Gambling success with addiction

Justin Fivella

It's the mental discipline that separates the inexperienced from the experienced in the game of poker, twins Devin and Taylor Biehn said. A player must be able to stay composed and focused for long periods of time as well as be disciplined enough to not make impulsive decisions even when their account takes a turn for the worse.

"You have to learn to control your emotions and overcome them," said Chris Corina, an agriculture business freshman. "I quit playing for a while, the pressure and the stress from playing takes a lot of control."

Experienced players like the Biehns also have learned to use what is known as "the snowball effect" to their advantage. "The snowball effect means that it takes more money to make more money," Taylor Biehn said.

The twins explained that experienced players can harness the temptation to gamble their money as the winnings increase, an aspect of the snowball effect many novices can't control. Some possess the mental toughness needed to be successful in see Poker, page 2

Winds whip Southern Calif., fan fires, cut power

LOS ANGELES — Fierce Santa Ana winds whipping through Southern California on Monday, fanned brush and house fires, knocked out power to thousands of utility customers and left roads mired with debris.

The northeast winds coursed out of the desert interior and down through mountain passes and canyons toward the coast, sending firefighters chasing outbreaks of fire, and toppling big rigs onto their sides along highways.

An early morning fire destroyed a home and damaged five others in Tujunga, a foothill area of northeast Los Angeles, and a blaze in suburban La Canada Flintridge forced evacuation of 15 homes before it was contained.

By Monday night a wildfire pushed by 30 mph winds spread over about 100 acres of brush near Highland in the foothills of the San Bernardino National Forest, 65 miles east of Los Angeles, said Forest Services spokeswoman Norma Bailey. The blaze did not immediately threaten any structures. About 300 firefighters aided by air tankers and helicopters were fighting the blaze.

High winds arrived Sunday across a broad swath of Southern California from the coast northwest of Los Angeles to counties east and<br><br> see Winds, page 2
Poker

Continued from page 1

Poker, but for others the odds are simply too great.

"Most of the Web sites show that only 15 percent of players are winners," Corrina said.

With the odds of winning not in their favor, many students have had their hopes of luck, but eventually decide that poker isn’t their forte.

"I’m probably done with poker, I don’t have the discipline and I was gambling, not playing poker," economics junior Jeff Bosell said. "People putting money into poker isn’t the smartest idea; if you’re a gambler it’s not a good investment."

The rewards can be high in the world of online poker, but the time and commitment needed to become successful can affect education as well.

"I spend more time doing this (playing poker) than school," Devin Biehn said. "The dedication to poker excellence has also led students to schedule their studying around the game."

"It (poker) forces me to cram the night before and the day of the test as opposed to the day before," Biehn said. "Most of the Web sites show that only 15 percent of players are winners."-

Along with addiction, many college students are financially supported by their parents, and the money they are losing oftentimes isn’t their own. Yet, despite the depleting bank accounts, students continue to gamble their parents’ money away.

"My parents used to have a problem with it (poker), but now they have seen how much money we’ve made and don’t really have a problem anymore," Devin Biehn said. "They still want us to get our education though, a career as a poker player really isn’t what they want for us."

The popularity of poker has grown by leaps and bounds since its introduction into cyberspace, making few and far between the number of players. Many despite unfavorable odds, countless hours of poker study and flirting with addiction, still join the growing trend of players “diggling for online gold.”

Fad or not, if one plays his cards right, the money they be made.

"This is the modern day stock market of the ‘90s, you gotta take advantage of it," Corrina said. "I view it as a good investment for the future and I’m shooting for $200,000 by the time I graduate."

Bill

Continued from page 1

"Addiction is always about reinforcement; the goal of the behavior is to feel excited, euphoric and free," said B. J. Davis, a doctoral intern at the Cal Poly counseling center.

The fascination with online poker has captivated college students throughout the nation, but it’s the overwhelming amount of money that is leading to sleep deprivation, debt and dropping grades that has people wondering why so many college students become victims.

"College students by nature experience new freedom with the lack of restraints from home. It’s the independence and the lack of self-discipline or life experience to make decisions that can lead to addictive behavior," Davis said.

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Winds

Continued from page 1

South of the winds, with gusts near 70 mph in some areas, were created by high pressure over the northern Great Basin and low pressure off the coast of Southern California, the National Weather Service said.

"Red flag" warnings were posted for many areas into Tuesday afternoon because of the combination of wind and low humidity levels which dry out vegetation and increase fire danger.

The La Canada Flintridge blaze, in which a firefighter suffered a minor eye injury, was ignited by a fallen power line, and authorities were investigating whether the Tujunga fire also was sparked by a downed electrical line. Three people were treated for minor smoke inhalation at the latter incident.

Six tractor-trailers and one bus truck were blown over on Interstate 15 and its transition roads with I-210 and I-10, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Tony Nguyen.

Another tractor-trailer blew over blocking the truck lane on I-5 north of Los Angeles in Sylmar. There were no injuries.

Bill

Continued from page 1

“numerous” checks and balances within the system, prevent the execution of innocent people.

Groups such as the Police Officers Research Association of California and the California Police Chiefs Association include those against the bill, who question whether the state’s current system should be amended.

“This bill highlights the unfortunate aspect of the death penalty — namely that the convicted murderer appropriates for himself the sympathy and concerns that more properly belong to the murdered (victims),” according to the California Police Officers Association and Police Chiefs Association in the text of AB 1121.

Supporters of AB 1121 argue that the death penalty is biased toward people of a certain race and income. The Santa Clara Law Review, a survey conducted in September 2005, included statistical findings that experts say support these claims.

A project summary showed that 80 percent of executions in California were of persons convicted of killing white citizens, while 27.6 percent of murder victims are white. It is also known that the murderers of non-Latino whites are over four times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who kill Latinos and over three times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who kill African-Americans citizens.

University of California-Davis School of Law Faculty Member Jennifer M. Chacon, whose research focuses on criminal procedure, criminal and immigration law, said that she feels there is a correlation between money and the likelihood of a death sentence in California today.

"There is evidence that race does play an important role in capital sentencing," Chacon said. "It’s also clear that class plays an important role. People who can afford good lawyers do not wind up on death row."

Chacon noted that while initiatives like California’s AB 1121 may not be able to abolish the death penalty, it will raise awareness of human rights issues echoed by some regarding state executions.

"We are seeing moratoria being declared in a number of states,” Chacon said. "Although information about the longstanding racial disparities in capital sentencing [have] not put a stop to the death penalty, concerns about fairness and innocence are having some effect. We’ll have to wait and see whether this trend continues.”
WHO SAID THAT?

Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled.
— Michael Crichton

Use your imagination not to scare yourself to death but to inspire yourself to life.
— Adele Brookman

Wordly Wise

Incommunicado:
Without the means or right to communicate.

BREAKING NEWS
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE
www.mustangdaily.net

Name: Jaime Heard • Year: senior
Hometown: Lafayette, LA • Major: food science

Favorites
Cocktail: Southern Comfort and Diet Coke
Song: "Cherrybomb" by John Mellencamp. It reminds me of being little and it puts me in the best mood.
Band: Pearl Jam
Pastime: Cruising in my car: "Molly the Malibu."
Time of day: Sometime around 4 p.m., when the world looks best.

If You Could ...
— travel anywhere, where would you go and why?
Back to Venezuela where I used to live because I haven't been there in a while.
— meet anybody, who and why?
Eddie Vedder because he is the man.
— have any super power, which one would you have?
The ability to read people's minds because you would never have to wonder.

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On campus Interviews
Thursday, Feb 9th, 2006
This image, I combined my love for landscape photography with my passion for capturing people in unparalleled moments to express a visual story. Since transplanting myself to Morro Bay five months ago, I have found endless photographic opportunities. While some of the photographs I have taken are a result of being in the right place at the right time, others, such as the one seen here, have required a certain sincere dedication to the subject.

I have no family, only an arthritis-stricken dog named Shiloh. In the last few months, I have developed a substantial interest in Brother Frog. I feel the way he chooses to live out his days can be an inspiration to us all. Lifestyles are subjective and I have a genuine respect for those who, despite societies molding tactics, travel the unbeaten path and do what truly makes them happy.

One day, after witnessing this man’s routine for several weeks, I decided to approach him. I explained that I was a photojournalist and was interested in putting together a photo-story on him. As an artist himself he had no objection and soon after I was shadowing him in his daily routine, capturing images for my piece “WIDE angle.”

The image you see here is the single shot I chose to tell his story. It was taken one winter night as he prepared to lift Shiloh into a paddleboat that would take them just offshore to the sailboat he calls home.

Through my vision, this image defines his choices in life. We viewers get the privilege to glimpse into his world, and for once, “Brother Frog” has become the painting.
Attesting to stop the
imaginary Armageddon

POLITICAL COLUMN

Bush: tyrant, president or idiot

I call this crazy, but I have never been trusting of politicians. Like many, I find that politicians — Democrats and Republicans alike — often say one thing and, yet, more often do quite another. I suppose the old saying applies: "Actions speak louder than words." So why is it then, that when the president's actions speak in antithetical government activities that are antithetical to our established notions of democracy, that many Americans act as if they are deaf? "Missouri Webster Dictionary defines a tyrant as an "absolute ruler unrestrained by law or constitution; an usurper of sovereignty," and a president as, "an appointed governor of a subordinate political unit," and a bossy bag as well. I'm sure you know.

With these definitions in mind, let us now focus on Mr. Bush. Before we begin, I want to make sure we are using the correct definitions. First, the Bush presidency is the source of all sovereign power and authority. All authority bestowed upon our elected officials is derived from the people of the nation. In a nutshell, the federal government works something like this: the people create law (through our elected representatives); the president enforces the law as we proscribe; the limits of our powers. Before signing the bill into law, Mr. Bush issued what is called a "signing statement." The statement makes: Whatever Congress intended the law to say, he intends to ignore it, on the pretext that the president can do as he pleases.

Applying the logic of the supporters of Kyoto, world governments should be spending enormous sums of money to defend against alien invasion, stopping the rise of killer robots or other possible, yet undetermined phenomena that could wipe us off the planet. However, I and many others (although you won't see them on the student list for sustainability month) seriously doubt that we are facing impending doom due to the impact of climate factors. It's doomed in the form of an asteroid impact, nuclear attack or cataclysmic volcanic eruption. While reading this, don't hold me accountable. In fact, I believe that acting on such assumptions is indeed very harmful.

Take for example, the Kyoto Protocol designed to tackle global warming, and a direct result of the environmental movement. While many scientists agree that global warming is occurring, many are seriously divided about the rate of warming, the consequences of this warming or whether the warming is the result of man, nature or a combination of the two, and ultimately whether we should take action or not. This uncertainty surrounding global warming should give some pause. Applying the supporters of Kyoto, world governments should be spending enormous sums of money to defend against alien invasion, stopping the rise of killer robots or other possible, yet undetermined phenomena that could wipe us off the planet.

The right way

From the conservative perspective

with Brian Elner

Mustang Daily
they have a better understanding that I do need to stay in school to help out the university and get my degree.”

Understanding the APR

What precisely is an APR and what does it mean for college athletes? For the short, it means institutional penalties will be more accountable for student-athlete matriculation than ever before. But the terms are still unfamiliar to most.

Gary T. Brown published an article in the NCAA Web site with the purpose of defining new terminology and covering the basics of the APR. It is a quick recapitulation of his “APR 101.”

The Academic Progress Rate is the new determining factor for NCAA enforcement of academic progress. It lays in sharp contrast to the traditional reliance on academic performance in each sport. The APR system is based on two factors: eligibility and retention. The players on a given roster receive at most two points per term, one for being academically eligible and the other for remaining in school.

Add up the total points for a team and you end up with a decimal number; multiply that by 1,000 and you get an APR score. The base score used by the NCAA is 925, equal to about a 50 percent graduation rate.

Cal Poly has three teams under the NCAA’s 925 base, but there are exceptions to the rule. In other words, while a team may fall below the 925 standard, that doesn’t mean sanctions will be assessed. Teams with a small roster can fall under the “confidence boundary” exception. Because these smaller teams have a smaller sample space, the NCAA chose to give a margin of acceptable scores to these squads.

The example used by Brown on the NCAA Web site is a team with 10 athletes and an APR of 920. The "confidence boundary" would allow the team 900-940 and, because the higher end of the boundary is above 925, the team is granted temporary reprieve. However, when the NCAA moves to a four-year sample space to assess penalties, this option might not be available.

What this means for Cal Poly’s men’s tennis team is the likelihood of temporary amnesty. Cal Poly’s men’s basketball team also qualifies for the "confidence boundary" exception, but it’s unlikely to post an upper-end score above 925.

Unlike other teams at Cal Poly, the baseball team’s APR will be calculated slightly differently. The team had multiple players leave early for the Major League Baseball draft last spring. Those early departures will fall under the NCAA’s recent decision to count such early exits differently if the player left the school also being academically eligible.

The most scholarships the NCAA can take away is 10 percent of the team’s total scholarship limit.

Such a penalty is called a “contemporary penalty.” This is the category that applies to Cal Poly’s men’s basketball team.

The more drastic type of penalty is the "historically based" punishment. The price for this sort of punishment is much more severe and is based on a four-year rolling average APR.

Historically based penalties include the loss of scholarships, postseason bans and restricted membership in the more severe cases when academic performance fails to improve over time.

The package is sure to headline major sport news soon.

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Men’s basketball whistled for NCAA sanctions

The men's basketball team is expected to lose two scholarships next season due to an Academic Progress Rate below NCAA standards.

Frank Stranz
Thursday, January 26, 2006

The men’s basketball team will lose two scholarships as a result of the first academic progress report based on information collected from the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years. Although the official list of NCAA teams with violations will not be made public until February, Cal Poly Athletic Director Allison Cone said men's basketball coach Kevin Bromley expects two of the team's scholarships to be penalized.

Well, I don't know how 1.3 gets rounded up to two. I'm not a mathematician, but I've never figured that out.

—Kevin Bromley
Men’s basketball coach

The men's basketball team is expected to lose two scholarships next season due to an Academic Progress Rate below NCAA standards. While he wasn't about to point fingers, Bromley said it's "because of guys like Kameron Gray, because of Fernando Sampson; those guys didn't graduate, they quit going to class, for whatever reasons. They have their own reasons, and when this was implemented those young men weren't recruited under me for those circumstances."

While Gray and Sampson were two of the factors leading to the program's sanctions, Bromley said the reform package was "grandfathered in."

"If (the reform package) was in place before those young men, they shouldn't be able to affect our program because they weren't recruited under those kinds of restrictions," Bromley said. "Halfway through their career they put this rule in. Well, maybe we don't recruit those young guys or maybe"

see APR, page 7