For the Peace Corps, achievement comes with great sacrifice

From Armenia to Bangladesh, Cal Poly students and recent graduates share the benefits and drawbacks of enlisting

Caitlin Donnell
MUSTANG DAILY

This is the second installment of a three-part series about the Peace Corps. It examines the experiences of Cal Poly students and faculty who have been involved with the Peace Corps.

Shannon Alberta Maloney is a current Peace Corps volunteer serving in Bangladesh. She graduated from Cal Poly in June 2002 with a major in applied art and design and a concentration in photography.

Maloney has been in Bangladesh for 18 months as a Youth and Community Development officer which has her working as an English teacher at the Bangladesh Department of Youth Development.

"My experience with the Peace Corps has been overall very positive," Maloney said. "Peace Corps is the greatest challenge that I have ever faced and I know that they will be faced with many cross-cultural differences, but I was not prepared for the shock of living in Bangladesh." Although working for the Peace Corps has been demanding, Maloney said the opportunity to live in a new culture, learn a new language and have the support of the Peace Corps through training and medical services has been incredible.

"It has been a challenge that many times, I have thought about quitting, but I continue for my students and for the people that I have become friends with," Maloney said. "This experience has also changed my life in the fact that I met my husband in Bangladesh, he is a fellow Peace Corps volunteer that I met during our training."

Unlike other volunteer activities, the Peace Corps is a two-year commitment, which students must be sure they can fulfill before volunteering. Richard LeRoy volunteered in the Peace Corps in Armenia. LeRoy now works at Cal Poly as the Pacific Programs Director with International Education and Programs.

University before going to Armenia. He then entered Cal Poly's graduate education program in counseling and guidance. LeRoy said the Peace Corps is a two-year commitment, which students must be sure they can fulfill before volunteering.

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"Two years seems like a heck of a long time, but looking back now, for me, that two years was a blink of an eye," LeRoy said. "After the training I felt like I could survive, after a year I felt like I could be effective."
Volunteers continued from page 1

LeRoy went to Mexico to do service trips when he was a freshman in college and said that he loved the experience of helping people. Having never traveled before, joining the Peace Corps was an altruistic kind of idea, he said.

"It was challenging going to a developing country," LeRoy said. "It was such a physical side of not having hot water or the cold weather, it was getting used to a different culture and learning about their intricacies and trying to be adaptable."

LeRoy volunteered in a small town with about 25,000 people inhabiting an area about the size of Cal Poly's campus. He taught English, had an after school English club and an English resource center where he was able to help three students earn scholarships to come to the United States during their junior year of high school.

Some of his best experiences and memories from the Peace Corps are from the relationships he made with the people of Armenia.

LeRoy said that Armenia was a hard place to be, not exotic like some of the other countries, but where a lot of people were facing a very hard life.

"I was very fortunate enough to meet and become friends with some of the most amazing people I've met in my life. Even though there were many people who were complaining about their hard life and who were down and difficult to be around, I was able to befriended some people who were really survivors, who had beautiful spirits, and they were hopeful and progressive and believed in the changes that are happening in their country and the education for their children," LeRoy said. "To form friendships with them meant a lot to me and it was like an oasis to me in that a lot of my experiences were challenging but then I had these little treasurers."

LeRoy said that when he was a recruiter at Cal Poly in 1999, he would tell interested students that the Peace Corps was an incredible opportunity. To open your eyes to a new way of thinking, learn about a culture and share yourself is something most people do not get to experience.

Overweight continued from page 2

"There is one supermarket serving 25,000 residents, these people don't have cars and they can't take a grocery cart onto a bus," he said. "There is one supermarket to 36 convenience/liquor stores and only three of which have fresh produce to provide a balanced meal."

The percentages for overweight children and minorities, especially African Americans and Latins in low-income communities, are rapidly increasing. He said that fast-food chains are the culprits with lates that people, especially kids, cannot resist.

"Kids love 190 ads for food every day," Terry said. "I ask, what do these things have in common? Sugar, Fast food, Junk food. None of these ads promote healthy food."

He also discussed peer pressure to eat unhealthy fast food. Coca-Cola and chain restaurants like McDonald's are identifiably "American." Immigrants that come into the United States want to fit in, and therefore they consume these products regardless of health effects.

When McDonalds infiltrated Japan there was this dramatic increase in obesity and skin problems," he said. The Japanese were accustomed to eating whole nutritious foods. When these fatty, processed foods are consumed on a regular basis, the outcome is always detrimental.

Diet-related diseases and health problems due to fast food are apparent, especially in the United States. Roughly one in four Americans will eat fast food on any given day.

Terry is working hard to counteract the influence of fast-food chain propaganda.

"I want to teach kids that food comes from the ground, not wrapped up in plastic."

His goal is to "create social change" starting with healthy eating habits.

Calendar continued from page 6

and technology. He is an Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker who has made more than 40 films on social, political and historical issues as well as worldwide human rights.

What: Student recital. Cal Poly instrumental students will perform in recital. The performance is free and the public is invited.

When: Today, 7 p.m.

Where: Bldg. 52, Room 805

More Info: Call Shannon Pinto at (661) 716-1163

What: Cal Poly's theatre and dance department will stage William Shakespeare's best-known tragedy, "Macbeth."

When: Today, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m.

Where: Spanos Theatre

More Info: Call Josh Machamer at 756-5560

What: Student recital. Cal Poly instrumental students will perform in recital. The performance is free and the public is invited.

When: Today, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: H.P. Davidson music building, Room 218

More Info: Call the music department at 756-2406

What: Cal Poly's theatre and dance department will stage William Shakespeare's best-known tragedy, "Macbeth."

When: Today, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m.

Where: Spanos Theatre

More Info: Call Josh Machamer at 756-5560

What: Hearst Lecture Series. "Women in Architecture + Design,2" continues with award-winning architect and professor Mary-Ann Ray of Studio/Works. She will lecture on her work with Robert Mangurian. Studio/Works has also received multiple AIA awards and recognition.

When: Friday, 4 p.m.

Where: Bldg. 3, Room 213

More Info: Call the CAED office at 756-1131

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STATE NEWS

RIVERSIDE — A Riverside County judge agreed Wednesday to let a former smoker sue Philip Morris USA, meaning a jury could hear the case as early as next week, the man's lawyer said.

Bruce Codidge, 53, a former truck driver who began smoking Marlboro cigarettes when he was 12, filed suit against the Richmond, Va.-based tobacco giant in July 2001 after he was treated for small cell lung cancer. Codidge is seeking to recover more than $1 million in medical costs, as well as damages for pain and suffering. If he wins, he will seek punitive damages in a subsequent phase of the case, his attorney Timothy Princo said.

SANTA MARIA — Jay Leno has been subpoenaed for Michael Jackson's child molestation trial and he wants the judge to lift or limit the gag order on participants because it's his job to comment on such matters.

Lawyers for the star of NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" made the request in a motion filed to Santa Barbara County Superior Court on Feb. 18 and released by the court on Wednesday.

Applying the gag order to Leno would be prior restraint in violation of the First Amendment and the California Constitution, the motion said.

HALF MOON BAY — The vicious Northern California surf break called Mavericks played host to the world's best big-wave surfers who were called to the once-secret surf spot by contest organizers just a day before the event.

WASHINGTON — With demonstrators shouting religious slogans outside, Supreme Court justices questioned, argued and fretted Wednesday over whether Kansas should let a former smoker sue Philip Morris USA, meaning a jury could hear the case as early as next week, the man's lawyer said.

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At the same time, GOP lawmakers will propose cutting about $2 billion from the State Department and foreign aid portion of the measure, including some Afghan reconstruction aid, a congressional aide familiar with the emerging bill said.

The measure also includes disaster-relief aid for Indian Ocean countries hit by last December's tsunami and other foreign expenses.

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Academics, artists, others back file-sharing firms before court

Alex Voigt

Los Angeles — Some of the nation's leading computer scientists and musical copyrights, including with file-sharing companies against the music and movie industries. They were joined by tech firms and consumer groups, among others, in urging the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to side with two online file-sharing firms in their high-stakes battle with Hollywood and the recording industry.

The tech firms and others argue that a court victory by the entertainment companies would chill technological progress in the technology sector.

The recording companies and movie studios are appealing to the high court to reverse lower court decisions that absolved Grokster Inc. and StreamCast Networks, which distributes the Morpheus file-sharing software, of responsibility when their customers illegally swap songs and movies.

The justices are scheduled to hear arguments in the case March 29.

In brief filed Tuesday, Grokster, StreamCast and their supporters urged the court not to reinstate the legal defense established in the 1984 Sony Betamax case. At the time, the court ruled that Sony's video recorder was legal because it had legitimate uses apart from making unauthorized copies of movies and television shows.

"A rule like this will make it almost impossible for anyone to innovate or create new products unless they have the blessing of the copyright holders," said Grokster attorney Michael Page during a conference call with reporters Tuesday. "And when the copyright holders also control the distribution systems, that blessing will not be forthcoming."

A group of 17 computer science and engineering professors at nine universities, including Harold Abelson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Edward W. Felten of Princeton and David J. Farber of Carnegie Mellon, stressed in their brief that if the court sided with the entertainment companies it could chill technological progress in computers and the Internet.

"If this court should announce a more restrictive rule, those who create are the latest advances in technology will halt or significantly scale back their work, for fear of massive copyright infringement damages," the professors' brief states.

Four companies and public-interest groups also weighed in, arguing that any steps to change the Betamax doctrine would give Hollywood and other copyright owners the power to control information technology that ultimately could benefit consumers.

Giving to colleges inches up

By Jennifer Lancaster

Eagles bandmember Don Henley testifies on Capitol Hill, Jan. 30, 2003 before a Senate hearing on what would slow consolidation in the music and record industry.

WASHINGTON — After two years without growth, charitable contributions to U.S. colleges and universities rose 3.4 percent last year to a record $24.4 billion, according to a report released Wednesday.

The increase was driven by a 9.7 percent increase in giving from individual donors, including a 25.3 percent surge in giving by non-alumni individuals. That offered a 6.1 percent decline in giving by foundations.

Among alumni, total giving rose slightly, but the percentage of alumni donating fell, as it has every year since 2001.

Harvard University led the list by raising $540 million, according to the latest annual survey by the Council for Aid to Education, a unit of the RAND Corporation.

UCLA, 11th overall, raised the most of any public university, $262 million.

Alumni donations last year accounted for 28 percent of university giving, non-alumni individuals 21 percent, corporations 18 percent and foundations 25 percent. Foundations generally ramp giving more slowly than individuals when the economy recovers, as it has in the last two years.

The overall increase was contributed by religious and other organizations. Giving by parents of alumni remains strong.

Though the increase in overall contributions barely outpaced inflation, survey director Ann Kaplan of the ACE called the results "not too bad," considering the decline in foundation grants, which she expects to turn around.

The overall increase followed a zero growth in 2003 and a decline in 2002. Kaplan credited a stronger economy and more effective fund-raising.

"Fund-raising behavior has a strong effect," she said. "The No. 1 reason people make giving is being asked. Without that, the economy's not going to have much of an effect on giving." Perhaps the best news for colleges and universities was the 21.5 percent increase in gifts from non-alumni donors, often parents of alumni, community members or donors who want to back specific research. The increase suggests schools are succeeding in expanding their donor pools.

The Seeking Christian

Our Life in the Organism of the Christ

The book of First John is extraordinary. It is far outside the natural realm. It is written from within the body of Christ. John has not put his life as an individual Christian but as a member of the organic, corporate Christ. This organism is Christ Jesus who is both the head and the body.

The Christian life was never intended to be an individual life but a life lived as an organic member of the body of Christ. You were born into this organic Christ when you believed in Jesus. It is a life where each member's life is a part of every other member's life. It is where your life is mine and my life is yours. Your sin is mine and mine yours. Your joy mine and mine your. Your victory or defeat is mine. It is the you-life. Paul says it. You are members one of another.

So when John talks about fellowship in the first chapter, he is talking about this organic entity of God and man, Christ and His body. The Greek word fellowship (koinonia) literally means "common being"! So he says that "our common being is with the Lord Himself reveals that not only is He head but also the body. This is also clearly revealed in 1 Cor. 12:12 (For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and yet all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is the Christ.)

John's desire, which is the Father's desire, is that all those whom He has called would also live in this reality. The genuine Christians were not called to live in a worldly, religious system. Nor were they saved to live an individual Christian life struggling to rise up to a standard that would please God.

They were designed to live in a free flowing life that elevated them above any kind of effort and simply bore them along. God intends and still intends to do it all. Jesus Christ was appointed and is the anointed One to accomplish everything God intended in every Christian. Any kind of effort to achieve is not acceptable in the Old Testament were not allowed to wear wool because it caused sweat. Only linen was acceptable clothing for priests.

As the New Testament priests, we too must not "wear wool." We are not to be perfected by the fleshly effort but by the free flowing Spirit in the body. (Gal. 3:1) It is the free supply of the eternal life which flows as a life-stream in the body that does it all.

But just like the blood in our physical bodies gives us life, the moment any member is cut off, it dies and decays. Since the Lord says through Paul that this organic Christ is the head and the body, the moment we are separated from the reality of the flowing Spirit in the body, we too die. Only in the organic Christ are we able to go on living, growing and being built up. Only there will we truly know God.

First John begins by showing John's desire that what he has seen and heard and his eyes have gazed upon and even his hands have handled, concerning the Word of life are His glory.

It is not a matter of behavior but a matter of being. Christ is the organic divine life in every Christian. Any kind of effort is not acceptable in the Old Testament. Even the priests in the Old Testament were not allowed to wear wool because it caused sweat. Only linen was acceptable clothing for priests.

For Bible study information call 441-7065 | www.SeekingChristian.blogspot.com
Blacks, Hispanics more likely to be searched at traffic stops

Texas racial profiling study finds minority motorists are subject to a higher rate of random consent searches

Kelley Shannon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Two out of three Texas law enforcement agencies searched black and Hispanic drivers at higher rates than white motorists at traffic stops in 2003, according to a racial profiling study released last week.

When searched, however, white motorists were at least as likely as blacks or Hispanics to be found with illegal items such as drugs or weapons, the report found.

The data were compiled from information more than 1,000 Texas law enforcement departments were required to record under state law. Most of the agencies responded to public information requests for the study.

The findings show large disparities between minority and white motorists who were stopped and searched, said Scott Henson, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. "Now the question becomes: Why is that?" he said.

James McLaughlin Jr., executive director of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, said he hadn't seen the study, but that the findings didn't sound new.

"It's a replay of the reports that were put out a year or so ago," he said.

Such studies are generally flawed, he said, because they don't take into account factors such as the time of day a stop is made, the part of town and other variables.

"Does racial profiling occur? Yes, I'm sure it does and that's sad. Do I think it occurs to a great extent? No, I do not," he said.

The study's recommendations include adopting uniform reporting standards for racial profiling data, requiring extra data to be collected by police agencies, and establishing an independent statewide repository for reports.

The report also recommended banning consent searches — when an officer seeks a motorist's permission to do a search to look for illegal items, even if there is no probable cause. The study found three out of five Texas police agencies were more likely to ask blacks and Latinos than whites for a consent search.

The report conducted by Steward Research Group was commissioned by the ACLU of Texas, NAACP Texas, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition and the state chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"This report confirms what community members have long suspected — that there was racial profiling in Texas," said Ana Yanez Correa, spokeswoman for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

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But the lack of a network, a system, then we don't know what's here and we can't respond," Cholick said.

"These formula grants are the glue that holds the system together," Bob Steele, dean of the agriculture college at Pennsylvania State University, said. "We lose the network."

Moser and about 120 other school officials and agriculture research support staff had expected to receive Competitive Grants over the next five years. But the cuts would destroy a network of research collaboration that allows states to work together to thwart agriculture diseases and develop better practices.

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Stewart: Out of jail and back to the kitchen

April Vitello
special to The News

ALDERSON, W. Va. — From scrubbing floors to taking leaves, Martha Stewart spent the past five months performing the sort of tasks ordinarily done by the landed help.

She also foraged for dandelions and other wild greens, concocted recipes in a microwave, even ate from the vending machines, heaven forbid.

That could all come to an end early as Friday, when the foremost authority on gracious living gets out of prison in time for the spring gardening season.

Instead of working for pennies a day at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp, Stewart will once again collect her $9.00-an-hour salary while serving five more months of home confinement in her Bethesda, N.Y., estate for her part in the Biltmore estate theft.

Margaret Roach, editor in chief of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, tells The News that Stewart has passed the time in prison much as she does at home.

"The terms were just reditied," Roach said. "She's made visits around the prison grounds with daughter Alexis and a tight group also with fellow inmates. "Crafts" became something, creating a ceramic Nativity scene and taking part in a Christmas decorating contest.

During her stay at the women's prison in the Appalachian hills near 300 miles from Washington, Stewart was on maintenance duty, scrubbing floors and stacking shelves. Some inmates complained to the tabloids that she was given a cushy job, cleaning the 63-year-old Stewart was spared stoop-dwelling duty.

Some of the tabloids said Stewart skirted the rules behind bars, stealing crabapples from trees and taking eggs from the dining hall to make egg salad in her room. Some inmates even took to calling her the Contraband Queen for allegedly hoarding items off-limits to prisoners in their rooms. (Her lawyer David Chernoff said she had not heard such allegations.)

By many accounts, prison workers found her to be a pleasant inmate. She even posed for pictures with fellow inmates' families.

"So what if she lost the decorating contest or took some condiments?" she said. "I think people are looking for dirty laundry."

TV producer Mark Burnett, who is working on a new show with Stewart, said recently on "Oprah": "She hasn't complained once about being in jail. The afternoon I was there, she was going to get a job cleaning the floor waxing machine. Imagine that job bars Martha didn't complain. She said, 'Gimme some parfum, turpentine and a wire brush and I'll get right to it!'"

The celebrity homemaker also showed a softer side, writing about the suffering of one of the 1,100 other inmates. "Many of them have been here for years — devoid of care, devoid of love, devoid of family," she said, urging people to press for reforms in the sentencing guidelines for non-violent first-time offenders.

Alderson resident Neta Rose said she is interested to hear what Stewart has to say about mandatory sentencing. "I really feel she will open a dialogue into this, which is a long-time coming," Rose said.

Stewart entered prison on Oct. 6 as federal inmate No. 53769-H. Among her visitors were Barbara Walters.

Stewart posted a few letters on her Web site, www.marthastewart.com, thanking fans "again and again, for your support and encouragement.

Her last posting was at Christmas: "I am fine and looking forward to being home, getting back to my valuable work, to creating, cooking and making television."

Martha Stewart attends the CFDA Fashion Awards at the New York Public Library, June 7, 2004.

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Division Day's SLO debut

Los Angeles-based Division Day played the Dwelling last week and filled the place with spontaneous rock off of its album, "The Mean Way In." The album was recorded at Tiny Telephone Studios in San Francisco.

Nick Coury

The show ended with frontman Rohner Segnitz falling into the album set. Division Day, a rock quartet from Los Angeles, introduced themselves to San Luis Obispo Friday night at the Dwelling. Its set was beautifully out of sync, making up song titles on the spot and loud bursts of controlled noise with Rohner Segnitz hitting drum cymbals with his hands.

The band, who took its from an Elliott Smith song, consists of Segnitz (vocals and keyboards), Ryan Wilson on guitar, Seb Bailey who plays bass and auxiliary guitar and drummer Kevin Leshart.

Three of them met at Los Gatos High School, and added Wilson when he and Leshart reunited together at UCLA.

Its latest music effort, "The Mean Way In," is a six-song record full of haunting melodies and imaginative lyrics. It was recorded and produced at Tiny Telephone Studios in San Francisco with friend and producer/engineer Alex Ouna. The album consists of mixed abstract allegories and metaphors.

"I've always written in terms of imagery," said Segnitz. "This record was made during a period of intense struggle. For me, that context colors its contents more than any one factor. It's about the transition into adulthood." There is complex simplicity to the art of music. The band makes use of a highly underappreciated instrument, the electric piano. Segnitz uses it to further the atmospheric quality of the music.

The simplicity on the album is also heard in the style of Wilson's guitar. "Mick Jones, of the Clash, was a big influence on my guitar playing growing up. He played a lot on one string, really minimally, but he knows how to place guitar riffs," Wilson said. "I think that's sort of what the guitar on "The Mean Way In" does," is just there to help the song do what it needs to do to be a good song and nothing more."

Aside from its own instruments, Division Day adds sounds from relatively anywhere, even from television. "There's a melody during the keyboard part in Bad Black Moon, (they are chamberlain strings on the record), that's lifted straight from the "Twin Peaks" soundtrack."

With funk-style drums and several flowing melodies, "The Mean Way In" is a good listen for fans of any genre. Division Day plans on releasing a five-song record toward the end of spring.
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- Creekside views
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- New media room with digital surround sound
Like Lewis and Clark before us, our trip would prove to be the adventure of a lifetime
By Devin Kingdon

I went to an Ashlee Simpson concert, OK? There, I said it. Many that are reading this story are already feeling sick to their musically-snobbish stomachs and are probably turning to the next page. But for those of you that stick around, I will explain just how brilliant the "Ashlee Experience" was.

From the initial planning stages, to the ticket purchase, to the drive to Los Angeles and the thousands of little girls in braces, "Ashlee Simpson Live In Concert" was an event we will not soon forget.

Our slightly sick love for Ashlee was born back in the summer of 2004. The "Ashlee Simpson Show" filled those lazy summer days with images of Ashlee not knowing how to clean the kitchen, making out with Ryan Cabrera and her debut album, "Autobiography," opening at No. 1 on the Billboard Charts. But our true love for her didn't blossom until we first heard "Lala." After drinking a 40 or two of Old English, we'd proceed to "lala" on the kitchen floor, kicking and screaming, wishing we were the ones throwing her "like a lineman."

We masked our obsession for Ashlee with bands such as the Killers, Arcade Fire, the Futureheads and Phoenix, but we followed Ashlee closely from the shadows. We secretly hoped she would make it through the Saturday Night Live backing-track fiasco and we silently cursed the thousands of football fans who booed her half-time show during the Orange Bowl — granted, she did sound terrible, but that's inconsequential. We enjoy Ashlee for her semi-hot looks and slightly large nose. We like her silly personality and her "pseudo-punk" hair and attitude, not because of her vocal abilities.

The idea of going to see Ashlee was born in early January. While looking at Ticketmaster's Web site for Franz Ferdinand tickets, I saw that our favorite dark-haired pixie was hitting the road, probably as part of a PR campaign to salvage her tarnished image. I called around and quite a few friends were interested. We didn't want to go just to hear her sing, we wanted to go for the pure joy of saying we went.

The final crew consisted of business senior Darren Key, history senior Nate Hamm, political science senior Bryan Esterly and UC San Diego senior Greg "Bilbo" Tolan, known for his hobbit-like good looks and tremendous "lala-ing" skills.

As I returned to Ticketmaster's Web site, I hesitantly typed in my credit card number, feelings of anticipation and guilt rushing through my fingers as I entered each of the 16 digits. As the confirmation appeared on the screen, I let out a deep breath; I was going to an Ashlee Simpson concert.

see Ashlee, page 9
In the weeks leading up to the concert, every Friday night at 9:30, while at a pre-party, party or bar, we'd look at each other and say, "In exactly two weeks, we will be..."

"People would ask what I was up to this coming weekend and I would simply answer, "I'm going to an Ashlee Simpson concert." Everyone thought I was joking—until they saw the tickets.

Most reacted negatively, they couldn't believe we would spend money on someone like Ashlee. I got a couple, "Wow, I hate you right now." And a few, "You are—f*ck ridiculous." Girls were jealous, and others reacted with only slight bemusement.

However, regardless of their reactions, they all wanted a phone call during the show, most of which even had specific songs they wanted to be called during. For example, a civil engineering senior, Woody, wanted to be called during "Lala" and history senior Jessica, while her friend called during "Autobiography" or "Pieces of Me." (They both got their wishes.)

Next on our agenda were custom T-shirts for the show. Seeing as we would need one, only twenty-something-mates made us escorting girlfriends to the concert and agreeing to pick out like-them thumbs over the minions of small children, why not do it in style?

We bought iron-on-paper from Staples the day of the concert and brainstormed various two and double entendres based on her song titles for the shirts. Five were finally decided on. Mine read, "Ashlee wants a 'Piece of You.'" Kentucky's read, "I am your 'Shadow,'" Esterly's said, "ashlee is my homestuck," Hammy's said, "Ashlee, be a part of my 'Autobiography'" and Bibbo's read, "You make me want to 'Lala.'"

That done, we loaded up the car and drove down to Universal CityWalk, Haunting our Ashlee T-shirt stalls. Some screams of excitement from the group of 13-year-olds in front of us

...and with Ashlee ever occurred, we did at least that for "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Although they're friends, Winfrey said she was "a little nervous" about asking Halle Berry to star in the film—which gets, Sunday on ABC (9 p.m. EST)—because she had won an Oscar for "Monster's Ball?"

"I don't know what happens to you once you win an Academy Award,?" Winfrey told reporters recently, according to AP Radio. "I didn't know whether she was going to be, like, 'Now I have an Oscar, I'm sorry. I cannot talk to you!' No, she's too sweet to do that. But I didn't know whether or not she would decide to do television.

Winfrey, who frequently champions books on her daytime talk show, produced the TV movie adaptation of the novel by Zora Neale Hurston.

"My grandmother taught me to read, and the information that I received in books allowed me to see everyday age that there was a life beyond my front porch,? she said.

...ALICE SPRINGS, Australia—Oprah Winfrey stunned her conga­lations to Prince Charles on his upcoming marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles.

Charles was in Alice Springs Wednesday during a five-day tour of Australia that has been overshadowed by scrutiny of his wedding to Parker Bowles, which has fazed some observers because the couple's romance began before Princess Diana died.

Osbourne weighed in on the issue while she was host of the first MTV Australia Video Music Awards, calling Charles a "mate" and saying he was "one of the nicest people I've ever met." Osbourne also was quick to marry Parker Bowles in peace.

"It's his business you know. His first wife got killed so what's he expected to do, be single for the rest of his life? If he likes her and she likes him or whatever, good luck on them," Osbourne, the for­mer lead singer of Black Sabbath, told reporters.

Charles, the 56-year-old heir to the British throne, has a hectic agenda on his last official trip before his April 8 wedding, cram­ming five Australian cities into as many days.

Download of the day: Jesse McCartney, "Beautiful Soul"

Sure, 17-year-old McCartney may not write his own songs or play his own music, but he may be a former member of the ridiculous boy band Dream Street, but the single off his debut solo album picks up where "Minnesota" and "I Went It That Way" left off—and it's as intoxicating as it is sugary-sweet.

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Students unite to act locally, globally

A tsunami pounded Asia and East Africa last December, sweeping hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths and displacing millions of others. American were left to wonder: How can we help the victims and why should we? In a world of midterm, papers, cell phones and partying, the weight of such a question might seem hard to grasp for Cal Poly students who are saddle to meet tests and exams from the devastation of the tsunami.

The waves annihilated entire villages, orphaned thousands of children and destroyed the resources of completely impoverished areas. News organizations report that roughly 280,000 died, which is 16 times the student population of Cal Poly.

"Our society is full of people named scars me," political science junior Melanie Rhoads said. "Regardless of culture or location, we are all human beings and with that I believe we have an obligation as citizens of this world to help others.

Rhoads is one of the many Cal Poly students who have taken action locally to help improve the lives of others. She has created a Web site, www.you-shall-love.org, which helps match people willing to help with those in need across the globe. Rhoads helped organize the "5-km Tsurami Fund Run — Community Helping Community," which takes place at Laguna Lake Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs $25 per person.

Two speech communications classes, taught by professor Nina Truch, are working on this quarter to raise funds for the relief effort. They will host a poker tournament Friday and a 5-km run Saturday.

One hundred percent of the proceeds, which are being handled by VeAhavta, a local non-profit, will go to help victims. VeAhavta, whose name means "you shall love" in Hebrew, said that helping those in need not only benefits the deprived, but also helps Americans find meaning in their own lives by giving the latter a sense of responsibility to put a dent in that.

Erik Parkinson, founder and president of VeAhavta (which means "you shall love" in Hebrew), said that helping those in need not only benefits the deprived, but also helps Americans find meaning in their own lives by giving the latter a sense of responsibility to put a dent in that.

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Sparrey stays on the field of play

One of Cal Poly's most talented ex-softball players is still contributing to the team as a student assistant coach

Kristen Oaio

At 13 years old, Roni Sparrey discovered her passion. Although she didn't know at the time, Sparrey would eventually play and coach college level softball.

Though she views her dad as her primary influence to begin playing softball, the game took on a life of its own. Little League games soon turned into much more. Within a year, Sparrey was hooked. She joined a traveling softball team, as well as her school's teams.

"My dad was my coach when I started. He was the driving force behind playing, he kept me going," Sparrey said.

Sparrey played softball throughout her high school career. When it came time to apply for colleges, she had little doubt about the Cal Poly team.

"I liked the team a lot. Although there are a lot of reasons, I just knew Cal Poly was a really good fit for me," Sparrey said.

The softball team was very different back when Sparrey joined as a freshman more than four years ago. While she had a couple peers on the team, Sparrey joined a pre-established tight knit group of girls who had been playing together for a while. It was a different experience.

"When I first started, the girls were so close and really good friends. It's a bit more of an outsider than the girls had fun on and off the field. Their chemistry was awesome," Sparrey said.

Instant chemistry, intimidating and elquiy, the intimate nature of the team immediately warmed to new players like Sparrey.

"As time passed, the team's closeness only intensified. Today, many of the girls are still good friends," Sparrey said. "All the players were so encouraging. There was no element of jealousy or tension that is sometimes present on college softball teams. It made it easier to come in as a freshman."

"I just knew I loved the sport so much," she said. "I watched the coaches, and could see they shared the same love for the game I had. I've known for awhile this was something I wanted to pursue."

Throughout her time as Recreation Administration major at Cal Poly, Sparrey never lost sight of her focus. When she graduated at the end of winter quarter, Sparrey stuck with her plan. She applied and became the student assistant coach for the Cal Poly softball team.

"It's different because the coach's voice can be heard. It can be a very rewarding job. It's nice to see something that happened directly as a result of something that you did," Sparrey said.

This season, Sparrey said she hadn't had a difficult time coaching. "I'm confident because the coach's voice can be heard. It can be a very rewarding job. It's nice to see something that happened directly as a result of something that you did," Sparrey said.

"It's rewarding to just be out there, and being able to see the girls improve," Sparrey said.

"I've learned so much from them already. They have fresh, new ideas and are contributing to the team attitude. Just working in that atmosphere has really helped me learn," Sparrey said.

Roni Sparrey immediately found a closeness with Cal Poly starting freshman year prompting a decision to one day coach. Now, she's pursuing it.

Sparrey agrees that coaching her old teammates was a little apprehensive. Sparrey has not had a difficult time coaching her players to a successful position.

"It's awesome. I love the girls. There are some seniors on the team who have played with me since high school," Sparrey said.

"The job is definitely a lot easier than I expected, in terms of coaching. I don't need to do much for a player, just because I've known her as a teammate as well."

Sparrey said that coaching her old teammates isn't difficult. However, the view from the side-lines has given Sparrey a completely new perspective on the game.

"The way I look at things has definitely changed a little since I took this position. Now I can see all the work that goes on behind the scenes," Sparrey said. "As a player, I did not really have a firm grasp on all the paperwork, and other things that go outside of practices and games. I didn't know how the hard work of all the student assistants contributes to the team attitude. Just working in that atmosphere has really helped me learn."

Sparrey, page 15

COMMENTS

The party's on hold for linebacker Jordan Beck

Jordan Beck knows better than to stop celebrating.

When the NFL Draft takes place in New York, April 22-24, the middle linebacker and all-time leader in tackles for Cal Poly will quietly watch at his apartment to see if he is among the 224 players selected over seven rounds. After four years, all Beck wants to be is drafted.

"I had a feeling that he had a draft party and didn't get drafted," Beck said. "I don't want to be like that. I'll wait."

Beck, a 6-foot-4, 224 rhiyers selected over Neven Howard, said. "I'm not drafted and gets to pick a coach as a free agent, like former Cal Poly linebacker and NFL player Richard Dicicco did last year.

The draft is one day, it doesn't get any better than that; you've got to get a coach," Sparrey said. "You still gotta go make the club."

"There may be another party when that happens."

Golden Graham

Jordan Beck

Falling back from national prominence after his exploits as a freshman linebacker for the Mustangs, Jordan Beck is hoping for a solid season as a senior to close his college career with a final nod from the NFL. Beck, a middle linebacker for the Mustangs, is one of the players who could make a difference on the field for Cal Poly this season.

Still, there has not been the same excitement as Beck's career at Cal Poly. Beck, who was a redshirt freshman last year, has been a key player in Cal Poly's defense.

"We were kind of scheduled like cattle, headed around," Beck said.

It was different than the East-West Shrine Game that Beck played in Jan. 15. There he spent the preceding week practicing for the game, initially unsure if he belonged, and occasionally working with the offensive scout team. He also bonded with his roommate Wendell Hunter, a defensive tackle from Cal.

When Hunter and Beck had philosophical discussions late into the night following Shrine practices, Beck often saw his notebook at the combine. Howard cornerback Ronnie Reid, a back-up for the combine, Howard cornerback Ronnie Reid, a couple of times. Beck talked then, every night via cell phone, with his Cal Poly roommate and Montana State teammate Jordan Beck.

"It was kind of like his correspondent for all these people who wanted to know how he was doing," Shoreff said.

There is no guarantee, however, that Cal Poly football's prodigal son will be drafted. Although an NFL scout attended Beck at the combine that it would happen, Beck faced scores of players there and was among a minority from little-known football schools.

Among 967 players listed on the Draft Tracker on ESPN.com, Beck is ranked in the middle, one of nearly 400 players (including fellow Mustang Ben Cohen) who have a scount score of 90 out of a possible 100, although it's worth noting that barely a third of players scored above 70.

Additionally, it could be harder for Beck if he is drafted or seventh round by a team already packed with linebackers, as opposed to if he is drafted or picked as a linebacker at a free agent, like former Cal Poly linebacker and NFL player Richard Dicicco did last year.

The draft is one day, it doesn't get any better than that; you've got to get a coach," Sparrey said. "You still gotta go make the club."

"There may be another party when that happens."

Graham Womack is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily assistant sports editor. Email him at graham@calpoly.edu or call him on KCPK 91.3 FM on Tuesday at 10 a.m. as part of "That Football Sports Show."
The New York Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

1. Apparels. and job descriptions in Bldg. possibly fall quarter. Seeking hard-
work study positions open. (21)

2. S 1, S 0, M A 0 | P R 2

3. Apps. and job descriptions in Bldg. possibly fall quarter. Seeking hard-
work study positions open. (21)

4. Hard-work study positions open. (21)

5. $7.00-$8.25/hr.

6. P/T, 30-40 hr/wk, $10-$12/hr,

7. Edited by Will Shortz

8. No. 120

9. Found: necklace at tennis
court. If it sounds familiar, email

10. Lost Things2003@yahoo.com

11. Lost Dog

12. No info call 459-1711

13. For answers, call 1-900-381-5566, $1.20 a minute, or, with a
card credit, 1-833-454-9554.

14. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday
crosswords from the last 5 years: 998-7-ACROSS

15. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000
past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords ($34.95 a year)

solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords

17. Broke my right knee. (20)

18. OPP. of 19: Kraft (1962)

19. Day Camps Seek Summer Staff
San Fernando and Conejo Valley

20. Summer camp is currently hiring counselors for the summer of 2005. Located
near Lake Tahoe. Looking for responsible, enthusiastic individuals who enjoy
working in a fun, fast-paced team setting. Cashier and customer service
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- 24 Hour Staffing for After-Hours Assistance
- NEW! Credit Card Payments Now Accepted

Walking distance to Campus!

Virtual Tour and
Online Application
valenciaapartments.com

On-site Tours Weekdays 9am-5pm & Saturdays 10am -2pm
Poly Open House Weekend: Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm

555 Ramona Drive, San Luis Obispo CA 93405