Are you naughty or nice?

Santa Claus visited the University Union on Tuesday, on behalf of the Open House Planning Committee's fundraiser. Students like economics sophomore Joe Crockett (right) paid $2 to get their picture taken with Santa. This year's Santa was an architecture senior (who initially forgot his beard) and declined to give his name.

Nicole Small

OREGON DAILY

Move over French fries. Belgian fries have arrived in San Luis Obispo.

Cal Poly emeritus philosophy professor Fred O'Toole opened the gourmet fry shop Bel Frites with his wife Joyce Connolly and their 13-year-old daughter Oona. Bel Frites serves up Belgian-style fries. The first part of the name, Bel, was taken from the first three letters of Belgium and Frites is the French word for fries.

These are not the typical type of fries found at McDonald's. These fries are sliced fresh from No. 1 russet potatoes daily, then blanched (cooked at a lower temperature). The potatoes slices are then blanched (cooked at a lower temperature). The fries then rest for a couple hours and once ordered are "flashed" fried. O'Toole said that this type of frying allows the inside of the fry to taste like a baked potato, leaving the outside crispy. Bel Frites uses pure canola oil for frying. No hydrogenated oils, like animal fats, are used.

Prices vary depending upon the order's size and whether a patron wants only a special seasoning sprinkled on the fries or dipping sauces to choose from, which cost anywhere from $4 to $6.

O'Toole was first exposed to the idea when he was going over The Alps from Italy to France. At the first stop off the gondola ride, there was a Belgium Frites stand, where the fry delight was served in a paper cone.

Since then, O'Toole investigated the concept. There are only a few places around the nation that serve up these Belgian-style fries. The first stop off the gondola ride, there was a Belgium Frites stand, where the fry delight was served in a paper cone.

Bel Frites uses a pure canola oil for frying. No hydrogenated fats, like animal fats, are used.

See fries, page 2

Nipomo woman finds bat in Christmas tree

BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY

Nipomo — Sheila Kearns had a Christmas tree delivered to her home on Sunday. She says she thought she'd been pricked by pine needles when she reached into the tree while decorating it. But the next morning, she found a bat hanging upside down in her home.

It turns out that the Christmas tree farm Kearns bought from keeps bats around for pest control and that one unwittingly hitched a ride to her home.

Animal control officials picked up the bat, which tested negative for rabies.

Kearns got a tetanus shot and some antibiotics, but says she's not fazed. She says she'll keep buying her trees from the same farm.

Not all students aware of hookahs dangers

Geoff Johnson

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (U.C.-DAVIS)

Nipomo — Hookahs, with a rich history dating back to the 1600s, have become popular with youth in the United States. Hookahs are generally used to smoke fruit-flavored tobacco that is made with molasses and fruit extract, although they can also be used to smoke marijuana or various other herbs.

One former University of California at Davis student, Malik, who declined to give his first name, said, although various substances could be smoked with a hookah, the fruit-flavored tobacco offers an alternative to illegal substances. Local hookah use has been increasing since 2001, he said.

Malik cautioned against rampant use and warned that "it's still very bad for you."

Those who smoke incessantly, Malik said, are prone to sickness.

Another former hookah owner suggested that the appeal lies in the effects of the tobacco.

"You get lightheaded off the (carbon dioxide)," senior history major Justin Barbare-Wheaton said.

Wheaton said he is no longer fond of hookah use and has, in fact, given his pipe away. Wheaton noted that his own distance aside, hookah use has been growing among students.

see Hookah, page 2
Frites
continued from page 1

come from drinking down the street.”

There’s no doubt about the late night
faerie that partakes in the European
delight, with Downtown Brewing Co.
only a couple doors away.

Open for a little under two weeks.
O’Toole said business is better than what
the family expected.

To give Bel Frites a try, the shop is
located at 1127 Garden St. Hours of opera-
tion are Tuesday through Wednesday
from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday from noon
to midnight; Friday and Saturday from
noon to 2:30 a.m.; and Sunday from noon
to 6 p.m.

Hookah
continued from page 1

“I guess it has a lot to do with it being
so cool now,” he said.

The devices are usually about three feet
tall — the size and shape of a thin lamp —
and are built with a mixture of glass and
metal parts. On the bottom lies a water
chamber to cool the smoke, and from it
one or several thin metal tubes extend to
the mouthpiece from which users inhale.

Adrienne Cheung, student coordinator
for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Treatement and Prevention program at UC
Davis, cautioned that the cooling of the
tobacco smoke does not make it safer to
smoke despite the risks should not share
pipes, or at the least, clean it off in between
uses. This could prevent the transmission
of bacterial or viral infections, she said,
including the common cold and herpes.

Careful advisement that those who choose
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Currently, there are at least two hookah
bars in Sacramento, Calif., where diners
can smoke and eat. The Great Cafe and the
Cobblestone Cafe.

Chung said the dangers of smoking
hookah are actually worse than those asso-
ciated with smoking cigarettes. The char-
coal involved in hookah use means users,
inhaling carbon monoxide, she said.

“Hookah smoke has higher concentra-
tions of nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide
and heavy metals (than cigarettes),”
Cheung said.

In addition, the social aspect of hookah
use often means that users linger around
smoky areas and smoke more themselves,
she said.

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to smoke despite the risks should not share
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But for its 40th anniversary Sunday, officials think
they have finally outsmarted the resourceful vandals
by dousing the battered ram with flame-resistant
chemicals normally used on airplanes.

O’Toole, a former Cal Poly philoso-
phy professor, and his wife Joyce
opened Bel Frites Nov. 10. The
Belgian fries shop can be
found at 1127 Garden St.  

THE BIZARRE

Sweden protects giant straw Christmas goat

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — For 40 years it has
been torched, vandalized, had its legs cut off and
even been run over by a car. But officials in the
Swedish city of Gavle are guaranteeing that this
year’s giant straw Christmas goat — the victim of
Sweden’s most violent yule tradition — will survive
unscathed.

The 43-foot-high goat — a centuries-old yule
symbol that preceded Santa Claus as the bringer of
gifts to Swedish homes — has been burned down
22 times since it was first set up in Gavle’s square on

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"We don't think that a municipal health agency has any business banning a product the Food and Drug Administration has already approved," said Dan Fleisher, a spokeswoman for the National Restaurant Association.

"Do you ever smoke hookah?"

"No, it's bad for my voice and I'm a music major."

"Yeah, it's a chill thing to do."

"I've done it for a while. It's a social thing."

"No, it don't. I'm not into anything that hurts my lungs."

"'Just smoke hookah with my friends when we're hanging out on the weekends."

"Robin Johnson civil engineering junior"

"Crystal Simson biology senior"

"Alex Arsene mechanical engineering sophomore"

"Danielle Dutro music sophomore"

Question of the day:

Do you ever smoke hookah?

NYC health board bans artery-clogging trans fats at restaurants

Sara Krugler Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Board of Health voted Tuesday to make New York the nation's first city to ban artery-clogging artificial trans fats at restaurants.

The ban, which passed the board unanimously, does give restaurants a light break by relaxing what had been considered a tight deadline for compliance. Restaurants will be barred from using most frying oils containing artificial trans fats by July and will have to eliminate the artificial trans fats from all of their foods by July 2008.

But restaurant industry representatives called the ban burdensome and unnecessary.

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WASHINGTON — Robert Gates, the White House choice to be the next defense secretary, conceded Tuesday that the United States is not winning the war in Iraq and warned that if that country is not stabilized in the next year or two it could lead to a "regional conflagration."

At a Senate confirmation hearing that was long on praise for Gates and short on criticism, the man President Bush chose to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld said he is open to new ideas about correcting the U.S. course in Iraq. He said the war would be his highest priority if confirmed as expected.

Gates, 63, said he believes Bush wants to see Iraq improve to the point where it can govern and defend itself, while seeking a new approach: "What we are now doing is not satisfactory," Gates said.

"In my view, all options are on the table, in terms of how we address this problem in Iraq," he added. He did not commit to favoring any specific new course, saying he would consult first with commanders and others.

Asked point-blank by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., whether the U.S. is winning in Iraq, Gates replied, "No, sir." He later said he believes the United States is neither winning nor losing, "at this point."

At the outset of an afternoon session of questions about Iraq and other subjects, Gates began by telling the committee he wanted to amplify on his remark about not winning in Iraq. He did not withdraw the remark but said, "I want to make clear that that pertains to the situation in Iraq as a whole."

He said he did not want U.S. troops to think he believes they are being unsuccessful in their assigned missions.

"Our military wins the battles that we fight," Gates said. "Where we're having our challenges, frankly, are in the areas of stabilization and political developments and so on."

At the White House, press secretary Tony Snow was pressed by reporters about Gates' answer that the U.S. is not winning in Iraq that one seemed to be in conflict with the president's own position.

Snow said that Gates' testimony, taken in its entirety, shows he shares Bush's view that the U.S. must help Iraq govern and defend itself.

"I know you want to pit a fight between Bob Gates and the president, it doesn't exist," Snow told reporters.

"If you want to try get a nuanced, with occasional hints of humor from Gates. Much of the questioning from panel members was focused on whether Gates would provide independent advice to Bush, and the former CIA director assured the committee that he would not shrink from that duty.

He said he did not give up his position as president of Texas A&M University and return to Washington to "be a bung on a log." Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a likely 2008 presidential candidate and an advocate of increasing U.S. troop strength in Iraq, asked whether Gates believes the U.S. had too few troops at the outset of the war in 2003.

"I suspect in hindsight some of the folks in the administration would not make the same decisions they made," including the number of troops in Iraq to establish control after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime, Gates said.

He also told Levin he believes a political solution in Iraq is required to end the violence.

The confirmation hearing came amid intensifying pressure for a new approach, reflecting the outcome of the Nov. 7 elections that put Democrats back in control of both houses of Congress. U.S. deaths in Iraq have topped 2,900, and questions persist about whether Iraq will devolve into all-out civil war.

"Our course over the next year or two will determine whether the American and Iraqi people and the next president of the United States will face a very real risk, and possible reality, of a regional conflagration," Gates said.

Bush has repeatedly rejected the idea of a quick U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and said he wants to keep U.S. forces there until Iraq is able to govern and defend itself without being a haven for terrorists.

"It seems to me that the United States is going to have to have some kind of presence in Iraq for a long time ... but it could be with a dramatically smaller number of U.S. forces than are there today," Gates said.

Meanwhile, Bush had an in-person preview of a prestigious blue-ribbon panel's recommendations for a new way forward in Iraq. Talking to reporters, Snow said that commission chairman James A. Baker III merely gave a glancing briefing and did not leave the report behind.

Gates, who served on the commission until his nomination was announced by Bush on Nov. 8, said he did not know what the panel would recommend.

"It's my impression that frankly there are no new ideas on Iraq," he said.

There has been little sign that Democrats, poised to take control of Congress in January, will block Gates, and a vote by the full Senate is expected by Friday.

Gates said at one point that "long-term stability in Iraq will be influenced by Syria and Iran and the U.S. government should make a strategic decision to bring them to the negotiating table."
Iran blocks access to video-sharing Web site YouTube.com

Ali Akbar Dareini
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has blocked access to the popular video-sharing Web site YouTube.com and a media rights group warned Tuesday that Internet censorship in the Islamic state is on the rise.

Internet users who tried to call up the YouTube site Tuesday were met with the message, "On the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran laws, access to this Web site is not authorized." which appears on numerous government-sponsored Web sites the government blocks.

It was not known how long the site had been on Iran's Web blacklist.

The Paris-based media rights group Reporters Without Borders said YouTube had been blocked for the past five days.

Iran's Shiite cleric-run government regularly blocks opposition Web sites, including blogs, and the number of sites that bring up the "unauthorized" message has been increasing over the past year. Western news sites, however, are generally accessible.

Videos from the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq and other Iranian opposition groups have been posted on San Francisco-based YouTube.com, along with news clips and independent Iranian critical of the regime.

The site also has Iranian pop music videos, which are frowned upon by the religious leadership.

In its statement Tuesday, Reporters Without Borders said that "censorship is now the rule rather than the exception" in Iran. "The government is trying to create a digital border to stop culture and news coming from abroad — a border that is widening daily and which is dangerous for the country's future," it said.

The Iranian government policy is not an isolated case. It is getting closer and closer to that of the authorities in China, with particular signs being given to censorship of "cultural output," it said.

In October, Reporters Without Borders said, "Iran's worst culprits for systematic online censorship, along with Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Myanmar, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, have all been under investigation by the authorities.

Iran and China are both under international sanctions for their "human rights record." Both governments block numerous political and news sites.

In a response on Tuesday, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology said it was the "right of the government to block and regulate content on the Internet to protect the Islamic values and the national interests of Iran."

The move closes a gap that has existed since the United States blocked access to the site for Iran in 2007.

In 2011, the Pentagon barred military personnel from watching YouTube.com videos, including those that were critical of the U.S. military.

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Students show off their grooves

Amy Dierdorff

"Another Type of Groove," an open-mic night put on by the Multicultural Center to create a space for dialogue and the exchange of ideas, was created five years ago by Mark Middlestadt, former director of the multicultural community. They are aimed at creating an atmosphere of respect and comfort.

Another Type of Groove was created years ago by Mark Fabian, former director of the Multicultural Center on campus, with the mission of building an authentic sense of community and generating knowledge about the uniqueness of individuals and different cultures. The event is funded by Student Life and Leadership.

"There was an incredible need for this on campus," said Taylor Middlestadt, the emcee for this month's open-mic, and an architectural engineering senior.

Another Type of Groove is held on campus at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. It consists of open-mic poetry and a different featured poet each month.

Cal Poly's open-mic poetry event has attracted the nation's top poets including World and National Slam champions, count­ress local and regional Slam champions and HBO Def Poets.

"We have had the best poets in the world come here," Middlestadt said. The featured poet in November was Joe Hernández-Koksi, also known as "Pocho Joe." He is a spoken word poet who has performed on HBO's "Russell Simmons Presents Def Jam Poetry," and has developed and toured for his own hip-hop solo show, "You Want Piece of Me?"

He currently hosts "Downbeat: Open Mic for Poets" an open-mic poetry event put on by Student Life and Leadership.

"Another Type of Groove" will hold its next open-mic night Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Stay Fab: Heat up winter with sexy style

Natalie King

This is a fabulous moment for fash­ion: A divine fusion of ladylike luxury and sexy glamour is strutting down the runways and into our closets.

The mood behind this season's fashions is "innate glamour," like the just-showed-up-fabulous glamour that is only achieved when you feel extremely comfortable and stunning­ly confident. Last season we were cov­ered in so many fashion labels like ELV, CCs and Old Navy, we began looking like walking billboards.

But now the time to ease up on the labels and be more focused on wearing clothes that genuinely complement your gorgeous self. Try a plunging silk camisole or bustier in luminous shades of emerald, crimson and gold, skinny jeans adorned with thin glistering belts; towering prepp­ey shoes; and a faux-fur coat draped over your shoulders, and darling, you will be positively tres chic.

Tights are a fab accessory to shield your legs from the winter chill, and look surprisingly hot when worn with black or pomegranate cuffed shorts, a simple long-sleeved shirt and wedge or platform heels.

The jewelry for this season is Cleopatra-esque, with glistering gold cuff, oversized rings, and layers of luminous necklaces adorning every modern goddess. There are great cost­ume jewelry styles of matte cuffs and rings which will add a little worship me royalty to any look.

The key to wearing this trend is to make your jewelry chichi accessible to you. Have your costume jewelry spilling out of a pretty crystal ashtray near your front door so you can just grab some pieces and be dripping in jew­elry while rushing off to start your day.

To transform your jewelry from self-indulgence and wear it every­thing that made her unique, starp­ing her into a caricature of her former self. Yes, nearly all of the fif­fer songs on the album are dis­turbingly sassy, danceable and will get tons of radio airplay.

Yet the proverbial pith of Stefani, what made her an iconic balance between very gritty­ness and clever intelligence — has disappeared as she has chosen style over substance for the "Sweet Escape." The ingenious blend of musical styles that made Stefani's her work with No Doubt genre-shat­tering and her solo albums, "Love, Angel. Music. Baby.," acceptable— after all, "Hollaback Girl" was an act of stu­pefied genius.

But on "The Sweet Escape," Stefani's new and cavernous inducing pop sensibility has ruined nearly everything that made her unique, warp­ing her into a caricature of her former self. Yes, nearly all of the fiffer songs on the album are dis­turbingly sassy, danceable and will get tons of radio airplay.

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Katherine Tiffin
MUSTANG DAILY

Have you ever been so frustrated with something and wished there was a tool at your fingertips to help you figure it out? Well, now there is.

ViewDo.com is a free site with "how-to" videos for portable devices like iPods and cell phones, and contains everything from how to fit an egg into a milk bottle to the art of beer pong.

"We found that the site is open to anyone looking to gain some Cal Poly knowledge or for users to put their knowledge and editing experience and have something lasting to show for it."

Another feature the site offers is a request tab. Users can request videos they would like information on and then other users can search through the requests and make videos for them and share with the world.

"We look for enthusiastic amateurs as well as experts," Wray said. "We welcome all types of production content, whether it's a single shot made on a digital still camera in movie mode, or people who have more expensive editing to put different videos together for us."

The site is a visual opportunity for people who need help with something, or for users to put their knowledge and expertise into video form to benefit others.

Like a picture is worth a thousand words, "A ViewDo's worth a thousand pictures," Puccinelli said.

For more information visit www.viewdo.com or send questions or comments to mail@viewdo.com.
Candace Raw  
THE ORACLE (2 SOUTH FLORIDA)

“The Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest” two-disc DVD set includes a treasure trove of special features that add to the overall experience of the movie.

The audio commentary by writers Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio is surprisingly interesting because they mention trivia that the casual viewer might fail to notice, such as foreshadowing. They also clarify a few facts about the plot that could have been confusing.

“T: Stefani basically speaks her lyrics — to call it “rapping” would do actual hip-hop artists a grave injustice — about how she’s just an “ordinary girl” living in her “extraordinary world.” Oh, blah, blah, blah. The thing is, Stefani has already made this song; it was called “Just a Girl.” It came out in 1995 and it was a massive hit.

The only good part of this song is the lyric, “underneath it all,” it could be a disappointment because of how obvious is the idea of a song about her relationship with a man who is just as powerful as she is. But it’s not. It’s a fresh idea and it’s a new way of looking at things that can be very empowering.

Stefani, you understand, is not a woman to be underestimated. She has been through many ups and downs in her life, but she always manages to come out stronger.

The slow “Life” isn’t what I expected, but I liked it. It’s a slow, emotional song about how her life has been a series of disappointments and heartbreaks. But even in the slow moments, you can hear the strength in her voice. It’s a song that makes you feel like you’re not alone.

The slow song seems to be an ode to Stefani’s legacy. “Don’t Speak” was a huge hit for the band, and it’s a song that has stood the test of time. Stefani’s voice is still strong, and she sings with the same passion that she did when she was younger.

Overall, the album gives fans just enough of a “Pirates” fix to last until the release of the next movie, scheduled for May 2007.

**KISS ME**

**I work at the Mustang Daily!**

**EDUCATIONAL/HEALTHCARE CAREERS WORKSHOP**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is currently seeking educators and health care workers to work at the California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo. Applications are being accepted for Senior Librarians in Education, and LVN’s, Physicians and Surgeons, Clinical Pharmacists and Lab Assistants in Health Care.

For those interested, please contact Tammy Neidt, Institutional Personnel Officer, at the California Men’s Colony, 1-805-547-7580. A hiring workshop for these positions will also be available on Saturday, December 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Visalia.

**If you are interested in attending the workshop, please call Nancy Martinez at 1-559-992-7100 ext. S346 for RSVP for Senior Librarians. To RSVP for Health Care, call Alime Yuki at 1-916-341-7007.**

Those interested may also visit the CDCR website: **http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CareerOpportunities.asp**
An end to the reign of oil

The world is faced with a set of challenges now that are unlike any faced before. There are new and emerging diseases, state-sponsored international terrorism, problems with fossil fuel dependence and weapons of mass destruction in the hands of defiant dictators. Many of these problems will take the cooperation of dozens of foreign governments to fully combat, which is why adept worldwide diplomacy will be a necessity in the 21st century.

With that said, our prevailing dependence on fossil fuels is one major problem that can be addressed entirely at home. We have the technology, the resources and the public support to achieve energy independence in just a few decades, now that we need the leadership.

We all recognize that the infrastructure now because ethanol can be blended with gasoline and used in our current cars, tanker trucks, tanks and pumps up to 10% ethanol.

Energy independence is not only for the benefit of oil producing countries, and it is not just a pipe dream of megalomaniac environmentalists. It is a possibility and may be found in the fuel ethanol.

Energy independence could be that which is traditionally manufactured from sugarcane and corn. Cellulose ethanol can also be produced more efficiently from corn hulls, sawdust and many other common agricultural leftovers. It is non-toxic, water-soluble and quickly biodegradable. This fuel can be produced in the United States and has the potential to add thousands of new jobs to the heartland.

The beauty of ethanol over a futuristic, dream-like integration is that we have the technology now.

Cornsyrch ethanol is being pro-duced as we speak and cellulose ethanol production is improving at an exponential rate. We also recognize that the infrastructure now because ethanol can be blended with gasoline and used in our current cars, tanker trucks, tanks and pumps up to 10% ethanol.

Energy independence amounts to an estimated $69 billion a year that stays in the USA, which the report stated has spent $1.03 trillion in oil imports from the Middle East. Western nations shell out billions and billions of dollars back into our own economy.

There are many other reports that chart and graph the millions affected by inadequate healthcare, lack of education, disease and oppression. When asked, most would agree that poverty is a problem. But how often do we actually care?

As university students who live in the wealthiest nation in the world, we ought to care enough to take action, either through financial donations, with our time, or both. We are empowered to relieve the daily hardships that face billions and to restore human dignity to those who are heartbroken.

The UNICEF report stated that at the end of 2003, 15 million children had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. That figure is expected to rise to 18 million by 2010. In 2002, 120 million children were out of school, and one billion adults could not read a document.

Millions of children are also victims of human trafficking, forced into exploitative work in sweatshops as domestic servants, child laborers and illegal entry into the heavily industrialized world, the report stated has become a global, multimillion-dollar business.

We should look to Brazil, who solved its dependence on foreign oil in just 20 and is now the country to run on ethanol as well as being a major exporter of the fuel. This energy independence amounts to an estimated $69 billion a year that stays in Brazil to revitalize the once struggling agricultural areas instead of being lost to foreign countries.

Still many people insist that what has been so successful in Brazil could not happen here.

The U.S. Department of Energy reported, "In terms of key energy and environmental benefits, cornstarch ethanol comes out clearly ahead of petroleum-based fuels, and tomorrow's cellulose-based ethanol would do even better."

Support for ethanol is coming from a surprising coalition of interest. Environmentalists, farmers, venture capitalists, automakers and economists from across the political spectrum have come together to promote the future of ethanol. They all see the potential and are eager to get the rest of America onboard with this long overdue energy revolution.

We need to insist on leadership that shares this vision of an energy independent America. President Bush deserves credit for going farther than any previous president toward this important goal but America deserves more. Ending our dependence on foreign oil, along with combating terrorism and reforming immigration, should be the bipartisan focus of his last two years in office.

Energy independence is a noble goal in itself, but ethanol has so many other important benefits that we need to take bold action as soon as possible. It is cleaner burning, totally renewable, domestically grown and the product of existing agricultural waste products. Perhaps the greatest benefit of ethanol would be the thousands of new American jobs and the massive reinvestment of tens of billions of dollars back into our own economy.

Let's ensure that our future revolves around the Midwest and not the Middle East.

Matt Bushman is a civil engineering senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

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Send your opinions, rants and raves to
MUSTANGDIARYOPINIONS@GMAIL.COM
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All letters should be 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and style.

STAFF COMMENTARY

Ignorance not a choice in fight against hunger

In October 2000, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that almost half of the world's population lived on less than $2 a day. In the same sentence he added that "even this statistic fails to capture the humiliation, powerlessness and brutal hardship that is the daily lot of the world's poor."

Six years later, the plight of the world's poor is much the same. Thirty-four percent of children in the developing world live without adequate shelter, 31 percent without adequate sanitation and 21 percent without access to clean water, according to UNICEF's 2005 "State of the World's Children Report."

In the world, 1.2 billion people live without access to safe water and 2.6 billion people without sanitation, according to a 2006 United Nations Human Development Report. Half the hospital beds in sub-Saharan Africa are occupied by AIDS patients, according to the Los Angeles Times.

There are many other reports that chart and graph the millions affected by inadequate healthcare, lack of education, disease and oppression. When asked, most would agree that poverty is a problem. But how often do we actually care?

As university students who live in the wealthiest nation in the world, we ought to care enough to take action, either through financial donations, with our time, or both. We are empowered to relieve the daily hardships that face billions and to restore human dignity to those who are heartbroken.

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Despite these statistics, progress to eliminate poverty is being made. More children are attending school and have access to healthcare, and there is hope that child poverty can be eliminated. UNICEF estimated the cost of educating a child in developing countries at $40 annual. The organization also projected that in 2004, every child could have been immunized for $187 million, which is 42 percent of global military spending.

Though perhaps not as severe, poverty exists in the United States. Nearly 13 percent of Americans lived in poverty in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The same report showed that nearly 28 percent of children under 18 lived below the poverty threshold.

Many organizations care about this problem and are easy to find with some effort. We must choose to participate in the fight to end global poverty or choose to be indifferent to it. Ignorance should not be a choice.
Maddux, Padres close in on 1-year, $10 million deal

Greg Maddux was 6-3 with a 3.30 ERA for the Dodgers this season.

Ronald Blum and Bernie Wilson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greg Maddux and the San Diego Padres neared agreement Tuesday night on a $10 million, one-year contract.

The deal for the four-time Cy Young Award winner would contain a $1 million player option for 2008.

The price of the option would increase incrementally up to $10 million if Maddux pitches 200 innings.

Agent Scott Boras, without indicating a team, said Maddux's deal "was moving positively ... but not done yet."

Details on Maddux's potential contract with the Padres were disclosed by two people familiar with the talks who spoke in condition of anonymity because no deal had been finalized.

UCSB

continued from page 12

today, and it's a bad day to play a poor game," Salcedo said.

UCSB wasted no time in getting the lead it would never relinquish.

In the third minute of the match, midfielder Tyler Rosenlund created space along the touchline and found forward Nick Peters in front of the goal mouth. Peters capitalized on the opportunity to put the Gauchos up 1-0.

UCSB would continue to put loads of pressure on UCLA in the first half, totaling eight shots to the Bruins' three, and controlled the pace and character of the game to its advantage.

"We (normally) like to play around teams," Zaher said. "(But) they started dumping the ball, so we got excited and started dumping the ball. I mean, they have Andy Io and some big guys back there versus David Estrada and Nakazawa. The air battle was to our disadvantage."

Sunday's championship match was the first game in the NCAA Tournament in which UCLA failed to score three goals, a total that would have given the Bruins the win. The Bruins were pressing for the equalizer literally into the final minute of play, until a Gauchos free kick put the ball deep into their territory with under 10 seconds left.

After the game, the UCLA players sat in the locker room, mentally and physically exhausted and frustrated to come so close to their goal and have to settle for first runner-up.

"To work this hard and play that many games to get second place (is) not what we wanted," Alvarado said.

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team celebrates with its first-place trophy after defeating UCLA 2-1 in the championship game of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer College Cup on Sunday in St. Louis.

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Strength of schedule and winning a conference title were also reasons why the Gators will play Ohio State in the national title game.

Richard Rosenblatt

Avoid a rematch Stronger schedule Conference championships Those were the main reasons cited Monday by many poll voters for jumping Florida over Michigan on their final ballot, setting up a Gators-matchup key in the BCS national title game Jan. 8. "If you beat a team one time, why do they get the national championship if they beat the second team?" said Earl Bruce, the former Ohio State coach who has the Harris Interactive poll and moved Florida ahead of Michigan. "I mean, they've already played one time and lost." It was Gators (12-1), who beat Arkansas to win the Southeastern Conference title on Saturday, moved from fourth to second in the final BCS standings Sunday. The Wolverines (11-3), who lost to the Buckeyes 42-39 on Nov. 18, remained third, while USC dropped to fifth from second after losing to UCLA. "At the end of the day, Florida wins the conference championship," said Michigan did not," said Harris poll voter Ray Melick. "If Oklahoma is not a playoff, I think a conference champion ought to carry more weight than a conference runner-up at the BCS conference level." Strength of schedule carried Florida to the title. It was such a big deal for Jim Walden, a former Washington State head coach, that he picked Florida No. 1 in the Harris poll, calling Florida's schedule "murdurous." "In my heart of hearts, I believe that neither Florida nor Michigan could get through Florida's schedule with only one loss." Tom Lund, a Michigan voter who bumped Florida up to second, said he made his assessment based on Florida's body of work - not one game. "Michigan has the quality wins over Wisconsin, which played no one, and Notre Dame, which won the Commander-in-Chief trophy (a rivalry over the service academies) which I don't consider a major coup." As for Florida, Lucci noted its weak nonconference schedule "but that doesn't matter when you play every good team in the SEC, and have quality road wins too." Florida played 10 bowl teams and beat six times, including road wins against Tennessee and Florida State, neutral site wins against Georgia and Arkansas and home victories against LSU and Alabama. The Gators lone loss? At Auburn, 27-21, Sept. 29. "Michigan had its shot," said Harris voter Joe Biddle of the Tennessean. "If you replayed that game it would be nothing more than a Big Ten championship - and I don't think you get mulligans in college football. "If there's a viable alternative, I stay away from a rematch and I think Florida gives them a viable alternative," Jerry Palm, an independent BCS analyst, estimated that at least the 113 voters in the Harris poll and 25 of the 62 in the USA Today coaches' poll moved the Gators past the Wolverines. The teams were tied in the computer rankings, the third component of the BCS standings. The Associated Press media poll is not used in the BCS rankings, but 25 of the 65 voters moved Florida ahead of Michigan. BTN coach Ron Zook, who voted Florida ahead of Michigan, said he went against the voters in the coaches' poll who elevat ed the Gators. He was also the only Big Ten coach to vote Florida ahead of Michigan. "Believe me, it's no slight to Michigan at all," Zook said. "I thought you were supposed to vote the way you feel. One vote wasn't going to make the difference. A bunch of people turned and flipped and voted Florida ahead of Michigan. For me, it was the fact that they played a 13th game." That game, for the conference title, was one that Michigan did not have to play. And because it was played two weeks after Michigan's season-ending loss to Ohio State, the Gators' win was more fresh in voters' minds. AP poll voter Michael Yoga of the Boston Globe said he wasn't against a rematch but found it hard to justify one this time. "I had to reconfigure a fundamental problem with giving Michigan a chance to win the national championship under when it didn't even win a conference championship," he said.

AP poll voter John Wisner of the San Jose Mercury News said a rematch was appealing, but Florida deserves a title based on strength of schedule. "Beating Arkansas, a weak team, in a 10-win team on a neutral field in December gave Florida that extra push. And then there were those who stuck with Michigan. "I kept Michigan second even after they lost to Ohio State, and felt nothing has changed for me since then for Florida to jump over them," said coaches' poll voter Brian Kelly, the former Central Michigan coach who accepted a position on Ruhfeld's staff. "We're making a p...
Championship Tournament

Cal Poly won the Pacific Coast over UC Davis, then finished semifinals, it was kind of heart-hy Miami (3hio).

The Cal Poly men's water polo club team won its way to success who couldn't buried their heads. Those tears in the locker room, did. Those who worked hard and enjoyed water polo.

Cal Poly won the Pacific Coast Division championship at Chico State, San Jose State and UC Davis to claim the Pacific Coast Division championship at Cal Poly from Nov. 4-5.

Cal Poly senior water polo standout Ryan Smillie (13) takes aim against UC Davis at the Pacific Coast Championships hosted by the Mustangs on Nov. 5. Cal Poly won the game 9-6 in overtime.

The Mustangs had an impressive record, though, and were named national champions in 2001, 2002 and 2004. This was definitely the season where we wanted to get back into form," Mix said.

Last year, Cal Poly didn't make it to the National Championships, and placed second in the Pacific Coast Division behind UCLA. The Mustangs had an impressive record, though, and were named national champions in 2001, 2002 and 2004. This was definitely the season where we wanted to get back into form," Mix said.

No matter what, Mix said, Cal Poly works hard and enjoys water polo.

"It's a fun sport to play, and always exciting," he said. "The practice is always worth it when you perform well. It's a sport that requires a lot of training just to stay in shape."

Shilling, who led the Mustangs in steals this season, said there are very few players graduating this year, giving them a good chance at reaching national championships next year.

If they work hard enough, the players are confident they can reclaim glory, and are already taking steps to make improvements.

"We're going to be practicing a lot more in the offseason," Shilling said. As its only source of funding, the team hopes the calendar is fun and attention-grabbing enough to gain student support, even though sales have been slow this year.

The calendar is on sale at El Corral Bookstore for $10, and will soon be reduced to $7 for winter quarter.

UCSB first Big West team ever to win national championship in men's soccer

The 17th-ranked Gauchos upset No. 8 seed UCLA, 2-1 on Sunday.

Bobby Gordon

ST. LOUIS — UCLA sophomore Jason Leopoldo didn't want to get up. Instead, he remained seated in disbelief at midfield after time ran out. Whoever could hold back the tears in the locker room, did. Those who couldn't buried their heads.

In a heartbreaking/close context, eighth-seeded UCLA watched unseeded UC Santa Barbara celebrate in first men's soccer national title with 2-1 victory in the championship game of the College Cup on Sunday.

Actually, "I thought that collectively, we played well as a team," junior team president Josh Mix said. "We didn't get down on ourselves. This year we had a really strong showing. We persevered through our whole season."

The team's only loss was to second-ranked Grand Valley State by a score of 10-9. Michigan State took the national title.

"We were definitely trying to go for first place," freshman Aaron Mix said. "When we lost in semisol, it was kind of heartbreaking."

Two of Cal Poly's standouts made the 2006 National Championship All-Tournament teams. Junior Daniel Harris, the team's leading scorer, made the first team. Junior Ryan Smillie made the second team.

Leading up to nationals, Cal Poly finished league play with an 8-4-2 record. The Mustangs went on to beat Chico State, San Jose State and UCSB to claim the Pacific Coast Division championship at Cal Poly from Nov. 4-5.

"The winning division was a huge deal, because a lot of people didn't think that we were going to win it," Mix said.

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"It just hurts," senior Kiel McClung said. "There's no other way to put it. It just hurts."

The game came down to the final seconds, with UCLA creating multiple chances to equalize, but the Bruins couldn't find the back of the net to push the game into overtime. It looked as if the Bruins were going to come back from a 2-0 deficit when Leopoldo scored in the 79th minute, making it a one-goal game and giving the Bruins hope.

"After the goal I scored, I thought we had some momentum, more than we'd had the whole game," Leopoldo said. "I definitely thought we'd get the second goal, but it didn't come today."

The Bruins will likely remember several late opportunities for the second goal that slipped away.

When freshman Kyle Nakazawa took a free kick in the 96th minute that was inches away from finding the foot of an open Sean Alvarado at the back post, UCSB goalkeeper Kyle Reynish made a diving stop on a free kick from defender Mike Zaher to deflect it to the side of the goal, and another UCLA shot deflected off of a UCSB player on the goal line and went over the bar.

With UCSB's first-ever national title in men's soccer, the Gauchos keep the Bruins at 99 NCAA team titles.

"We would have loved to have been the team that achieved that goal (of 100 titles)," UCLA coach Jorge Sakeo said. "If we would have won, that would have been great, but unfortunately we're not (the team to do it)."

The Gauchos broke two streaks Sunday. They are the first unseeded team since Connecticut in 2000 to take the championship, and they beat the Bruins for the first time since Oct. 30, 1982. The last time the two teams faced each other, at UCSB on Oct. 5, UCLA won 3-1. While UCSB came out looking stronger than it did in its semifinal game, UCLA was the exact opposite. The team from Warrnood had a hard time getting into any kind of a rhythm in the early going.

"We didn't have a good game

Frankly

Poly volleyball: once again a powerhouse

Frank Stra宅

I was running late Friday night after a mid-afternoon nap that turned into an afternoon nap. I woke at precisely 6:23 p.m., seven minutes before I had planned to arrive at the Cal Poly volleyball match.

The match didn't start until 8 p.m., but I wanted to make sure my butt was firmly planted in a court-side seat as the Mustangs battled Michigan in NCAA Tournament action. No matter, I thought — I’ll just snid in around 7 p.m. and maybe settle for something a few rows up and near mid-court.

Several pieces of linguist later, I hopped in the car and calmly drove to the game, completely oblivious to the horde of fans already in the stands.

As I entered the gym, I looked in besidewillment at the student section — not a seat to be found. All around the gym, the bleachers were packed with Mustang fans, young and old alike. Only a smattering of seats on the edges of what usually is the student section and on the rims of the smaller bleachers at the narrow ends of the gym.

As many of you already know, Cal Poly volleyball took an early exit from the tournament with a loss to a very strong Cal State Saturday night.

Big deal.

Yes, the team played poorly. It clearly wasn't the best the Mustangs had to offer. But that's unimportant. Sure, it would've been great to see Cal Poly move on to the round of 16. We all would've loved to see Candace Milton and Arleen Pappas, the team's only seniors, go out with a win in their last home match as Mustangs.

The 2006 team will be remembered for something else: it was the team that brought the spirit of Cal Poly volleyball back to Mont Gens.

Usually you can wander into a volleyball match 30 minutes late and still get a seat at mid-court. That's why I thought it would be fine if I was only an hour early last Friday. I figured I would catch as much of the Cal-LSU first-round match as I could while saving some seats for some buddies who were showing up later.

Instead, I found a seat in the smallest bleachers section on the left. I see Frankly, page 10