Oracle e-mail service down

Caitlin Donnell

As students and faculty may have noticed, Cal Poly's e-mail service, Oracle, was down throughout Wednesday and has been experiencing technical difficulties for some time.

In an open letter to the campus community, Tim Kearns, the vice provost and chief information officer for Cal Poly's Information Technology Services (ITS), explained that the service has been frustrating and problematic for campus users of the Oracle e-mail and calendar systems for the past few weeks.

"The systems have not been stable or reliable since ITS staff applied an Oracle-recommended security upgrade on Jan. 29," Kearns said in the letter. "This caused our current problems which we have not been successful in isolating and fixing. We regret the inconvenience it has caused the campus community."

According to the Cal Poly System Status Web site, e-mail and calendar services from Oracle have been unavailable since 6 a.m. Wednesday. The site stated ITS has gathered information about how the system is failing and that Oracle is helping resolve the problem. The cause is under investigation.

see Oracle, page 2

Students report symptoms of whooping cough in Sierra Madre

Kristen Oato

For the first time in several years, a case of pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, was reported in Sierra Madre dorms early last week.

San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department diagnosed a male freshman with the highly contagious respiratory infection. According to Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Monroe, the student's friends called authorities in concern. Shortly after, the student was taken to Sierra Vista Hospital.

Housing officials moved the student to an isolated room in Yosemite Hall, where he was treated with antibiotics. The residence hall staff delivered all meals, coursework and other necessary items to the student, according to a press release.

Since the diagnosis, campus officials have alerted the student population and gave a list of symptoms to watch out for. The student's classmates and other on-campus residents were specifically notified and letters were sent. See Whooping, page 2

The quest for the perfect smoothie results in 'The Travis'

Jennifer Hall

Just imagine, you just got out of your 9 a.m. class, you're hungry and the sun is shining. You head to Lucy's Juice Too and order your favorite smoothie, The Travis, and relax on Duster Lawn before your next class.

As you're sitting there reading over your notes, you start to wonder who all those smoothies are named after? How did this delicious mix of fruits and juices called The Travis come to be? The answer: It was an experiment.

Back in the spring of 2004, Travis Thompson, a general engineering junior at the time, was drinking Lucy's Juice smoothies three to four times a week.

"I love smoothies because they are a really good snack, or even a meal if it's big enough," said Thompson, now a senior.

At the time, Thompson's favorite smoothie was The Joey. "It was good, but it didn't have any 'tanginess.' I started to wonder if it could be improved," Thompson said.

So he made a deal with the employees at Lucy's Juice Too to try to create his own smoothie.

"The first thing they made me do was try an 'everything' smoothie," Thompson said. "It wasn't very good. It didn't really taste like anything.

Thompson's usual smoothie, The Joey, was a combination of guava juice, peaches, bananas and vanilla frozen yogurt.

"I knew I liked the guava juice and was pretty sure I liked peaches," he said. "So I just tried everything else with it."

Thompson would tell the Lucy's Juice Too employees what to try each time and they would then experiment with each new combination.

"He came in to try to perfect it," said Erica Francis, a recreation

see Smoothie, page 2

The Travis smoothie includes Travis' favorite ingredients: guava juice, peaches, strawberries, raspberry sherbet and vanilla frozen yogurt.

see Smoothie, page 2
Oracle

continued from page 1

The site, which provides current
status of the services.
In addition to the recent unexpected
problems with the Oracle e-mail and
calendar services, the site provides
information about regularly scheduled
system down times when ITS works on
the system.

The letter from Kearns also stated
that ITS will continue to work with
Oracle to resolve the existing problems.
Changes in the future include proce­
dures for making upgrades and
responding to problems, adding hard­
ware and simplifying the e-mail system
for better reliability and reducing its
dependence on other systems, the letter
stated.

ITS also plans to provide additional
Oracle services in the future such as cal­
der, online files and collaboration
software to the whole campus, all of
which will enable Cal Poly to have “a
suite of highly effective and reliable
tools to facilitate learning and working
here,” the letter stated.

“ITS is making a renewed commit­
ment to provide more reliable service
and to better communicate with the
students living in Sierra Madre have reported
symptoms similar to those diag­

Smoothie
continued from page 1

It was not an easy process.
Thompson tried over seven com­
laborations before he found the
perfect one.

"It continued to get better and better," Thompson said.
The employees at Lucy's would
give him advice as well.

"Hold my different fruits and
juices," Francis said. "He was the
genius behind it."

Finally, the day came when
the ideal smoothie was created.
The final ingredients were grape juice,
peaches, strawberries, raspberry
sherbert and vanilla frozen yogurt.

"He had tried different fruits and
juices," Francis said. "He was the
genius behind it."

Finally, the day came when
the ideal smoothie was created.
The final ingredients were grape juice,
peaches, strawberries, raspberry
sherbert and vanilla frozen yogurt.

"The treatment lasted five
days, and the students reporting
symptoms are currently able to
attend classes," Morton said.

Morton also added that there
have been no additional reports of
whooping cough on campus.

To find out more information
on symptoms or treatments, con­
tact county health authorities at
781-5560.

Maryland students create Uflipit:

A new online marketplace

Sara Lerner

LOS ANGELES — If you’ve
contemplated investing anytime
soon, here is your inside tip.
Uflipit.com, the just barely month­
old creation of University of
Maryland students Jarrad Lewis
and Greg Soroka, is picking up
steam and fast.

The site is a virtual marketplace
for college students all over the
country to trade anything from
textbooks to couches to beer pong
tables (no joke).

Old books and party goods
do n’t excite you? How about a fra­
ternity brother? Again, no joke —
Eric and Jarrad, two students at
New York University, will dive
with you for $10 a pop.

Perhaps causing the most stir is
the ability to purchase class notes,
old essays and even presentations
from another user that can be
instantly uploaded and down­
loaded to or from your desktop.

The service, Lewis insisted,
does not accept old quizzes and exams,
relying on a student’s notes as a
reference. The point is not
for college students all over the
university to trade items
through their own university to
avoid shipping charges.

Lewis also maintains that by reg­
istering as a member for the site,
you are consenting to their terms
and conditions, agreeing that you
will not use any of their products
for plagiarism and, if “you do well
pardon my French, but you’re an
idiot.” But even better than nude
mail-order dates is the fact that
absolutely everything about the
service is 100 percent free.

“We hope to let college students
make money, not lose it,” Soroka
said. This site allows you to become
a member at no charge, simply
with a university e-mail address,
and allows students to trade rem­

Under Four

Under four drinks in one sitting

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS

Thursday, February 23, 2006

news editor: Caitlin Donnell • mustangdailynews@gmail.com

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box
contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3

3 7 2 6 5 9 8 4 1

MEDIUM

S A R A L E N E R

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WHO SAID THAT?

The real power behind whatever success I have now was something I found within myself — something that's in all of us, I think, a little piece of God just waiting to be discovered.


There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality.

— Pablo Picasso

Wordly Wise

Salutary: Beneficial; also, healthful.

BREAKING NEWS

UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE

www.mustangdaily.net

Name: Johnny Stryker Wolff Jr. • Year: senior
Hometown: Roseville • Major: business administration

Favorites

Movie: "Indiana Jones and the Lost Crusade"
Food item: Baby cows
Favorite UFC champion: "The Iceman"
Jamaican bobsled team movie: Undecided
Favorite quote: I'm Ron Burgundy?

If...

— the moon was made of barbecue spareribs, would you eat it?
  I'd polish it off with a nice cold Budweiser.

— you could erase one musical artist from history, who would it be?
  Gwen Stefani

— if you could arm wrestle anyone in history, who would it be?
  Paul Brown (owner of Mother's Tavern)

all the best denim is 25% off
seven humanity paige tag joe's true religion earnest sewn goldsign seven by great china wall lone barron free

starts today

Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • ems@calpoly.edu
Online: www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, February 23, 2006

3
**State briefs**

**SANTA BARBARA (AP)**

Once a pioneer in electric bus technology, the Metropolitan Transit District is now being urged to buy compressed natural gas buses.


district is now being urged to buy compressed natural gas buses. Hydrogen technology is still at least a decade away.

**SALINAS (AP)** — The city council revised and approved the additional spending. Higher property values and sales taxes added to city coffers.

"I'm glad to see that we are out of the woods and looking at making some capital improvements," Mayor Rusty Barber said.

"HESPERIA (AP) — A passenger pacing the aisle of a tour bus threatening "Everyone's going to die" was arrested after the driver pulled over to Intero Road.

At 8:50 a.m. Tuesday, the bus driver stopped on the Oak Hill freeway off-ramp and the man told passengers "he won't go alone and he is taking everyone with him," investigators said. The driver got off the bus but about 12 passengers were left on board with the man.

"He was threatening to kill all of them," an investigating supervisor Beth Harris said. One of the passengers described the man with a blanket so there were suspicions he had a weapon.

**Adventures in reporterland:**

**Jury: Former LA priest guilty of one count of child molestation**

Linda Deutsch

LOS ANGELES — Retired Roman Catholic priest and admitted molester Michael Wempe was found guilty Wednesday of one count of child molestation after an emotionally wrenching trial that saw young men testify about their childhood abuse.

Only one victim was named in the current case and jurors were unable to reach verdicts on four counts, so a mistrial was declared on those.

Wempe, 66, who was immediately taken into custody, agreed to waive sentencing until the district attorney can decide whether to seek a retrial on the undecided counts.

He faces a sentence of 16 months to three years on the single count. He has already served a year in prison, so that time would be deducted. One of his attorneys said he was diabetic and had a heart condition, so likely he would serve in a medical unit.

The credibility of the victim, Jason B., was attacked by the defense and his testimony was short on details and dates. During deliberations, jurors sent the judge many questions asking for more evidence and expressed skepticism about some of the acts described by the victim.

"I hope this brings some closure to the people involved," said Donald Steier, one of Wempe's attorneys.

Wempe's lawyers acknowledged that the priest molested 13 boys in the 1970s and 1980s, but said he went into church-ordered treatment and returned a changed man. Attorneys maintained he never molested anyone after that.

Wempe was spared trial on charges he was raped in the '70s and '80s by the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the statute of limitations on the crimes, but he did spend a year in jail before that ruling was issued.

Jason B., the brother of two earlier victims, said Wempe was a chaplain at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

"The prosecution's case was based on promises, predicates and emotion for what happened 30 to 30 years ago," Wempe attorney Leonard Levine said. He said he believes Jason B. was attempting to obtain retribution against the priest for molestation of his brothers.

Deputy District Attorney Todd Hicks, who described Wempe as a "big" priest who wore his hair long, rode a motorcycle and gave such dynamic sermons that young people and their parents were drawn to him, said he was pleased with the verdict and Jason B. was elated.

"I'm always happy when victims have their day in court," he said. He denied trying to appeal to the jury's emotions with testimony from eight long-ago victims, saying their testimony was used merely to show a pattern of behavior by Wempe.

As for the importance of the case, he said, "It sends a message to the archdiocese regarding this defendant. They certainly mishandled this defendant."

"Father Michael Wempe's conviction serves to restore the trust and innocence stolen from his victims, but hopefully this verdict may provide them some measure of justice and comfort," Hicks said. He believes Wempe is capable of committing similar crimes again. "The defendant, given the opportunity, will molest again," he said. "The defendant is somebody who has not learned." Jason B. and his older brother were in the front row of the courtroom. Beyond clenched jaws, they showed no reaction when the verdict was read.

Jayson B., was attacked by the childhood abuse.

"It's just not ready for prime time," said, referring to the $6.8 billion in bonds Schwarzenegger wants for jails, prisons and other law enforcement facilities.

"It's just not ready for prime time," he said, referring to the $6.8 billion in bonds to build more prison space. "We would like open options to open to future governors and lawmakers," he said.

Costigan said the state needs to provide more jail and prison space in order to win the case. He said the state is only a "couple of years away from reaching" its prison bed capacity.
National briefs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Three former makers of lead paint created a public nuisance that contributed to asthma, a jury decided Wednesday in the state's landmark lawsuit against the companies that once made lead paint and pigment could be held responsible for millions of dollars in clean up and mitigation costs, although the state never put a dollar value on its lawsuit.

DETOIT (AP) — Kid Rock has won an initial victory in his attempt to stop a California company from releasing an explic­

Ted Bridis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush was unaware of the pending sale of shipping operations at six ports deal until after it had been approved by his administration.

Bush on Tuesday brushed aside objections by leaders in the Senate and House that the $6.8 billion sale deal could raise risks of terrorism at American ports. In a forceful defense of his administration's earlier approval of the deal, he pledged to veto any bill Congress might approve to block the agreement involving the sale of a British company to the Arab firm.

A脸色 a rebellion from lead­
ers of his own party, as well as from Democrats, about the deal that would put Dubai Ports in charge of major shipping operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia.

While Bush has adamantly defended the deal, the White House acknowledged he did not know about it until recently.

"He became aware of it over the weekend," spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Asked if Bush did not know about it until it was a done deal, McClellan said, "We had previously reviewed the process and was determined not to pose a national security threat."

"The president made sure to check with all the Cabinet secre­

daries expressed that they were not in charge of security. We are not turning over the security of our ports. When people make statements like that you make sure to check with the Cabinet secretaries that they were comfortable with the decision that was made."

"And every one of the Cabinet secretaries expressed that they were comfortable with this transaction being approved," he said.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, told The Associated Press in an interview: "They are not in charge of security. We are not turning over the security of our ports. When people make statements like that you make sure to check with the Cabinet secretaries that they were comfortable with the decision that was made."

Treasury Secretary John Snow said failure to complete the transac­
tion would send the wrong message overseas.

"The implications of failing to approve this would be to tell the world that investments in the United States from certain parts of the world won't be welcomed," Snow told reporters Wednesday following a speech in Connecticut to a fuel cell manufacturer. "That sends a terrible message."

The sale's harshest critics were not appeased.

"I will fight harder than ever for this legislation, and if it is vetoed I will fight as hard as I can to override it," said Rep. Pete King, R-N.Y., Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. "Any vote to have us trade our security program for a deal with an Arab company," McClellan added.

"In terms of David Sanborn, he was nominated to run the Maritime Administration because of his expe­

sen of nuclear materials; roughly 13 other port companies participate in the U.S. security programs to stop smuggling and detect illegal shipments of nuclear materials; roughly 13 other port companies participate in these programs. The Coast Guard also said it was nearly fin­ished inspecting Dubai Ports' facili­ties in the United States.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said the bipartisan opposition to the deal indicated "a lack of confidence in the administration" on both sides.

"Sure, we have to line up with our Arab friends but ... we want to see ... and those in Congress want to know what ... safeguards are built in," Biden said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Bush's veto threat sought to quiet a political storm that has united Republican governors and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee with liberal Democrats, including New York Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Schumer.

To assuage concerns, the adminis­

fication disclosed some assurances it negotiated with Dubai Ports. It required mandatory participation in U.S. security programs to stop smuggling and detect illegal ship­ments of nuclear materials; roughly 33 other ports participate in these programs. The Coast Guard also said it was nearly fin­ished inspecting Dubai Ports' facili­ties in the United States.

A truck exits the Port Newark Container Terminal, (PNCT), on Wednesday in Newark N.J. President Bush was unaware of the pending sale of shipping opera­

ports deal until after it had been approved by his administration, the White House said Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"My understanding is that he has assured us that he was not involved in the negotiations to purchase this British company," McClellan added.

"In terms of David Sanborn, he was nominated to run the Maritime Administration because of his expe­

"Another Democrat, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, urged his colleagues to force Bush to wield his veto, which Bush — in his sixth year in office — has never done. "We should really test the resolve of the president on this one because what we're really doing is securing the safety of our people," McClellan dismissed any connec­
tion between the deal and David Sanborn of Virginia, a former senior DP World executive whom the White House appointed last month to be the new administrator of the Transportation Department. Sanborn worked as DP World's director of operations for Europe and Latin America.

"My understanding is that he has assured us that he was not involved in the negotiations to purchase this British company," McClellan added.

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Bush: India should separate civilian, military nuclear programs

Deb Riechmann
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush urged India on Wednesday to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs and assure the world that it will be a good steward of nuclear material needed to fuel its fast-growing economy.

In previewing his upcoming trip to the country, Bush also said Americans should not fear United States jobs going to India. If American companies are competitive, that will translate into more jobs for U.S. workers and farmers, he said.

"Young Indians are acquiring a taste for pizza from Domino's and Pizza Hut," he said.

The president, who also is visiting Pakistan early next month, also called for an end to violent protests called for by United States workers and farmers, he said.

"By following through on our commitments, we'll bring India's civilian nuclear program into international mainstream and strengthen the bonds of trust between our two countries," Bush said.

The deal, which Congress has not yet approved, is seen as a cornerstone of the emerging alliance between India and the United States, as well as an effort to balance China's growing economic and political influence in Asia.

"By following through on our commitments, we'll bring India's civil nuclear program into international mainstream and strengthen the bonds of trust between our two countries," Bush said.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns is to visit India this week to continue talks on the agreement and possibly finalize them before Bush leaves for India Feb. 28.

Eight meat processing plant workers claim record $365 million lottery jackpot

Kevin O'Halton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — Eight workers at a Nebraska meat processing plant claimed the record $365 million Powerball jackpot Wednesday.

"This is not an easy decision for myself now," Maboussou said. He said his three-month-old daughter, Katherine, "is going to be happy for the rest of her life."

"I didn't know what to think," said Robert Stewart, 30, who said he was a maintenance supervisor before the win. "I still don't know what to think."

The previous U.S. lottery jackpot record was $363 million for the Big Gainer, the forerunner of Mega Millions.

"I'm going to be working for jobs when they hit the jackpot. One day, I'm not a fan of flying and don't really like water," he said.

The other winners were immigrants.

The winners said they and others pooled their money together.

"I'm going to be happy for the rest of her life."
Billiards classes will now be offered to Cal Poly students through Mustang Lanes in the University Union this year.

The professor for PE 107, the billiards class, decided to introduce activity classes in fall 2005. "Activity classes are an attempt to get more people in here and exposed to games," said Sam Chew, a Cal Poly electrical engineering and physics senior who will be the billiards instructor.

Mustang Lanes offered three types of billiards classes this quarter: strategy, games and competition. Each class focuses on a different aspect of billiards.

"People haven't heard of rotation, straight ball, one pocket," Chew said. "We thought it'd be fun to teach them that stuff."

Chew has been teaching billiards at Cal Poly for seven years. He began with one PE class and now teaches three PE classes and all the activity classes.

"I teach this stuff because I like to and I'm looking for people who want to play," Chew said.

Currently, there are 16 students participating in the classes that are offered twice a week. It costs $32 for the eight-week course.

"The people who are doing it are really enjoying it," Chew said. "It's real relaxed."

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Currently, there are 16 students participating in the classes that are offered twice a week. It costs $32 for the eight-week course.

"The people who are doing it are really enjoying it," Chew said. "It's real relaxed."
Your help turned it around last year. Smaller and friendlier crowds — fewer arrests — violence curtailed...and you made the difference.

We need your help again this year.

TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT, THERE WILL BE:
- 300+ law enforcement officers on duty for the weekend
- DUI check points throughout SLO
- Violation costs tripled citywide
- University discipline for student violators
- Special fines in effect for flashing and nudity

San Luis Obispo belongs to all of us. Please help keep it safe. Tell your friends looking for Mardi Gras parties to stay home the weekend of February 24th.
Reggie and the Full Effect rocked the Downtown Brew stage Tuesday night to promote their newest release 'Songs Not To Get Married To.'

I was in the mood for love, and Reggie definitely hit the spot. Of course, the alcohol, the partial nudity and the funky chicken also added to the debauchery. But beer or no beer, Reggie and the Full Effect were in full effect Tuesday night at Downtown Brew.

In the midst of their nationwide tour, Reggie made its first-ever appearance in San Luis Obispo and played classic hits like “Girl, Why'd You Run Away” and “From Me 2 U.”

The crowd was treated to special guest bands—also known as Reggie's other personalities—Flexuation and Common Denominator, who finished the show off with such hilarious tracks as “Dwarf Invasion.”

Reggie's tour ends March 29.
**LOVES LIKE A LITTLE KID IN AN ARCADE**

Daniel Saxplains it all

By Daniel Gingras

Sometimes, you really suck at a game and you can't win any tickets, no matter how many coins you pump into it. And then, rarely, you find that game where, as if it was built for you, tickets roll out in endless streams. As you leave the arcade for the day you claim that mini-moped prize worth 350,000 tickets.

Of course, speaking of real life, you will find you have marginal success thrusting raw-dollar bills into the faces of real women. Though it works just fine once you are in the early stages of a committed relationship, until then you must court them with things. Girls love it when you wander about on your own and make the appropriate exchanges for them. Once you convert your dollar bills into something useful to them (i.e. shoes, purses, flowers, chocolates, candles, drinks, gifts, dinners, tickets, but certainly not power tools) they will allow you to have some "credit," or "lives." Then you must play by the rules of the game. Be wary of the handful of women that, like malfunctioning arcade games, will eat your tokens.

Unfortunately, they do not wear "Out of order" signs. Also, remember that different games require more or fewer tokens, and yield longer or shorter turns depending on their quality. Some of the best games take more tokens, but some of the highest priced are short-lived and stupid. Sometimes you luck out and find that candy machine in the corner that lets you play until you have to say.

**SEX COLUMN**

Money can't buy | Love Ain't Cheap

Sir Paul McCartney screamed that "Money Can't Buy Me Love," and then this one time in Canada my high school buddy bought a hooker for a hundred bucks.

"I can't speak for the choice of them, but the dollar bill I keep in my wallet has this natural tendency to escape and gravitate towards women. In fact, as a man in the morning, dating and mating game, it reminds me a lot of what it was to be a little boy in the video game arcade, blowing my allowance. First, I step into the arcade, become paralyzed in place, and stare at different choices, drooling over the possibilities. I carefully consider which arcade game I want to play first. Then, across the room, next to the Ms. Pacman machine with the long legs, I spot her: Space Invaders. But I can't cram dollar bills in it, they'll get stuck and break the machine."

First, I'll have to find a token dispenser and convert my hard earned dollar bills into a currency more useful to the game, and much more worthless in real life.

Speaking of real life, you will find you have marginal success thrusting raw-dollar bills into the faces of real women. Though it works just fine once you are in the early stages of a committed relationship, until then you must court them with things. Girls love it when you wander about on your own and make the appropriate exchanges for them. Once you convert your dollar bills into something useful to them (i.e. shoes, purses, flowers, chocolates, candles, drinks, gifts, dinners, tickets, but certainly not power tools) they will allow you to have some "credit," or "lives." Then you must play by the rules of the game. Be wary of the handful of women that, like malfunctioning arcade games, will eat your tokens. Unfortunately, they do not wear "Out of order" signs.

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**COLUMNIST LINEUP**

Monday - Guest commentators

- Talk Back with Jack (Albinio view)
- The Right Hay (Conservative view)

By Jack Ingram and Brian Effr

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE LINEUP**

- The Line

By "Your name here"

**BOTTOM**

By Jilliane Byer

**WORD on the SCREEN**

By Janice Edm and

**NEWSPAPER OFFER**

By Mike Marquez and Doug BeanSele

**What does the other sex have to say?**

One might hope the financial strain will ease upon the couple becomes officially established. Lord, what fools these mortals be.
SLO Film Festival looks to revive film industry

The current film industry is on a steep downward spiral to movie hell where the only savior is the likes of Stanley Kubrick to an early Steven Spielberg. George Lucas, in his early days of "THX 1138," can be considered a genius. But after finishing the "Star Wars" movies with Hayden Christensen in the lead, Lucas lost my respect.

Hollywood needs to stop butchering classics in horrific remakes, such as Peter Jackson's "King Kong," which may have had cool effects, but lacked the original feel of the English-dubbed 1933 original. If Jackson doesn't watch out in future films, he will develop a repertoire of the over-dome "epic film" genre.

Remakes are not the only problem. Screenwriters need to write better scripts with non-cliché, sex-ridden plots that can be found at California college towns.

The SLO Film Festival is one of many across the world that previews the best in independent cinema. Some of more critically-acclaimed movies have won festival awards at Cannes, Venice and Toronto. Movies like Jean-Luc Godard's "Notre Musique" have picked up nominations and praise for their original and emotional feel.

But independent films are not only popular at unknown festivals. Consider "Fanny and Alexander," which won "best foreign language film" at the 1983 Academy Awards. With a majority of great movies, most made in pre-1998, there are fantastic movies few and far between in the upcoming months. Check out "Mysterious Skin" and "Brick," which both have potential for a great watch.

Nick Cruty is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer, as well as an avid foreign film watcher and horror-movie junkie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failing to find humor in Mardi Gras

What does Mardi Gras mean to you? It means treating a seemingly endless line of facetators that parade through the ER doors. It means watching in vomit and tears and urine the entire night, as unconsious, alcohol-poisoned partiers are carried out to the ER. It means STD checks, HIV testing and dispensing multiple packs of "morning-after" pills to the young (mostly female) Mardi Gras devotees that awake in horror the next day to the realization that their drunken sexual escapades could have very real and dangerous consequences.

Sadly, it means watching heroes of intelligence, and usually honorable people voluntarily turn over their freedom of choice to a bottle of alcohol and the misguided notion that they do not have to be responsible for their actions. Forgive me if I fail to find humor or frivolity in the suffering they inflict on themselves and others.

Steve Sainsbury
Morgan Hill Regional Medical Center

Replace Cal Poly e-mail with Facebook messaging

One can hardly wonder campus without seeing students of all ages, holding the email stations checking to see if they have received my "request for friendships" on Facebook. After the recent Cal Poly email scandal, we have been pondering about the potential email abuse (proven?) Without much research or contemplation, we propose Cal Poly re-establish the official service of communication to be Facebook messaging. Look at all the upsides you can poke people, join discussion groups, at 100 percent more reliable than Cal Poly e-mail, and our friend Brandon can continue to Facebook stalk people.

As the next generation, we have come to rely on electronic communication as a vital resource. On Wednesday, February 22, we basically took the day off because our sacred email was cut off. But our trusty friend Facebook was there just in case we needed to email our classmate (yes Facebook has that too). Bob Dorendler, work with us here, get on Facebook and "poke" ITS for the students.

Jesse Vancaro
Electronic engineering major
Blake Bletson
Industrial and technical studies graduate

Oracle has some serious explaining to do

I am one of the countless people constantly annoyed with the poor management of our school's e-mail software. As a school nationally known for its computer science program, it is a complete disgrace that we have to undergo such treatment. I have completely given up using the school's e-mail. I am submitting this letter using griat, something that is free and I never denied me access, because the school's email has been down the entire day.

Cal Poly's current e-mail system is a complete disaster. We are limited in how much storage we can have, 50 megabytes, and it is upped at zero. Its interface is not user-friendly and buttons are located in odd places. I can understand a day or two of unrest when migrating, but not weeks and weeks of it working and not working.

I think it is time that real questions get asked, such as Why are we using a product whose upgrades cause grief? Why are we paying 120-plus ITS employees when we don't even get one of the few services students utilize? ITS provides the majority of students with Internet and e-mail. Faculty are even more affected because of their reliance on OpenTime. Oracle's scheduling program which allows access to a person's calendar and the ability to schedule meetings. Imagine not being able to rely on something as important as a day-to-day breakdown of what you have planned. It is time to scrap this abhorrent waste of money and time and move on. The money we could save could offset the fee increase this campus is currently seeking.

David Hansen
Environmental botached sciences freshman

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Greenland’s surface is melting, according to U. Kansas and NASA research

Catherine Odson

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Greenland’s icy surface is melting. Researchers at the University of Kansas and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., said Greenland’s glaciers are liquefying at more than twice the rate they did a decade ago. Pannir Kanagaratnam, research assistant professor, cites research stemming from the KU Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets in an article he co-authored in the Feb. 17 issue of Science magazine.

Kanagaratnam and Eric Rignot, NASA researcher, said that if the glaciers were accelerating, those glaciers were contributing to rising sea level much more than believed. Their research centered on how the ice sheets changed over time and what effect those changes had on the ocean.

“We do not know how much of it is due to natural climate change and how much of it is due to human influence,” Kanagaratnam said in a press release. “But the fact is that temperature is definitely rising, and there is a strong correlation between the temperature rise and sea level rise.”

The amount of ice mass lost from the 21 largest glaciers was equivalent to one-tenth of Mount Everest. As a result, the sea level rose approximately a millimeter last year, an increase from the 2-millimeter addition to the oceans in 1996. If the Greenland glaciers melt completely, the sea level would rise seven meters, enough to cover low-lying areas like Miami.

“I think it is disconcerting to see the ice melting at such a rapid rate,” Kanagaratnam said. “There is a large population living in the coastal areas and rising sea levels will affect them.”

David Braaten, associate professor of geography, said the size of the ice sheets results in an enormous potential for rising sea levels. These changes could “really change the face of the planet in terms of land and ocean boundaries,” he said.

With NASA reporting that 53 percent of Americans live along coastlines, the implications of rapid sea level change could be financially devastating.

“If it happens slowly, I think society can adapt,” Braaten said. “If it happens very rapidly, it will be very hard to adapt. It doesn’t look like the long-term change is part of the picture.”

Braaten said he didn’t have the answer to dealing with the rising sea levels. The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets is developing new models, maps and computer models to better understand the changes and predict what the future holds.

Director Prasad Gogineni started researching glaciers in 1993. He said, KU has published glacier research stemming from the KU Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets since 1997, which brings news coverage for both the center and the University.

Bike patrol gives Cal State Sacramento cops edge on crime

Nick Lozito

SACRAMENTO — When Jack Brown, 20, and Acelia Soto, 18, were arrested for car burglary on Jan. 25 at California State University, Sacramento, it wasn’t a result of a top-of-the-line vehicle patrolling. Police officers on bicycles noticed several cars had been broken into and called for back up. Only then were Brown and Soto arrested.

An officer in a patrol car would not have noticed the same thing that the officers on the bicycles did, said Sgt. Kelly Clark of the campus police.

While Sacramento State has already had a police bicycle program of some type, more emphasis is being placed on it this semester.

“The biggest benefit to us is it gets our officers into the campus community,” Clark said. “It’s just been an awesome program.”

There are now three officers assigned to the bicycles, an increase over recent semesters. All officers assigned to the bicycles volunteered for it and they took a 40-hour training program to get certified. “Most are enthusiastic already,” Clark said.

Paul Skinner is one of the bicycle officers and said he feels it is doing the right thing. He recently caught someone with a stolen bicyc-

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Bombs strike one of Iraq's most revered Shiite shrines

President Adel Abdel-Mahdi later hinted that religious militias could be given a bigger security role if the government is not capable of protecting holy shrines like the one attacked in Samarra.

The Askariya shrine contains the tombs of two revered Shiite imams, descendants of the Prophet Muhammad who are considered by Shiites to be among his successors.

The Interior Ministry said four men, one wearing a military uniform and three clad in black, entered the mosque and detonated two bombs, one of which collapsed the dome into a crumpled mess, leaving just traces of gold showing through the rubble. Part of the shrine’s tiled northern wall also was damaged.

Police said Wednesday afternoon no casualties had been found as Iraqis picked through the debris, pulling out artifacts.

U.S. and Iraqi forces surrounded the shrine and searched nearby houses. Five police officers responsible for protecting the mosque were taken into custody, said Col. Basim Abdulrahman, chief of police commands.

Demonstrators then gathered near the shrine, waving Iraqi flags, Shiite religious banners and copies of the Muslim holy book, the Quran.

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Jennifer Quinn
Associated Press

LONDON — A gang of armed robbers impersonating police officers tied up employees at a southern England security company and stole the equivalent of $43.5 million, the Bank of England said Wednesday in disclosing one of the largest bank heists in British history.

The money, about 25 million pounds in bank notes, was stolen overnight from a cash center at Tonbridge in Kent county, a bank spokesman said on condition of anonymity, according to bank policy.

No one was injured in the robbery.

The bank spokesman also said it was possible that more than $43.5 million was stolen, but the final figure will not be known until the security company completes its accounting.

The heist at Securitas Cash Management Ltd. began when some of the thieves, dressed as police officers, stopped the firm's manager as he drove home Tuesday.

The manager got into their car, which he believed to be a police vehicle, and was handcuffed by the robbers, authorities said.

At the same time, another team of thieves went to the manager's house, saying he had been in an accident. The men convinced his wife and young son to leave the house, saying he had been in an accident.

Early Wednesday morning, the thieves in the van headed to the Tonbridge depot to meet up with accomplices driving a large white truck. The thieves tied up 15 employees and started loading cash into the truck, police said.

It is believed the thieves were in the depot for more than an hour before driving off with the cash, police said.

About an hour later, the staff managed to escape and call police.

"The staff were all very shook by what has happened," said Detective Superintendent Paul Gladbourn of the Kent police serious and organized crime unit. "This was a traumatic ordeal for the manager of the security depot, his family and all of the staff who worked there. They have all coped extremely well in the circumstances, when faced with threats and a gang of armed men."

In December 2004, a raid at the Northern Bank's Belfast headquarters netted thieves the equivalent of $46.1 million — the biggest cash theft in British history. Three men have been charged in connection with that robbery.

The Governor of the Bank of England has asked for a review of the security arrangements for the storage of bank notes. The bank spokesman said Securitas had already reimbursed them, and there will be no cost to Britain's taxpayers.

The single-flowered, squat brown building is windowless and just a 5-minute walk from the center of Tonbridge, a small market town 30 miles southeast of London.

The building, on a small industrial estate, is surrounded by 6-foot high steel fencing, and security cameras cover every entrance.

Steel traps are in place to prevent unwanted vehicles entering the compound, which acts as a car park for employees. There are no signs indicating the building stores vast amounts of money.

Bank of England: Armed robbers steal equivalent of $43.5 million
Basketball

continued from page 16

on the Central Coast and because there is a big rivalry competition between the 21 universities in California that play Division I basketball.

"There is only one University of Minnesota in the state of Minnesota, and they only have two or three local guys they know they play in the Big Ten," Bromley said.

As a result, many players from Minnesota entertain the idea of going to school in another state to play basketball.

Hamley, a junior forward from Plymouth, Minn., first heard about Cal Poly through Ohlsten.

"I had never even seen the campus until I moved here, but I heard so many good things about Cal Poly from him that it seemed right," Hamley said.

Manley, a sophomore forward from Minneapolis, Minn., ultimately decided to go to Cal Poly for its renowned academics, among other things.

"I had never heard of San Luis Obispo or Cal Poly until coach Bromley saw me play at a tourna­ment in Kansas City during a summer in high school," Manley said.

"Then after I put Cal Poly on my list and I was looking at schools, I decided I really wanted to go somewhere with a good business program and Cal Poly had that," he said.

Another key connection in Manley's case was that he went to the same high school as former Mustang basketball standout Shane Schilling, who transferred to Cal Poly from the University of Minnesota.

"Shane was a senior in high school when I was in eighth grade, but we knew each other well and when I was considering Cal Poly I called him and he helped me with the decision," Manley said.

Thomas, a sophomore center from Minneapolis, was on the same AMU team as Manley when they played in the Kansas City tournament, and was later recruited by Bromley. Though Thomas didn't have to worry about any acquaintances who were Cal Poly alumni, Bromley's character impressed him enough to become a Mustang.

"Coach Bromley's a great guy, and he cares about you as a person, not just as a player," Thomas said.

Buch, a freshman guard from St. Paul, bought Bromley's attention while playing in a tournament in Indianapolis.

"When I actually saw him play, I knew I wanted him to come to Cal Poly," Bromley said. "I loved how hard he played and how he shared the ball."

"Coach Bromley really made me want to come here, just with the kind of guy he is," Busch said.

"My job is to sell out gym, win basketball games, and graduate all the players, but to me there's more," Bromley said. "I care about all facets of their lives, not just basketball. I want them to be successful in life with whatever endeavor they choose."

Even with good coaches and good players, many student-athletes have a hard time going so far away from home at just 18-years-old, making the out-of-state process risky.

"When recruiting out-of-state players, you always have to worry about them being homesick, but we've had success family and we're here for each other," Bromley said.

As for the differences between Minnesota's Twin Cities and California's San Luis Obispo, there are quite a few.

"The weather here doesn't change that often, it's just sunny every day so it feels like time is standing still," Busch said. "In Minnesota, it goes back and forth really quickly."

"No one's heard of tip tip there," Thomas added.

Regardless of the changes in weather and vocabulary that Cal Poly's out-of-state players have had to adapt to, they have found a second home in San Luis Obispo, the men's basketballs are 30-inches in circumference and the baskets are 10-feet high, just like Minnesota.
Cal Poly's basketball pipeline to Minnesota

San Luis Obispo is becoming a second home for Minnesota prep-basketball stars with four on the 2005-06 Cal Poly roster

Nick Barr

About two thousand miles northeast of San Luis Obispo lie the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, where the average February temperature is around 25 degrees. Although it would seem to have no relation to Cal Poly, this Minnesota metropolis area has produced four of Cal Poly's 17 current men's basketball players, as well as several others in past seasons, Cal Poly's own Matt Hanson, Zach Thurneis, John Manley and Travis Busch now enjoy California's sunny, 65-degree February days.

It is very unusual for a team in the Big West conference to have such an arsenal of out-of-state players. Including the four from Minnesota, Cal Poly has more out-of-state players than any other team in the Big West, boasting eight total.

"It all started with Mitch Onsild (from Fairlawn, Minn.)," coach Kevin Bromley said. "Then we got to know their AAU coaches and high school coaches, and a pipeline started.

Bromley's strong connection with the Minnesota basketball scene over the last seven years has been very beneficial to Cal Poly, as there is a shortage of local talent to draw from.

"Who knew that Presidents' Day weekend was such a mecca of sporting events? All weekend I was treated to the Winter Olympics, where I got to see speed skaters Chad Hedrick and Shani Davis bicker like school boys over Davis' decision not to compete in a team pursuit race that supposedly cost Hedrick (3 mean America) a medal. Only to have them both come up short on Tuesday to an Italian, Enrico Fabris, in the 1500ems.

There was the NBA All-Star Weekend, where I had the good fortune of watching team basketball at its finest. By team basketball I mean, of course, failed alley-oops and endless one-on-one isolation plays.

There was even the Daytona 500, where Tony Stewart raced like a true politician, predicting before the race that someone could get killed if NASCAR didn't regulate aggressive driving at Daytona, then being penalized for aggressive driving during the actual race. No word yet from Stewart on whether a lead foot actually tastes better in your mouth.

With all of these major events going on in the world of sports, I was having a tough time deciding on which deserved the most of my criticizing mean, attention.

However, lucky for those mentioned above, I stumbled upon one of the greatest inventions to ever grace the internet: The Trade Machine. While browsing through espn.com, I came across this tool that allows you to be a virtual general manager and make trades between your favorite NBA teams.

Potential trades are always floating around in the wrinkles of my rattled brain, and The Trade Machine finally gave me an outlet. Excited would not begin to describe my level of enthusiasm upon my discovery of this magical tool.

Instantly apparent are the factors every GM must consider: individual salaries, contract length, trade restrictions and the overall salary cap for each team. You find that in almost all trades, the actual basketball talent of the players becomes secondary. A GM has to settle for equal value, not equal talent (taking into consideration consideration of offensive and defensive roles each of his players bring or releases you from)."