement & Financial
Analysis, Pro and Con Statements, sample ballot and polling times and
locations is now available on the web, by clicking on the link located on
Cal Poly's home page (www.calpoly.edu).

Sikhs celebrate
holy day, protest
discrimination

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of Sikhs poured through
downtown Sunday to celebrate one
of their holiest days, as political lead­
ers called for an end to discrimina­
tion against members of the religion.
Sikhs, who traditionally
wear turbans and do not cut their
hair, said discrimination against them
that began just after the 2001 terror
attacks continues. They said the
parade was partly intended to explain their religion to the public.
"We've always been a very quiet
community," said Niranjani Singh
Khalra, executive director of the
California Sikh Council. "But that
hurt us since 9/11 because people
don't know who we are, so we're
trying to reach out more."

Organizers said more than 10,000
Sikhs from across Southern
California were in the city to cele­brate Vaisakhi — which marks their
New Year and commemorates the
17th century Sikh leader Guru
Gobind Singh.
In downtown Los Angeles,
participants chanted "God is One;"
they walked through the streets amid
flower strewn floats with scenes from
Sikh history. Among the floats was
one depicting the Golden Temple, a
symbol of tolerance and acceptance
and the most sacred temple for the
faithful.
As he walked along the parade,
Daljit Khokhar, 43, of Burbank said
he often fields questions about his
turban and religion. "We explain it
to the people. They are always asking
me, but it's getting better," said
Khokhar, an employee of The Go
Company of Southern California.
At a press conference earlier in
the day, Assemblywoman Judy Chu,
D-Monterey Park, said Sikhs have
been the target of hate crimes by
extravists in the United States who
mistake them for being from the
Middle East.
"We must be more even more
proactive in fighting this," said Chu,
whose resolution condemning hate
attacks against Sikhs, Arab-
Americans and others has been
approved by the Assembly.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Maria
Suarez was a recent immigrant from
Mexico looking for work when she
was kidnapped at age 16 and held as
a sex slave for five years.
Eventually, she escaped in the
killing of her tormentor and served
22 years in prison before being
paroled last year. Now she faces
another ordeal — the prospect of
being torn from her family and sent
back to a country she no longer
knows.
Since January, Suarez has been
held at an immigration detention
center at the port of Los Angeles.
She is awaiting an April 23 hearing
to be departed after their release.

"I keep trying to understand what
justice in this country means," she
said. "But I haven't seen it in my case."
From the yard of the detention
center, Suarez catches glimpses of
the life she missed while in prison.
"I see the water. I can see the
big boat. I see the hills," she told
The Associated Press during an
interview through an glass window
of the detention center. "I am so close, but
I cannot be there."

In recent months, Suarez, now 43,
has received letters of support from
a far away as Brazil. Among her
defenders is Congresswoman Hilda
Solis, D-El Monte, who asked U.S.
Attorney General John Ashcroft to
halt the deportation proceedings.
But supporters concede her case
is difficult because of the strict
immigration rules and the lack of
documentation of domestic violence
and sex trafficking at the
time she was convicted.

"This case would have been very
different if it had happened today,"
said Leidholdt, co-executive
director of the Coalition Against
Trafficking in Women in New York.
"They called it the golden age."
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Steve Hill

NOFX is old. Seriously. Fat Mike and crew have been playing punk rock for more than 20 years now; so it would be no surprise if the band seemed out of touch with its crowd, especially one of a 21-something makeup like the one that came to the band’s show at the Rec Center Saturday night.

But anyone who knows NOFX knows that the band is still young at heart.

The group played an energetic set for the San Luis Obispo stop on the PunkVoter Tour, a trek with the purpose of kicking young people in the ass and getting them to register to vote. Along for the ride were Authority Zero, Alkaline Trio and Jello Biafra, the charismatic ex-front man of the Dead Kennedys.

But while the tour was advertised with the PunkVoter moniker, the real name hung on a banner that acted as the stage’s backdrop, adorned with George W. Bush covering his ears amid a drizzle of punk rock descent, as every band thanked the audience for coming out to the “Rock Against Bush” Tour. With the true purpose clearly outlined, Authority Zero kicked off a roaring set comprised of standard punk rhythms, interspersed with reggae jams like the single “One More Minute” and an odd, Irish-jig-like chanting that found lead singer Jason DeVore giving a clinic in breath control. The band’s energy did not go unnoticed. A steady throng of patrons sang along as DeVore frenetically jumped and raced around the stage.

What was most impressive about Authority Zero’s performance, though, was DeVore’s vocal variety, as he seamlessly transitioned from the standard punk rock “whoa whose” to a reggae decaying tone, then back into deep, full-bodied choruses. They were an impressive opener.

After a short video that touted a true spin on the war in Iraq, Alkaline Trio took the stage, complete with the band’s requisite dark instrumental opening and three-piece suits. The band (which, ironically enough, sported a touring guitarist, making it an Alkaline quartet) raced through its set unimpersonally, paying little attention to the crowd and only pausing to dedicate songs to people who were part of the tour. Perhaps the sound quality at the Rec Center was partially to blame — singer/guitarist Matt Skiba’s guitar was turned down so low that the octaves that the song “Private Eye” depends on were completely inaudible — but it just seemed like the band was not giving it all. Maybe my expectations were too high — many people had told me about how good Alkaline Trio was live — but I was disappointed by its lackluster set.

Up to this point in the show, there hadn’t been too much political rallying; neither Authority Zero nor Alkaline Trio commented on any foreign policy or national security matters, and I was wondering if the headline for this story was just going to read “Rock Against Bush?”

Then came Jello Biafra. After being introduced by Fat Mike, who commented that the people in attendance were, in fact, patriots because they were questioning the government’s actions, Jello Biafra launched into a spirited, intelligent rant about the Bush administration’s handling of various aspects of American life, from the war in Iraq and the war on drugs to abortion and education. Biafra made many valid, albeit slanted, points, and his speech added a much-needed frenzy to this “Rock Against Bush” idea. Most in attendance stood attentively and gave heartfelt applause.

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They were wrong.

True, NOFX took the stage playing an instrumental rendition of “Heart and Soul,” but next played “Murder the Government” (from 1997’s “So Long and Thanks for All the Shoes”), setting the tone for a night that found the band paving fun at not only the government but also themselves and their drinking habits. Technically, the band was on, mixing new songs with old favorites like “The Breeds” and “Stickin’ in My Eye.” For being old guys, Fat Mike and El Helc ran around like they were 18 again, engaging the crowd with the pointless banter that is synonymous with any NOFX concert.

But what was different about this NOFX show, compared to others in the past, was the political message. Fat Mike commented that Ralph Nader was running the presidential race, and he even went toe to toe with someone in the front of the audience who opposed gay marriage. “Who the f— are you to care what people do?” he asked the dissenter. Visibly disturbed by the opposing viewpoint, Fat Mike came back at the audience member after the next song.

Surprisingly, though, there was nary a “F— Bush” uttered the whole night. But maybe that was the point of the tour: rather than be inflammatory, perhaps NOFX’s purpose was to educate. Rather than give the government and the media more reason to look down on punk rock, the band was setting an example.

Mission accomplished.
The Health Services Fee provides students access to basic medical services without additional cost.

Over 11,000 students use the Health Center annually.

Cal Poly's Health Services Fee is the 7th lowest of the 23 CSU campuses. The $15 increase would bring the Health Services Fee up to the average for CSU campuses.

Vote YES on April 14th and 15th.

For details on what the budget cuts mean for the Health Center, go to:
http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/fees/index.html

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Think You Can Do Better?

We dare you to try.

MUSTANG DAILY is looking for a new Editor-in-Chief for the 2004-2005 school year.

Here's the deal:

- You must have two quarters of Mustang Daily experience.
- Submit a cover letter, resume, proposal and clips to Andie Cohen by April 16th.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Monday, April 12, 2004

‘Girl Next Door’ not the average teen movie fare

Stephanie Ikel

If there was one wish most high school boys could have made about their senior prom, it would have most likely been to take a porn star as their date.

As luck would have it, that is exactly what three seniors got to do in the movie "Girl Next Door." Without knowing much of the plot prior to seeing the movie (directed by Luke Greenfield), the beginning resembles a cheery mix of "Can't Hardly Wait," "The Wedding Singer," and "10." It is clear that this not-so-chick-flick does not quite fit the category of those films.

Matthew Kidman, played by Emile Hirsch, is the student body president who is on his way to Georgetown University. He is a "by-the-rules" type of guy, but he is tired of the status quo and needs someone to push him. Enter Danielle.

She is played by Elisha Cuthbert, who also played Mitch's boss' high school-aged daughter in "Old School." In this movie the pushes Matthew to live outside the box and become the adventurous and outrageous guy he is dying to be.

The plot is simple: When a boy meets a girl and the girl is pretty, sweet and makes him laugh, the boy wants to date her and start a relationship.

Simple becomes complicated when boy finds out that girl is a porn star. It turns out the girl next door is not just any girl next door.

Matthew's whole world is turned upside down when his sweet, innocent girl is really the girl who good buddy Eli has been watching on film doing some not-so-innocent moves.

Matthew is accompanied by two less-than-trendy buddies, who are there to give bad advice and push him down whenever they can. Everyone has that friend who says the most inappropriate things at the most inconvenient times — that is Eli.

Played by Seth Green, Marquette, Eli is not the voice of reason that Matthew needs, but without him the movie would lose half of the humor and half of the sex. Not that Eli is having the sex, but he talks like he does.

Klitz, the second friend, struggles with wanting to be a rebel and wanting to be sexy. He is the friend Matthew can count on even when older, intimidating porn producers threaten, beat up and try to destroy Matthew.

This movie has a lot of tricks up its sleeve. Many times the imagination of the characters lead the plot, which only adds to the laughter in the theater and the establishment of the rebellious side Matthew is striving for.

There are no deep moments or on-the-edge-of-your-seat scenes, but this film has more than amusing one-liners, minimal boredom and some creative twists. The movie is simply a comedy with some sweet moments, some entertaining antics and a good, nearly-climax ending. It is for anyone looking for a feel-good hour and a half filled with non-stop entertainment and some exaggerated reality scenes. But hey, what movie is not exaggerated?

‘Hellboy’ builds up, falls flat

Jason Cox

DAILY COLLEGE (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For every “X-Men,” there is a “Dareddevil,” and for every “Spider-Man,” there is a “Hellboy.”

This decade will be remembered as an era of comic-book flicks, but whether it will be positive or negative nostalgia is yet to be seen. These films have to be looked at in a case-by-case basis because of the immense range in quality the genre has seen in recent years. “Hellboy” certainly has more good elements than bad ones, but it’s a great example of how to avoid certain superhero clichés while simultaneously falling into others.

Adapted from the Dark Horse comic title, the “Hellboy” premise sounds a lot darker than it really is. A Nazi attempt to bring about the apocalypse on Earth by opening a portal to Hell is thwarted, but not before a baby demon comes through. Renewed by a secret government organization (think The “X-Files” meets “X-Men”), the demon is raised as a combatant of the world’s dark forces.

Hellboy’s strongest aspect is the title role’s character. Hellboy (played by Ron “I have Hollywood’s most oblong face” Perlman) has more personality than any superhero lead ever seen on film. Going against convention, Hellboy has a remarkable sense of humor, avoiding the brooding, introspective traps that befell many superhero heroes. He has fun saving the day, and the audience shares that through his naturally warty one-liners and jokes, even some moments touching on situational comedy.

The film’s last act, however, takes a sad nosedive as it nails many of the clichés it had done well to avoid up to that point. No less than three supporting characters disappear without any explanation or proper sendoff, and the final battle between good and evil is rather short and anticlimactic in scope, despite a long, special effects-laden buildup. For the sake of keeping the review spoiler-free, I won’t reveal the details of the last moment, but let me just say it was a trite and bland as Hellboy is red.
40 days and 40 nights: Why bother?

Commentary
A few months ago we told you how we feel about Lent, which is supposedly a time for self-examination and penitence through denial, has mainly turned into an excuse to test our will power. And for what? For the greater glory of God? Is it necessary to prove our devotion to a higher being via sacrificial candy and soda?

Giving up something for Lent is a lot like cheating. If you can't do it for a whole year, your conscience will settle for 40 days and 40 nights. Is this what we really come to, convincing ourselves that we succeeded in our own bodies?

What's next on our list of making ourselves feel better? Proving that "light" beer will actually help us lose weight? Believing that the Dolphun will really work, it all year long? Will there ever be an end to this madness, or are we stuck in a vicious cycle of self-denial?

Really, let's take a look at the integral piece of the Lent puzzle: the requisite giving up of meat on Fridays. Is this really that difficult? Don't anyone really say to themselves, "Man, I know it's gonna be tough, but this year I actually gonna stick it out and eat meat one day every week as a test to see how many of the other lame sacrifices like, "I'm not gonna watch The Simpsons for Lent" or "I'm gonna watch 'The Simpsons' for Lent" will succeed in outsmarting our own bodies?

Prejudicial 'ignorance' cannot be ignored
"Ew, immigrants" is not a passing comment. It is a gross assumption and a racist one. I won't go into the many years of people being treated as less than human (first it was the Irish and Eastern Europeans and now it's the Hispanics, South and Central Americans).

I am of a Mexican heritage but I was born and raised in this country. If I were standing next to a Canadian immigrant, I would have been the one to be told, "Ew, immigrant" or "Go back to where you came from."" You see, immigrants, but that does not make their behavior or comments excusable, and it is our responsibility as educated human beings to educate others.

If I allow someone to speak to me in such a manner, I am giving them permission to victimize me and to treat me as less than their equal. If I allow a person wearing a black face (white, black, homosexual, disabled etc...) to be discriminated against, I might as well be the one that condoned the offense.

If we all accepted people's "ignorance," there would be no change in attitudes. Guthrie, King, no, Reni Parks and segregation and beatings and lynchings would still exist. There would be no Cesar Chavez and field workers would still be working 12 hour shifts without breaks, bathroom or clean water while getting paid less than livable wages. There would be no dols of varying skin tones. There would be no Latinos, Blacks, Asians or Arabs on TV, in our classrooms, in executive positions or in politics. Women would not have the right to vote and would still be disallowed in the workplace or the military if we all sat back and tolerated racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination as simple ignorance.

So thank you MEMA for "crying for mercy." Organizations such as yours that stand up for equal rights are to be admired.

Cecilia Lopez is a business senior.

Letter had contradictory views toward voting
In response to Julian Corwin's letter ("Support for humor and political discussion") April 7) let me just say the Corwin criticizes Politcs writer John Hollis for expressing his concern over an uninformed 20-something voting population and chastises him for trying to prevent people from voting, while, in the same breath, he calls for a boycott of California should not vote because they are in the minority and have absolutely no chance of winning anyway.

It seems that someone who is suppos-
edly so concerned about ensuring that everyone's voice is heard would encourage people from every party, no matter how obscure, to vote in every election. His obvious bias incubates his entire argu-
ment, as does his claim that Republican vote for who is giving out food and not for the issues. Please, Mr. Corwin, develop more sound arguments in the future.

Greg Wilmot is an agricultural business sophomore.

Copyright laws are diluting art

Commentary
Annoyed at the fat content of Thin Mint cookies, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) recently sent a message to the Girl Scouts of America saying that the Scouts were on notice for violating copyright laws. Because downloadable savvy pre-teens and college students are not as sympathetic about copyright laws, ASCAP wants to persecute (I mean prosecute) the Girl Scouts for not paying royalties each time they sing "This Land is Your Land" and other campfire classics.

As if the FCC Janet Jackson-inspired restrictions weren't censoring media enough, now ASCAP is attempting to drastically reduce the public realm.

It is especially ironic that ASCAP would single you out when you are considered the "people." Written by Woody Guthrie in 1940, it is a song intended for the people of America. It is great, working-class (socialist) American, wrote his songs for the people of America. Guthrie seemed to address his future generation in his song "This Land is Your Land." The Girl Scouts were on notice for violating copyright laws, much to the chagrin of the Almanac Singers, who sang radical verses and playwrights borrow characters, but ASCAP is most concerned about copyright laws protected songs, books and other intellectual property for 14 years. If I composed a song today, L. and more importantly the record company, would hold its rights for the next 95 years.

I will likely be dead in 95 years, but the recording company owner's grandson will still be raking in the cash from my hit record. Meanwhile, the Girl Scouts, college a capella groups, church fundraising choirs and anyone else who could see a cent from the performance of my song would have to pay royalties.

Nothing creative comes ex nihilo. Musician borrow riffs, poets borrow verses and playwrights borrow characters. Erica Claption would be nowhere without Robert Johnson. William Shakespeare would be nowhere without Giraldo Cintio and Disney would be nowhere without the Brothers Grimm. Not only is the ASCAP push for a limited public realm shamelessly about money, it is also retrograde to the idea of creative activity.

A lawsuit against the Girl Scouts breathed new life into a campaign aimed at taking social sig-
nificance and meaning out of music. ASCAP would have a commodified entity that people would be afraid to involve themselves in. ASCAP does not approve, even though its estate grows by the second.

Matt Wootsey is a writer for the Vanderbilt Hustler at Vanderbilt University.

O P I N I O N
8 Monday, April 12, 2004

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The proposed increase of the Associated Students Inc. fee that supports athletic scholarships would not fund scholarship costs. Records prove that an increase was proposed to help reduce the number of academic faculty and staff positions which may be cut next year. Many students who participate in intercollegiate athletics have practiced their sport and sacrificed their time and social lives for most of their adolescence. Their successes should be considered as successes for the entire student body. They deserve a reward for the additional effort and time they dedicate and recognition they accrue for Cal Poly.

The proposed increase of the Associated Students Inc. fee that supports athletic scholarships would not be fair to a strong athletics program. Funds accrued from the 1991 vote did not fund scholarship costs. Records prove that students at Cal Poly have a history of supporting college athletics. Scholarship and recruitment programs have remained unchanged for 18 years, though the cost of living for Cal Poly athletes has increased.

Unfortunately, funding for more realistic scholarship and recruitment packages cannot be acquired without those funds. The proposed fee increase would equal an additional $90 per academic year after it was fully implemented in Fall 2006. For free admission into school sporting events, an avenue for media recognition, a boost to school morale and increased diversity on campus, this is a reasonable price for the student body to pay. Unfortunately, paying an extra $90 a year is the only alternative to losing significant funds made in the athletics program. Historically, Cal Poly has made a commitment to place high priority on intercollegiate athletics. Students can support their fellow classmates in pursuit of their athletic and academic dreams. All students who participate in intercollegiate athletics have practiced their sport and sacrificed their time and social lives for most of their adolescence. Their successes should be considered as successes for the entire student body. They deserve a reward for the additional effort and time they dedicate and recognition they accrue for Cal Poly.

Anastasia Kihlan is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Mustang Daily needs a color cartoonist.

The opinion section needs a splash of color. If you can reliably contribute a weekly color cartoon, bring a sample with your name, phone number and e-mail address to Laura in bldg. 26, room 226.

The Progressive Student Alliance and the Cal Poly Associated Students Club have run ads in Mustang Daily opposing the upcoming athletic fee referendum. The ad states that the university hasn't told students how much they already pay to support athletes. Yes, we already pay fees each quarter to support athletics and new technology. Conversely, the proposed athletic scholarship fee increase is not in the interest of the majority of students, who will see little or no positive impact.

The bottom line is this: When academic institutions face fiscal troubles, the first budget cuts should come from the athletic department. The vast majority of students come to Cal Poly to receive a quality education at a reasonable price; students are drawn here by the reputation of our sports teams. In Cal Poly's situation, it would be more beneficial for all students if a $30 fee increase was proposed to help reduce the number of academic faculty and staff positions which may be cut next year.

An argument has been made that Cal Poly will not be able recruit as many athletes without scholarship money. Many of the athletes at Cal Poly come from diverse backgrounds, and because of this many believe the overall diversity of the school would be further weakened. However, the same argument can be made from the opposing side. Increased student fees will make it harder to recruit students from lower-income families, a demographic that contains a disproportionate amount of ethnic minorities. For any student who is working to put themselves through school, an extra $30 a quarter can be a very big deal and should not be taken lightly, especially when undergraduate enrollment fees may increase by 10 percent next year while graduate students could see a 40 percent increase.

Cal Poly should make sure that anyone who is willing to work hard to finance their education can make it happen, regardless of their athletic abilities.

Although students currently only pay a fee of $4.13 for athletic scholarships, they do pay $46.20 each quarter toward the athletic programs. Over a four-year period, of the fees each student currently pays to attend Cal Poly, approximately $800 goes toward our school's athletics program. If another $30 fee was added, the total student would pay toward sports programs would reach nearly $1,300 over four years. Is the average student's athletic experience at Cal Poly worth $800? Probably not.

Worth $1,300? Not even close. While not denying that sports can be an important aspect of a student's college experience, even as a spectator, the current economic situation makes it necessary for us to choose between supporting athletics or preserving Cal Poly's value. Here the choice is clear. Vote no on the referendum.

Justin Poupov is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
Softball continued from page 12
fall 1-4 on the season.

Friday doubleheader split
Cal Poly rebounded from an opening loss to take the second game of a doubleheader against the Highlanders.

UC Riverside won the first game 9-5 in eight innings, but the Mustangs won the nightcap 4-1.
The first game took eight innings to decide the final outcome with UC Riverside scoring four unanswered runs in the extra inning to break a 5-5 tie.
Cal Poly opened the scoring with a pair of runs each in the first and second innings for a 4-0 lead.
UC Riverside responded with a pair of runs in the fourth and took the lead in the fifth with a three run rally. Cal Poly tied the game in the bottom half of the inning with a runscoring single.
The Highlander eighth-inning rally started with a Jennifer Thompson single to left field. She advanced to second on Shannon Peterson’s walk. Haley Marshall singled to shortstop, but when Jeana Gevas, at first, could not handle the throw, Thompson scored from second on.
A bunt single by Lee scored the second run. After a hit batter, Melissa Sanchez singled to drive in the final two runs.
UC Riverside collected 11 hits in the game, while the Mustangs managed to score five runs on eight hits and committed three errors.
Gevas was the only Mustang with more than one hit in the game.

Lisa Modgin (No. 11) discusses strategy with her teammates.

with a single and a double. Three Highlanders had two hits in the game: Yee, Thompson and Sanchez.
San Radebaugh picked up the win in relief for UC Riverside to improve to 1-3 for the year, while Cami Vanderbeek took the loss for the Mustangs to fall to 3-6.
In the second game, the Mustangs again got on the board first, scoring all four runs in the second inning off of UC Riverside starter Kimberly Dillon. The highlight for the Mustangs came on Sparrey’s two-run single.
Mustang starter Eva Nelson went the distance, limiting the Highlanders to just three hits and one run in her complete-game win. Nelson improved to 4-2 on the season.
The lone run allowed by Nelson came in the fourth inning on a solo home run left field by Sanchez.
Sparrey led all Mustangs with a pair of hits to go along with her complete-game win. Nelson added two runs scored with singles and single.

FILE PHOTO WEARING PIN

UC Riverside avenged a shotout in the bottom of the ninth as Louie Hernandez, with the bases loaded, grounded out to first base for an RBlf off reliever Nick McMillan and Matt Cunningham belted a three-run double to left-center field. Cunningham scored the final run on a wild pitch by Bad Norris.
Junior right-hander Jimmy Shull struck out a career-high eight and Herbert and Roberts both single tied three times to lead Cal Poly to a 9-3 victory over UC Riverside in the Big West Conference baseball opener for both teams Thursday night at the Riverside Sports Complex.
Shull (7-3) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings as the Mustangs won their seventh straight and improved to 29-12-1 on the year. UC Riverside fell to 20-14-1.
The Mustangs scored four runs in the first inning, taking a 5-2 lead. Herbert and Roberts both singled with singles.

CORRECTION

Advisory Student Fee REFERENDUM

April 14th and 15th

Inadvertently, the Mustang Daily incorrectly reported that the ASI Athletics Scholarship fee would increase $5 per quarter and that the combined fee increases would total $120 for next year and $5 more in each of the next two years. The quarter increase if both the ASI Athletic Scholarship fee and Health Services fee referenda pass is approved by the President would be $35 per quarter next year. Below is a summary of key facts. More detailed facts can be found at http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/fee/index.html.

Health Services Fee

• Initially established through student fee referendum in 1993 at $28 per quarter
• Beginning Fall Quarter 2003, inflation adjustments added to fee annually based on HEP
• Current Health Services fee is $31.23 per quarter
• Fee increase is being proposed in order to maintain the current level of services being provided

ASI Athletic Scholarship Fee

• Initially established through student fee referendum in 1986 at $4 per quarter
• Beginning Fall Quarter 2004, inflation adjustments added to fee annually based on HEP
• Current ASI Athletic Scholarship fee is $4.15 per quarter
• Proposing to increase fee by $15 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2004
• Current ASI Athletic Scholarship fee is $4.15 per quarter
• Proposing to increase fee by $20 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2004
• Additional $5 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2005, and an additional $5 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2006
• Fee increase is being proposed in order to maintain a broad based Athletic program

Baseball continued from page 12

grounder was mishandled by UC Riverside second baseman Scott Powis for an error, allowing Blumenthal to score. But Mayo was thrown out at first on a strong throw by Highlander right fielder Aaron Grant.
Leavitt grounded out to second base to end the game.
Robson singled three times and was the lone Mustang with more than one hit. It was his 97th mulitiple-hit game this season and the seventh three-hit performance.
Festa had three hits and two RBIs for UC Riverside, which outhit Cal Poly 10-5. Barrett, Brett Bigler and Aaron Grant each had two hits for the Highlanders.
The loss went to Mustang junior right-hander Dennis LeDie, his first loss as a collegiate. He was 11-0 as a freshman at Cuesta College and 7-0 in seasons at Cal Poly.

UC Riverside collected 11 hits in the game, while the Mustangs managed to score five runs on eight hits and committed three errors.
Gevas was the only Mustang with more than one hit in the game.

70 of which were strikes, to get his seventh win in 10 decisions. Olson retired the Highlanders in four time.
Cal Poly added in final run in the eighth inning as Lewat drew a walk, scoring singles and pinch hitter II J Owen singled into right-center field, scoring Lewat for a 9-4 lead.
For the third straight game, Herbert collected three hits to lead the Mustangs. Sophomores Roberts, Mayo and Blumenthal each had a pair of hits.
UC Riverside avenged a shotout in the bottom of the ninth as Louie Hernandez, with the bases loaded, grounded out to first base for an RBlf off reliever Nick McMillan and Matt Cunningham belted a three-run double to left-center field. Cunningham scored the final run on a wild pitch by Bad Norris.
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The Mustangs scored four runs in the first inning, taking a 5-2 lead. Herbert and Roberts both singled with singles. Blumenthal and Josh Mayo opened scored three runs with singles and Bret Berglund doubled to left-center field, scoring two. Herbert's single through the left side of the infielded scored Berglund.
The Mustangs added a run in the seventh on Tallion's single up the middle and the game ended after a three-run eighth. Chalon Tietje singled in one run, again got on the board first, scoring all four runs in the second inning off of UC Riverside starter Kimmerly Dillon. The highlight for the Mustangs came on Sparrey’s two-run single.
Mustang starter Eva Nelson went the distance, limiting the Highlanders to just three hits and one run in her complete-game win. Nelson improved to 4-2 on the season.
The lone run allowed by Nelson came in the fourth inning on a solo home run left field by Sanchez.
Sparrey led all Mustangs with a pair of hits to go along with her complete-game win. Nelson added two runs scored with singles and single.

In the win Cal Poly scored four runs on seven hits and committed two errors while UC Riverside scored one run on three hits without an error.

THE THRILL of ROCK CLIMBING!

FREE Climbing every Tuesday!

Spring Quarter unlimited climbing pass on sale for $20

Is your club looking for a fun recruitment activity? Group booking rates are available for all Cal Poly Clubs.
Every Wednesday night is Women’s climbing Night. Learn to climb in a safe environment, 5-7 pm.
Free instruction from Cal Poly’s expert climbers.
For more information about the climbing wall contact 756-5388.

ROI Referendum I

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Baseball wins first conference series

SECOND DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly started Big West Conference play with two wins, but couldn’t hang on long enough to sweep their opening series against UC Riverside.

Highlander right-hander John Martorbe allowed just seven hits in 8 1/3 innings as UC Riverside won the first game of its series against the Mustangs, defeating Cal Poly 5-4 Saturday afternoon at the Riverside Sports Complex.

Martorbe struck out three and did not allow a walk as the Highlanders improved to 21-15 on the season and 1-2 in the Big West. Cal Poly, which had an eight-game winning streak snapped, fell to 30-13-1 and 1-2 in the Big West Conference.

Cal Poly won the first two games of the series by 9-3 and 9-5 scores and scored single runs in the first two innings for a 2-0 lead.

UC Riverside extended its lead to 5-2 in the fourth as Feta picked up his second RBI with a single. Cal Poly cut into the Highlanders’ lead with a run in the sixth as Roberts singled, stole second, moved to third on a fly ball to the outfield and scored on a wild pitch.

The Mustangs had a leadoff single in the eighth but did not capitalize. Kyle Blumenfeld singled to open the ninth and Josh Mary singled to put runners at first and third with one out. Bret Berglund’s hard single up the middle to take the early 1-0 lead.

Cal Poly answered back in the third inning when Lisa Modglin reached first on a fielding error by Highlanders’ shortstop Shannon Peterson. Modglin took second after Gerbie-Jones was hit by a pitch by UC Riverside pitcher Sara Radabaugh. Roni Sparrey flew out to right field and advanced Modglin to third. Amy Jo Nazarenus singled to center field and scored Modglin to tie the score at 1-1.

In the fourth inning, Kristi Alvers led off for the Mustangs with a single to the left side. Kelly Comstock came in to pinch run for Alvers and stole second. With two outs, Lisa Modglin hit a double down the left-field line to score Comstock and take the lead, 2-1.

Freshman Ersely Hively picked up the win for the Mustangs. She improved to 5-10 on the season by limiting the Highlanders to four hits and one unearned run in seven innings. She also walked only one batter and struck out two Highlanders in the game.

Sara Radabaugh took the loss for UC Riverside when she allowed five hits and two runs, one earned. She

see Softball, page 11

Softball wins two of three against UCR

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly softball team defeated UC Riverside 2-1 on Saturday in a Big West Conference game at Bob Jansen Field.

With the win the Mustangs improved to 14-21 overall and 2-4 in conference, while the Highlanders fell to 11-34 overall and 1-5 in the Big West.

The win allowed the Mustangs to win the series after being swept in their previous conference series versus Pacific last week.

UC Riverside was first on the board Saturday with a run by Shannon Peterson in the second inning.

With two outs, Peterson walked and advanced to second on Angelina Castellaros’ base hit. Peterson moved to third when Hailey Marshall reached on a fielding error by shortstop Jackie Gerbie-Jones.

Jamiyee scored Peterson with a single up the middle to take the early 1-0 lead.

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see Softball, page 11

CAL POLY TRACK

Cross-over appeal: Distance runners making big impact

Anastasia Kilham

The success of the men’s cross country team in the fall is carrying over to this spring’s track team.

Four to five of the distance runners have a good shot at making it to nationals, said senior cross country and track runner Sean Ricketts.

Ricketts is one of a group of four distance runners who have started on both squads after coming to Cal Poly from San Diego Mesa Junior College — Ricketts, Ryan Moorcroft, Ben Bruce and Blake Swier. Luke Llamas, Matt Johnsrud and Mario Macias are other runners to make the cross over from cross country to track.

Last year, Bruce was fourth in the 10,000 and Moorcroft ran the third-best time in school history in the 5,000. Ricketts also placed second in the 1,500. Finally, Llamas finished ninth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Cal Poly cross country runners have had a big impact on the track team this season.

see Track, page 11

SCORES

Softball (2) vs. UC Riverside (1)

Poly — winning pitcher

Baseball (4) vs. UC Riverside (5)

Cal Poly — nighttime winning single stopped

Baseball (9) vs. UC Riverside (5)

Garrett Olson — 10 Ks

Softball (4) vs. UC Riverside (1)

Roni Sparrey — two hits, two RBIs

Baseball (9) vs. UC Riverside (3)

Jeremy Shult — eight Ks

M Golf @ Wyoming Cowboy Classic

M Tennis vs. UCSB

M Tennis vs. NAU

M Golf vs. NAU

M Tennis vs. NAU

Tennis vs. NAU

Thursday, April 12, 2004

SPORTS

Today’s Question

How many majors did Phil Mickelson play in before winning Sunday’s Masters?

Yesterday’s answer: 9. Printed the same sentence forward.

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