Monday, April 25, 2005

Mustang Daily

‘A Lot Like Love’ is better than your average romantic flick

IN ARTS& CULTURE, 5

TheASI-managed facilities referendum failed to pass by a larger margin than the activities referendum

Kristen Osto

The U.S. government has already granted that authority in Florida and Alabama, and the program is under consideration in Connecticut, Oklahoma and Arizona.

Immigration rights groups say the move will lead to racial profiling and other abuses

Ben Fox

A group of Latin American students march to protest a ‘one-sided’ vigil staged against Illegal Immigration by the campus Young Conservatives at Stephen F. Austin State in Nacogdoches, Texas.

State moves to enforce federal immigration laws

Hillel hosts Passover meal

Traditional Seder meal consists of several dishes, each represents something to honor the Jews’ freedom from slavery

Jonathan Drake

The U.S. government has already granted that authority in Florida and Alabama, and the program is under consideration in Connecticut, Oklahoma and Arizona.

The facilities and activities fee referendum would have increased student fees to expand and renovate the University Union, Rec Center and sports complex, as well as create a new student activity center near Campus Market. The activities referendum would have raised student activity fees to increase funding for student clubs and organizations.

"I think that there was too much confusion going into the election," ASI President Blake Bolton said. "I really feel that miscommunication played a big part in the results. There were so many rumors going around prior to the actual voting, and maybe students just did not have enough information on the facts." However, some students disagree.

Many cited that fees and tuition at Cal Poly are already too high. "I voted no on both because our UI is fine, our campus doesn’t seem to be in need of renovation yet and school fees are already increasing," said Phi Phillips. "I already have ample facilities to exercise," general engineering student Scott Wadlesky said. "I’m not going to pay even more to go to a gym I don’t use, and I want to continue to not pay for it. On the other hand, I voted for the activity fee increase because many of the groups and clubs need more money to operate.”

Tests show that the facility referendum is better than the activities referendum

Despite the likely influx of students in the coming years, ASI does not plan to propose another measure like this in the near future.

"I don’t think students realized the opportunity they had to make an impact on the future, which is unfortunate," Bolton said. "If such a measure is ever offered again, the fee increases will most likely be much higher. This was a unique chance for us to invest in future students and in Cal Poly.”

POLLE.

Students voted on April 20-21

5,302

32 PERCENT

of the campus voted

63 PERCENT

opposed the facilities fee

75 VOTES

determined that the student-activities fee passed

The States has a higher rate of incarceration than any other country, followed by Britain

Siobhan McDonough

The total inmate population has hovered around 2 million for the past few years, reaching 2.1 million on June 30, 2002, and just below that mark a year later.

While the crime rate has fallen over the past decade, the number of people in prison and jail is outpacing the number of inmates released, said the report's co-author, Paige Harrison. For example, the number of admissions to federal prisons in 2004 exceeded releases by more than 8,000, the study found.

Harrison said the increase can be attributed largely to get-tough policies enacted in the 1990s and 1980s. Among them are mandatory drug sentences, "three-strikes-and-you’re-out" laws for repeat offenders, and see Prison, page 2

Associated Press

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Tougher policies means more inmates

By last June 30, there were 46,000 more inmates, or 2.3 percent, more than the year before, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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He said many of those incarcerated are not serious or violent offenders, but are low-level drug offenders. Young said one way to help lower the number is to introduce drug treatment programs that offer effective ways of changing behavior and to provide appropriate assurance for the mentally ill.

According to the Justice Policy Institute, which advocates a more lenient system of punishment, the United States has a higher rate of incarceration than any other country, followed by Britain, China, France, Japan and Nigeria.

There were 726 inmates for every 100,000 U.S. residents by June 30, 2004, compared with 716 a year earlier, according to a report by the Justice Department agency. In 2004, one in every 138 U.S. residents was in prison, the highest it has ever been, in one every 140. In 2004, 61 percent of prison and jail inmates were of racial or ethnic minorities, the government said. An estimated 12.6 percent of all black men in their late 20s were in jail or prison, as were 3.6 percent of Hispanic men and 1.7 percent of prison or jail the previous year.

Other findings include:

Alabama trained its first 21 officers in 2003 to deal with what officials called a lack of attention by the federal government to illegal immigration in that state.

State troopers have used the expanded enforcement powers to arrest more than 100 people, including a Mexican man wanted for murder in his country who was captured during a traffic stop by a female officer using a fraudulent passport to get a driver's license, said Harlan Lowe, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Danbury, Conn., Mayor Mark Boughton recently urged his state to join the effort, citing the strain on government services caused by the growing illegal immigrant population in the suburbs of New York City.

"The federal government has the ability to do its job as it relates to immigration," Boughton said. "The fact of the matter is that this is out of control."

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said he would evaluate the request.

In Los Angeles County, interest in the program is in large part financial. About 30 percent of the 18,000 jail inmates are foreign-born, but there are only two federal agents assigned to determine who should be deported.

Meanwhile, overcrowding has forced the county to release 200,000 inmates in the past three years before their sentences were completed.

"Our goal is to get them off the streets and out of the country so local resources aren't spent on these individuals," said Sheriff J.D. Markle.

Separately, the Los Angeles Police Department recently said it was reconsidering a rule imposed in 1979 that prohibits officers from checking the immigration status of crime victims and witnesses. The move is primarily intended to encourage cooperation with police.

Under a new proposal, LAPD officers could seek a federal warrant for an illegal immigrant who was previously deported for a criminal offense. The measure is primarily meant for use against violent gang members and other serious offenders.

The change, which requires approval by the Police Commission, may not happen without a fight.

Nativo Lopez, president of the Mexican-American Political Association, said his group and others plan to protest by urging people not to cooperate with law enforcement except in the most extreme cases.

"They are throwing 30 years of cooperation between police and the community out the window," Lopez said. "It's a tremendous loss to the community."

Hybrid sales rise dramatically in U.S.

Despite more than $3,000 new hybrids sold in 2004, they represent less than one percent of the new vehicles sold in 2004.

DETROIT — Hybrid vehicle sales nearly doubled in the United States last year as gas prices soared and a wider variety of models attracted consumers.

New hybrid vehicle registrations totaled 38,533 in 2004, an 81 percent increase over the 20,791 units sold in 2003, according to data released Monday by R.L. Polk & Co., which collects and interprets automotive data. Polk, represented less than 1 percent of the 17 million new vehicles sold in 2004. But the U.S. hybrid market has grown from zero in 1998, when just 42 units were sold, according to the Polk data, and major automakers are planning to introduce dozens of new hybrids during the next three years.

"Lennie Miller, director of analytical solutions for Southfield-based Polk, said federal and state tax credits for fuel-efficient vehicles have helped spur hybrid sales. More people also are buying into the idea that driving a hybrid is socially responsible, he said.

"What's different about this than other types of vehicles is that hybrids are about what people believe is good for the back and what they want to feel they're doing with their vehicles," Miller said.

Despite the arrival of Ford Motor Co.'s new Escape hybrid in showrooms last year, Japanese automakers continued to control the vast majority of the U.S. market. Toyota and Honda brands accounted for more than 96 percent of the hybrid vehicles registered.

Toyota Motor Corp., which was the first automaker to commercially mass-produce a hybrid and continues to dominate the market, the Toyota Prius, which went on sale in the United States in 2004, occupied 64 percent of the U.S. hybrid market last year, with 3,761 new Prius cars registered.

Polk said...
STATE NEWS

LAKEPORT — Activist Marla Ruzicka was remembered Saturday as a passionate young woman who dedicated her life to helping victims of the Iraqi war, which led to her own death. Mourners from around the world paid respects during a service that lasted more than three hours.

Friends, family members, and colleagues and journalists shared memories of Ruzicka's boundless energy and enthusiasm that helped her accomplish much in 28 years.

Kevin Danaher, co-founder of San Francisco-based Global Exchange, a nonprofit international human rights organization, said Ruzicka's magic was understanding and showing unconditional love.

SANTA ANA — A motorist was shot in the neck Sunday while he drove on an Orange County freeway but managed to drive himself to a hospital and will likely survive, authorities said.

The 33-year-old man, whose name has not been released, was shot around 1:45 a.m. Sunday on the 55 Freeway in Tustin. Police said the victim was followed as he drove northbound on Interstate 5 and exited onto the 55 Freeway before being shot. The victim drove himself to a local hospital and was transferred to Western Medical Center in Santa Ana, according to a police statement.

The shooting was the fourth along Southern California freeways in recent weeks. Two men were killed in separate incidents while traveling on the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles last month.

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist told conservatves Sunday that judges deserve the right to rule, and he defended his effort to strip Democrat's of their ablity to block votes on President Bush's court nominees.

"I don't think it's radical to ask senators to vote. I don't think it's radical to expect senators to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities," said Frist.

CLEVELAND — High gasoline prices are turning some drivers into riders, says public transit authorities in several states. It's a trend that Joe Ciberose, general manager of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, expects to continue as long as a gallon of gas remains about $2.

"I know there are people on the bus today that weren't on the bus three years ago," he said.

In an Associated Press-SOL poll conducted last week, 58 percent of Americans said they have reduced the amount of driving they do as a result of recent increases in energy prices.

NEW YORK — A human rights watchdog group wants a criminal investigation of senior U.S. intelligence and military officials who it says may have condoned or ignored the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

The report, issued Sunday by Human Rights Watch, criticizes Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and former CIA Director George Tenet for allegedly trying to pass blame for the abuse to military subordinates and individual soldiers.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI formally began his stewardship of the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday, reaching out to Jews, other Christians and "nonbelievers alike" and asking for prayers from the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and dignitaries gathered in St. Peter's Square as he assumed "this enormous task."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

QUITO, Ecuador — Ousted Ecuadoran President Lucio Gutierrez flew to political asylum in Brazil on Sunday, four days after he was toppled by massive street protests. He sought refuge from angry demonstrators in the Brazilian ambassador's residence.

Gutierrez left with his wife and two daughters on a Brazilian air force Boeing 737 after being whisked out of the residence before dawn, said Lt. Col. Valdomiro Fagundes, a spokesman for Brazil's military.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military said Sunday it arrested four more suspects in Thursday's downing of a civilian helicopter north of Baghdad, bringing the number apprehended to so far to 10.

All 11 helicopter passengers and crew were killed, including one shot by insurgents. Earlier, a civilian bomb exploded outside a police academy in Saddam Hussein's hometown, and another one went moments later as authorities rushed to the site.

Six Iraqis and wounding 35 others, officials said.

Phel Vance, the couple's 48-year-old son. "They always said they wanted to go together and I sometimes think they were teleologically communicating about who would go first."

IN OTHER NEWS

ST. LOUIS, Mich. — Alexander J. Vance and his wife, Leola, made a life together for nearly 64 years. This week, they died 14 hours apart at Schnepp's Health Care Center.

Alexander Vance met Leola in Algoma, Mich., where Vance was building barges for the military in 1941. He was 20, she was 16.

They married Dec. 19, 1941 and moved to the Alton area.

The couple stayed in their home for as long as they could, until Parkinson's disease forced Alexander Vance to move into a nursing home in February.

Earlier this month, Leola Vance, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, began complaining that her head hurt. It later was determined that she had bleeding in her brain. By April 15, her husband also had taken a turn for the worse and both were in a coma in a nursing home.

"It was almost like a race," said Phil Vance, the couple's 48-year-old son. "They always said they wanted to go together and I sometimes think they were teleologically communicating about who would go first."

BRIEFS Monday, April 25, 2005

Service Offered:
- Virus Removal & Prevention
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Complete Service, Repair, Maintenance
- Data Recovery & Restoration

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T H I S W E E K

IN ASI EVENTS

WOMEN'S DAY

Thursday, April 28
11-noon in the UU Plaza - FREE

Opening Reception on Thursday, April 28
4 - 6 p.m. in the UU Gallery - FREE

The exhibit features student graphic design talent from the Art and Design department. At the opening reception meet the artists, listen to live music from Sacha Sacket and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

The exhibit is on display from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday, through May 19.

3rd annual BMW & SAND BLOWOUT

Saturday, April 23
1 - 5 p.m. in parking lot 1b-16 - FREE

The outdoor festival features live performances by Sugarcult and Home Grown and a BMW stunt show. Other activities include a giant inflatable slide and obstacle course, campus club information booths, student led professional mini-massages and tattoos. Interested in volunteering? Please contact ASI Events at 796-1112.
Hate mail targeting students in interracial relationships prompted authorities to send 43 students to a hotel for safety.

Carlos Johnson
ASSISTANT PRESS

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Authorities at a Christian university near Chicago moved dozens of black and Hispanic students to a hotel for their own safety and police stepped up patrols on campus Friday after three people received threatening, racist letters.

One parent said the letters were sent to white women dating black athletes at 3,300-student Trinity International University, but school officials denied there was any connection to interracial dating.

Police and school officials would not discuss the threats in detail but said two of the letters were sent on notebook paper through the campus' internal mail system, and professors were being asked to try to identify the handwriting.

"This is a diverse campus," university spokesman Gary Cantwell said. "We condemn any kind of intolerance. We assume this is an isolated incident and not representative of the college."

The letters were addressed to specific students and arrived over the past two weeks, Cantwell said. The most recent letter, shown to reporters from talking to students and parents. "They feel there are targets on their back because they are black, because they are involved in interracial dating relationships."

However, university president Gregory Wartkie stressed Friday there was no mention of interracial dating in the letters.

Classes went on as scheduled, with police cars patrolling the streets and campus security guards preventing reporters from talking to students. About 20 students stood outside in the rain during their lunch break, holding hands and praying.

"Most of what I see is good Christian character," said Peter Hilden, 23, a senior in pastoral studies. "My only fear is we'll be characterized by one bad apple."

Darby Love said her son, a sophomore football player, told her the letters were sent to white women dating black athletes.

"My understanding is that they were supposed to start shooting the black kids on Friday," Love told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Officials who examined the letters believe it is the act of one person, Cantwell said. Nothing similar has ever happened before at Trinity, and university administrators met with FBI agents and other investigators to discuss how to respond, he said.

The threats were aimed at students in the university's undergraduate Trinity College, where more than 20 percent of the 1,600 enrolled are minorities. The school is in an isolated, forested area of suburban Chicago where Canada geese wander along a stream through campus and the nearest neighbors are corporate campuses.

Late last year, authorities said black professional football players and high school athletes in Cleveland received threatening letters. Those letters, posted at buildings and school parking lots, directed recipients to break off their interracial relationships "or they're going to be cut, shot or set on fire." Most were signed "angry white woman" or "angry Caucasian woman."
A Lot Like Love starring Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet is a lot like a romantic comedy — except it’s better. When Oliver (Kutcher) and Emily (Peet) end up on plane together from Los Angeles to New York City, Emily — who hasn’t even said a word previously to him — impulsively joins him in the lavatory for some “mile-high action.” When Emily dismisses his overly inappropriate about it,” Rethlefsen.

The students were admonished for wearing buttons inspired by the "I (heart) My Vagina," as a show of support, more than 56-year-old Miller. "I want to touch it to see if it’s wet,” said the 56-year-old Miller. "I want to touch it to see if it’s wet," said the "I Support Your Vagina" and "I Support Your Vagina" also takes them off.

The troublesome started last month after student Carrie Rethlefsen saw Eve Ensler’s play about female sexuality and sexual violence against women. Rethlefsen and fellow student Emily Nixon soon began wearing the buttons. "We can’t really find out what is inappropriate about it," Rethlefsen, 18, told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. As a sign of support, more than 100 students have ordered T-shirts bearing "I (heart) My Vagina" for girls and "I (heart) My Vagina" for boys.

LOS ANGELES — Criminal defense attorney Ronald S. Miller does more than file briefs — he also takes them off. Miller has spent days in front of a judge and nights in front of a camera as Don Hollywood, a porn star. His wife, a former accountant, is also a porn star.

"My whole life, I’ve been one of those people who sees the wet paint sign and just goes up and touch it to see if it’s wet,” said the 56-year-old Miller. "I want to experience everything, every thing.”

He has appeared in more than 90 films in the past seven years. — Associated Press

The band members of SFR had friendly, upbeat personalities, that unfortunately did not match its lukewarm performance.

The punchy "Why Won’t you Go?" began and Perlman hollered at the few people left in the bar area to get their “fucking butts over to the floor and dance.” "Treat You Well," which was by far the best performed song of the night, which sent only a few in the crowd danced a jig to the heart-pumping punk number.

As the obscene volume pulsed through the crowd, which only distracted them from the wobbling bar tables, SFR gave a less than buzz-worthy performance. The band was obviously a victim of too much hype. The punchy "Why Won’t you Go?" began and Perlman hollered at the few people left in the bar area to get their “fucking butts over to the floor and dance.” "Treat You Well," which was by far the best performed song of the night, which sent only a few in the crowd danced a jig to the heart-pumping punk number.

The band had the opportunity to meet and greet band members and get free stickers, buttons and buy some merchandise if the fans so desire. Both bands had great off-stage personas and chatted with any half-drunk sloth or hyperactive teen that wanted an autograph.

The men of SFR have only recently released its first self-titled album and will hopefully learn something from the cross-country tour. What is good about SFR is that with any luck, they can only get better.

Neon Joseph stole the show from the headliners, Something for Rockets. SFR, hailing from New York, are the victims of a hype machine that follows wherever they go.

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ASSI should have represented both sides of the referendum. I applied the Mustang Daily for writing two pieces of equal length describing both viewpoints of the fee referendum. ASSI biased "yes" campaign disgusted me. I thought ASSI should have been neutral. I thought ASSI was supposed to represent all students' voices and opinions.

But they persisted with their "yes" stance. ASSI should have allowed "no" supporters the same resources and time to campaign their own opinions. I was sickened when two board members of ASSI at a Tuesday night WOW meeting advocated everyone to vote "yes."

When Blake Bolton sent an e-mail calling ASSI's campaign "educational," I laughed. Everyone is entitled to both sides equally and make up their own minds. ASSI "no" postcards were shoved in my face. Again, thank you for trying to keep the news balanced.

Yaede Barton
Business junior

Don't write off the less fortunate

I am writing in response to Matt Busbhim's column in the April 22 edition. While I agree that hard work should be rewarded, and that some competition is important, I believe he paints an oversimplified picture with the analogy of averaging GPA.

Of course there will always be people who are lazy and try to get by with the least amount of work. There aren't just the people with a low GPA. I know plenty of people who have high grades because they get copies of answer keys, plagiarize and otherwise inflate their grades dishonestly.

In the real world, there are numerous people working harder than most of us will ever have to, and yet, they still cannot afford housing, healthcare and food for their families.

Classification is not possible to entirely "level the playing field," but assuming people are successful just because they work hard is incorrect. There are a number of factors, including luck, involved. It is impossible to write off less fortunate people as being lazy. As citizens of a country that prides itself on being a land of opportunity, we should do what we can to give more people the chance to succeed and, more importantly, put a roof over their heads.

Catherine Houcen-Wise
Political science junior

Faculty and staff sacrifice for academic quality

Did the Mustang Daily really have it that right when they attributed to ASSI president Blake Bolton the statement, "most students are more concerned about the quality of life on campus than referendum votes?

If so, does Mr. Bolton have survey data to back up his assertion? Fortunately for California State students, faculty and staff here make substantial sacrifices in their personal lives to provide quality academic experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Joy Deemer
Statistician department chair

Underclassmen: Decide what will better your education

I couldn't help but notice that most of the opposing views to the ASSI's fee referendum come from juniors and seniors. I personally graduated in June so it wasn't a vote I decided not to vote. I did this because I have eight weeks left here at Cal Poly.

Why should I vote these referenda down if it is what the freshmen and sophomores want or why should I pass if they don't? I personally would like to see some of what ASSI is proposing but not at the cost to the students, the Foundation and alumni who should help out a little more than they are.

Now that I have said that, I have some advice for freshmen. In your time here at Cal Poly, make sure you get the most out of your education and college experience. Also, don't let us seniors tell you to vote "yes," you are the ones who are going to have to pay for it. Most of us seniors are just better about continued fee increases.

When I started here, I paid $710 per quarter, and now it's more than $1,300 per quarter. So you can see why we are so bitter. This advice is not just for current freshmen since there will be more to come. So if you want to see it and are willing to pay for it, go ahead, just ask yourself first, "Is this going to better my education?"

Scott Watson
Arts and sciences
WANT THE WILDFLOWER LOWDOWN?

Read Golden Graham, self-proclaimed sports scribe, on Thursday

The New York Times Crossword
Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0314

ACROSS
1. Better than the silver screen (5)  33. Sailors’ “Halt” (6)
2. Recur, as arthritis (9)  34. “Li’l _____” (5)
3. Father of Seth (10)  35. Problem with an old sofa (5)
4. Actress Hatcher (9)  36. Hollywood hopefuls (9)
5. House with a spotted coat (9)  37. Toward sunset (5)
6. Ancient Roman censor (9)  38. Sign of a saint (5)
7. Like beer at a bar (9)  39. Swapped (5)
8. Pool show (9)  40. State unequivocally (9)
9. Prominent promoter (9)  41. Sprit (up) (11)
10. At right angles (13)  42. Unlocked (9)
11. Jason’s ally and lover, in myth (11)  43. It’s no _ _ _ _ _ (14)
12. At night angles to a ship (11)  44. Shotgun shot (9)
14. Poetic feet (11)  46. “Li’l _____” (5)
15. Isolated (11)  47. For men only (5)
16. Toward summer (13)  48. Capon (9)
17. At night angles to a ship (11)  49. 52, 59, 63, 73, 75, 76, 82, 86, 91, 99, 100 (9)
18. Killer whales (11)  50. Final approval (5)
19. The state (7)  51. Custer cluster (5)
20. Toward summer (13)  52. Enterain (9)
21. Unlocked (9)  53. Those Sp (5)
22. Problem with an old sofa (5)
23. Hollywood hopefuls (9)
24. Hollywood hopefuls (9)
25. State (7)
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1. "One additional cost" (4,4)
2. "Pipe after Bad TV" (6)
3. "Folks Bergin designs" (5)
4. "Kind of acid" (5)
5. Atmosphere, as in a restaurant (7)
6. "For both sexes" (5)
7. Toothpaste holder (7)
8. "It’s no _ _ _ _ _ " (14)
9. "Shotgun shot" (9)
10. "State unequivocally" (9)
11. "Sprit (up)" (11)
12. "At night angles to a ship" (11)
13. "Jason’s ally and lover, in myth" (11)
14. "Polar feet" (11)
15. "Horse with a spotted coat" (11)
16. "Sign of a saint" (5)
17. "Uncon" (5)
18. "Toward sunset" (5)
19. "Swapped" (5)
20. "She’s bevy" (5)
21. "And others" (5,4)

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Jordan Beck was selected with the 90th pick by the Atlanta Falcons, becoming the highest Mustang ever selected.

Beck continued from page 8

pick up the schemes, adjust to the learning curve and find himself contributing on the defense,” Tollner said.

Nevertheless, Ellerson said that the Falcons were lucky to draft Beck where they did.

“A couple of years from now, people will be able to look back and say, ‘Wow, what a steal he was in the third round,’” Ellerson said.

Ellerson added that chapter’s yet to be written for his former player.

In fact, before Beck signs a pro contract or plays a down in the NFL, he’ll be returning to his parents’ home for another reason.

On Thursday, Beck’s former sister Nikki gave birth to a son, Elijah. Beck comes from a devoutly religious family and his parents have welcomed as many as 60 foster youths into their Mount Hermann home over the past three decades. This marked the first time that a current foster resident gave birth.

Elijah’s due home from the hospital today, and Beck can’t wait to meet him.

Friday Flashback
Falcons swoop down on Beck

Cal Poly left back Jordan Beck goes in the third round of the NFL Draft by the Atlanta Falcons with the 90th selection.

Graham Womack

For so long, Jordan Beck didn't have much chance to relax.

Before the left back became the higher NFL Draft pick out of Cal Poly, Beck faced an overwhelming barrage of calls from friends, reporters and prospective agents. Then for several hours, Saturday, Beck's friends packed his living room watching the first three rounds of the draft unfold.

Beck's friends quizzed the agent Ryan Toller called to see some teams were interested in selecting him soon. He didn't quizzed too well when former Mustang teammate Keltyn Turbin called Beck saying from an unknown number, pretending to be a representative of an NFL team, saying it would like a third round pick on him.

But all the tension ended just after 7 p.m. when the Atlanta Falcons called Beck saying they would draft him with the 27th pick of the third round, the 90th overall selection. Moments later, Beck's name flashed on the television screen in his living room. The scene inside his apartment became, in a word, nuts.

"I think our pitching has improved his conditioning. I don't look at this as a job. I get to do with every day doing something that I love; it's great."

With a strength you believe you have as a coach?

"I think our pitching has improved his conditioning. I don't look at this as a job. I get to do with every day doing something that I love; it's great."

Q. — What is a strength you believe you have as a coach?

A. — My mom signed me up for a little park and recreation tee-ball league. I was about 5 years old. I didn't start playing fast pitch until I was in high school.

Q. — How did you end up coaching at Cal Poly?

A. — I coached at UNLV. I coached at Northwestern, Oregon State, and it just seemed like a natural progression. I'd been around assistant then I moved up to first assistant and then became the associate head coach and it was just kind of the next step. I felt I was ready.

Q. — What is a strength you believe you have as a coach?

A. — I think probably my passion for the game. I hope that I can convey that and instill it in my players. If you love what you are doing, it makes it easy. I don't look at this as a job. I get to do to every day doing something that I love; it's great.

Q. — What is one of your most rewarding experiences as a coach?

A. — There have been many of them, but my most rewarding scenario was the second round of the playoffs this year was when we were up at UC Davis. We were down and it ended up and we were down and we were down and we were down and it ended up and we were down and we were down and we were down.

Q. — What do you think is working well for you this season?

A. — Getting them, there's no guarantees. The only way we are guaranteed to go to the postseason is to win the conference. So, we're just trying to go out and play each game the best we can. At the end, after our last nine games, whatever happens, happens.

Gray dismissed from basketball program

Phil Johnson and Lew Finnegan follow Gray in leaving the program, one that continues to witness a troubling turnover.

Kameron Gray played his last game for the Cal Poly men's basketball team, and so have three others.

Four players have left the program since a disastrous 2004-05 campaign counting Gray, who didn't play this year due to academic problems.

Fernando Sampson quit after this season ended. Center Phil Johnson and guard Lew Finnegan also won't be playing anymore for the Mustangs either, coach Kevin Brender told the Tribune last Wednesday.

Two years ago, Gray was part of a trio that included Big West standouts Vornek Dennis and Shane Schilling, each of who stood in the top 10 in conference scoring. Gray scored 13.3 points a game and showed promise as the Mustangs' point guard of the future.

However, Gray was ruled academically ineligible for this season. Gray continued to remain optimistic he would return to the Mustang lineup for the 2005-06 season. But continued academic problems prompted the university to dismiss Gray from the program.

"I knew that they were interested, although, so it wasn't that surprising."

Beck goes to a team that went 11-5 and played in the NFC Championship game last season. In running camp three months from now, Beck will be among the likes of superstar quarterback Michael Vick.

"I'm excited to be there, I think I'll be surrounded by good players," Beck said.

Toller will meet with the Falcons in late June or early July to discuss contract logistics and said that he expects Beck to get a signing bonus between $400,000-$600,000. If Beck makes the team, he may switch to outside linebacker and he likely play exclusively on special teams at first.

"It's a matter of how quickly he can sort of see Beck, page 7