Iraq commission concludes Bush war policies have failed

Anne Geenan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush's war policies have failed in almost every regard, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group concluded Wednesday, and it warned of dwindling chances to change course before crisis turns to chaos with dire implications for terrorism, war in the Middle East and higher oil prices around the world.

Nearly four years, $400 billion and more than 2,900 U.S. deaths into a deeply unpopular war, violence is bad and getting worse, there is no guarantee of success and the consequences of failure are great, the high-level panel of five Republicans and five Democrats said in a bleak accounting of U.S. and Iraqi shortcomings.

It said the United States should find ways to pull back most of its combat forces by early 2008 and focus U.S. troops on training and supporting Iraqi units. The U.S. should also begin a “diplomatic offensive” by the end of the month and engage adversaries Iran and Syria in an effort to quell sectarian violence and shore up the fragile Iraqi government, the report said.

It followed by a day the sobering appraisal of Robert Gates, who was confirmed Wednesday as Bush’s new Pentagon chief, that the United States is not winning in Iraq.

“Despite a massive effort, stability in Iraq remains elusive and the situation is deteriorating,” the independent report said. “The ability of the United States to shape outcomes is diminishing. Time is running out.”

The group’s recommendations do not endorse either the current White House strategy of staying put in Iraq or calls from Bush’s political opponents for a quick pullout or a firm timetable for withdrawal.

“The report is an acknowledgment that there will be no military solution in Iraq. It will require a political solution arrived at through sustained Iraqi and region-wide diplomacy and engagement,” said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.,

see Commission, page 3

Poinsettias aplenty

Liza Manion
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly pomssettas project students will host an open house at the Poly Plant Shop on Friday and Saturday.

Poinsettias are in full bloom and ready to be taken home. With about 3,000 plants and 29 varieties, there are plenty to choose from. All range in color and size with unique names like “Jingle Bells” and “Kris Kringle.”

The Enterprise Project students have potted, watered, pruned and taken care of the plants since spring. Originally, they were given about 200 small cuttings of poinsettias from SunOpta Inc., which crossbreeds the plants and gave them their names. One variety, “Peter Star White,” has white bracts (modified leaves, which are the flower-like part of the plant), straying from the traditional red color.

With sizes ranging from 4 inches to 4 feet, the pruning process took a lot of time and effort.

“They’re just picky little plants,” said Hilary Hirzel, an environmental horticulture science sensor and Enterprise Project student.

She explained the plants are delicate and sensitive to heat and over-watering. She said

see Poinsettias, page 2

Jamba Juice warns of contaminated fruit in smoothies

Tyler Wise
MUSTANG DAILY

San Francisco-based beverage chain Jamba Juice said Tuesday that several of its chain stores located along the West Coast might have used contaminated strawberries in late November.

According to Jamba Juice, a business that originated in San Luis Obispo, one of its suppliers, Cleugh's Frozen Foods, notified the company last week that routine testing in a Salinas food processing center found that its frozen strawberries tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes, a potentially harmful bacteria.

Cleugh’s, a subsidiary of Canadian organic food company SunOpta Inc., said in a statement late Monday that it had voluntarily recalled the strawberries. The strawberries in question were shipped to several Jamba Juice stores in Southern California, Arizona and southern Nevada.

As soon as information about the contaminated strawberries was relayed to Jamba Juice, the stores removed all strawberries delivered from Cleugh’s and disinfected all of their equipment, according to a press release.

San Luis Obispo has two Jamba Juice store locations, and each said they are doing their part to ensure that customers aren’t purchasing beverages containing contaminated strawberries.

“We actually never received a shipment of the suspected contaminated strawberries from the supplier,” said Christyn Rossiter, Chorro Street Jamba Juice manager and kinesiology senior.

“Of course Jamba Juice shop from Camarillo to Paso Robles received the shipment and the supplier took back all the strawberries before they were delivered.”

Of the 32 menu items currently available at Jamba Juice locations in San Luis Obispo, 20 contain strawberries. Though Jamba Juice warns that smoothies containing strawberries consumed from Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 may have been contaminated, the San Luis Obispo locations said they haven’t heard of any illnesses related to consuming the beverages.

“As far as we know there hasn’t been anyone who got sick from a smoothie containing strawberries,” said the manager of the Marsh Street Jamba Juice, who preferred not to be named.

Concerning the contaminated straw-

see Jamba, page 2
Local briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Teo's Me SLO, a new T-shirt shop which replaced Bladerunner on the corner of Monterey and Morro streets, opened its doors for business on Nov. 8.

The store offers T-shirts, hats and aprons, with everything stretched on artistic canvas so it looks like an art gallery, said Joanna Limberg, owner of Teo’s Me SLO.

Teo’s Me SLO is located at 956 Monterey St. and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, noon to 5 p.m. on Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

CAL POLY — A review course of the Medical College Admission Test will be available for students interested in applying to medical school.

The class will begin Jan. 2 and end April 5, one week before the MCAT test date, for 24 meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. The total fee is $1,945 and will be taught by Michael Black, an assistant professor in the biological sciences department.

The course is offered through CAL Poly Continuing Education and University Outreach. For more information, call (805) 756-2053 or go to www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu.

CAL POLY — Auditions for "The Vagina Monologues" end today.

Anyone interested in being a part of Eve Ensler's production about sexual violence and female sexuality can go to room 219 in the University Union. No theater experience or preparation is necessary.

The production will be performed Feb. 15 to 18, 2006 and is presented by Cal Poly Women's Programs to benefit sexual awareness programs.

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Jenny Bailey, a resident of Grover Beach, travelled to Africa in November, 2005, to teach at a vocational school and will present "Night in Mozambique: Art, Film and Music" from her experiences.

A documentary on daily life in an African village will be shown and donations can be made to assist the people and projects of Lamego, Mozambique.

The event is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County and will be held on Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 232 Footsball Blvd.

Compiled by the Mustang Daily staff

A variety of red, white and even blue poinsettias are sold through the Poly Plant Shop. From left to right, Hilary Hirzel, David Gavar and Jose Sanchez are responsible for nearly 3,000 poinsettias.

Hirzel is showcasing painted poinsettias this year, which are literally painted different colors, and sometimes are speckled, striped or have glitters. She uses a water-based paint with ethanol that does not burn the leaves.

"We're hoping to have a paint booth," she said, so people can come and paint their own poinsettias at open house this weekend.

Right now, the painted poinsettias are pre-order only, but cost just $2 or $3 more than regular poinsettias.

Regular poinsettias range in price from $6 to $60, depending on size.

Four-inch potted plants, if left alone and uncontrolled, can grow 10 to 15 feet, Jose Sanchez, another enterprise student, said.

Sanchez also mentioned that full "controlled" growth can take from one to eight months, depending on size. Once they are fully grown, to be in full bloom takes from eight to ten weeks.

"It's the largest enterprise project," Sanchez said about the poinsettias. Last year, the group sold more than 2,500 plants, and this year expectations are the same.

This Friday and Saturday the Poly Plant Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop is located on campus in the environmental horticultural science building, on Via Carta Road.

For more information and directions, visit www.polyplantshop.com.

Poinsettias continued from page 1

plants should stay healthy and last with proper care.

Poinsettias are indoor plants that need indirect sunlight and watering once a week, she said.

"They need indirect sunlight and watering so sometimes are speckled, striped or have glitters. She uses a water-based paint with ethanol that does not burn the leaves."

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Jamba continued from page 1

berries and possibly related illnesses. Jamba Juice has produced a consumer information flyer that details the extent of the contamination in information about the Listeria bacterium and its symptoms that can include fever, muscle aches, nausea and diarrhea.

If you have purchased a beverage containing strawberries from Jamba Juice and are experiencing any of these symptoms, Jamba Juice asks that you call 1-877-464-5689 or visit their Web site at www.jamba- juice.com to arrange a blood test or reimbursement.

This information has come in the wake of several fruit and vegetable related illnesses including the recent finding of green onions served at Taco Bell contaminated with the deadly E. Coli bacteria.

As of Wednesday, green onions have been removed from all 5,800 Taco Bell restaurants and four New Jersey Taco Bell chains have been closed after a dozen people became ill after eating entrees containing green onions according to a press release.

When would it be safe to eat green onions again?

A documentary on daily life in an African village will be shown and donations can be made to assist the people and projects of Lamego, Mozambique.

The event is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County and will be held on Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 232 Footsball Blvd.

Compiled by the Mustang Daily staff
Commission
continued from page 1
and other Democrats said the ball is in Bush's court.

"If the president is serious about the need for change in Iraq, he will find Democrats ready to work with him in a bipartisan fashion to find a way to end the war as quickly as possible," Pelosi said.

The Iraq panel's leaders said they tried to avoid politically charged lan-
guage such as "victory," on the one hand or "civil war" on the other, but the words they chose were still pow-
erful. The report says the current strategy is not working and lays out an example after example where it has come up short.

As if to underscore that the con-

"It is a report that brings a very tough assessment of the situation in Iraq," Hamilton said. "Yet, in our opinion, that approach is no longer viable."

The report has been widely seen
as an opportunity for Bush to pivot from policies blamed in large part for Republican losses in midterm elec-
tions last month. Bush praised the

"Because none of the operations conducted by U.S. and Iraqi military forces are fundamentally changing the condi-
tions encouraging the sectarian violence, U.S. forces seem to be caught in a mission that has no foreseeable end," the report said.

The commission also believed that the Bush administration is failing to take responsibly for their own security, "Absolute dependence on foreign
troops is not possible," said Deputy

"Military priorities must change," the report said, toward a goal of training, equipping and advising Iraq
forces.

The report said Bush should put aside misgivings and engage Syria, Iran and the leaders of insurgent
forces in negotiations on Iraq's future, to begin by year's end. It urged him to revise efforts at a broader Middle East pace.

The report laid out consequences from bad to worse, including the threat of wider war in the Middle
East and reduced oil production that would hurt the global economy.

In a slap at the Pentagon, the com-
mision said there is significant
underreporting of the actual level of violence in Iraq. It also faulted the U.S. intelligence effort, saying the government "still does not under-
stand very well either the insurgency in Iraq or the role of the militias."

The commission recommended the number of U.S. troops embedded
in Iraq should increase dra-
matically, from 3,000 to 4,000 cur-
rently to 10,000 to 20,000, Commission member William Perry, defense secretary in the Clinton
administration, said those could be drawn from combat brigades already in Iraq.

The report noted that Iraq costs run about $8 billion a month and that the bills will keep coming.

"Caring for veterans and replacing lost equipment will run into the hundreds of billions of dollars," the commission said. "Estimates run as high as $2 trillion for the final cost of the U.S. involvement in Iraq."
Question of the day:

Is Pearl Harbor more infamous than Sept. 11?

"Pearl Harbor is definitely less infamous. We can relate to Sept. 11 because it happened in our lifetime and it affected so many people. We experienced the whole ordeal."

-Madeline Fox
social science
freshman

"I think now Pearl Harbor is less infamous because of the war in Iraq that has definitely stemmed from Sept. 11. The aftereffects of Sept. 11 are felt more than Pearl Harbor."

-Nick Juan
psychology and child development
senior

"Pearl Harbor is more infamous because we’ve studied it so much in school. Maybe later on when kids study Sept. 11 that will become more infamous."

-Ashley Smith
psychology
junior

"I think that at this point in time, Sept. 11 is more infamous. But as times change, we might see that Pearl Harbor had as much impact if not more than Sept. 11."

-Dietrich Renner
electrical engineering
freshman

"I think Sept. 11 is more infamous because Pearl Harbor was so long ago. We all went through Sept. 11. We don’t know how Pearl Harbor affected our society. We know how Sept. 11 affected our society because we went through it."

-Calandra Chang
landscape architecture
freshman
BRIEFS

NATIONAL

MERLIN, Ore. (AP) — A San Francisco man who got stranded in the snowy wilderness with his family nearly two weeks ago was found dead Wednesday in a remote creek, authorities said.

James Kim’s body was discovered in Oregon's snowy Coast Range two days after his wife and two daughters were rescued from their car, stuck on a remote road. Kim went on foot over the weekend to find help for his family.

Ground crews and helicopter

had been searching the area for Kim for days.

Kim, 35, was a senior editor for the technology media company CNET Networks Inc. He and his family had been missing since Nov. 25. They were heading home to San Francisco after a family vacation in the Pacific Northwest.

A few of Kim's pants had been worn in the wilderness on Tuesday, raising fear that he had become delirious from the cold.

NEW YORK (AP) — Britney Spears dumped him and his debut album bombed, but Kevin Federline says he's doing great.

"I am good, I am great, you know. I'm moving along, progressing and taking it all in stride," the 28-year-old aspiring rapper tells "Elvis Live," in an interview that was to air Wednesday night. Spears, 25, filed for divorce last month after two years of marriage. She and Federline have a 1-year-old son, Sean Preston, and an infant son, Jayden James, who was born Sept. 12. Federline is seeking custody of both children, with visitation rights for Federline.

LONDON (AP) — Scotland Yard said Wednesday it is treating the death of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko as a murder.

The announcement came nearly two weeks after Litvinenko died in a London hospital of acute radiation poisoning. He was treated in critical condition for a month before he died on Nov. 23.

Scotland Yard detectives are in Moscow as part of the widening investigation into his death.

One last roll call

for survivors of an infamous day

Jaynes Song

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — This will be their last visit to the watery grave to share stories, exchange smiles, find peace and salute their fallen friends.

This, they say, will be their final farewell.

With their number quickly dwindling, survivors of Pearl Harbor will gather Thursday one last time to honor those killed by the Japanese 65 years ago, and to mark a day that lives in infamy.

"This will be one to remember," said Mal Middleworth, president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. "It's going to be something that we'll cherish forever.

The survivors have met here every five years for four decades, but they're now in their 70s or 80s and are not counting on a 70th reunion. They have made every effort to report for one final roll call.

"We're like the dodo bird. We're almost extinct," said Middleworth, now an 83-year-old retiree from Upland, Calif., but then — on Dec. 7, 1941 — an 18-year-old Marine on the USS San Francisco.

Nearly 500 survivors from across the nation were expected to make the trip to Hawaii, bringing with them 1,300 family members, numerous wheelchairs and too many haunting memories.

Memories of a shocking, two-hour aerial raid that destroyed or heavily damaged 21 ships and 320 aircraft, that killed 2,390 people and wounded 1,178 others, that plucked the United States into World War II and set in motion the events that led to atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"I suspect not many people have thought about this, but we're witnessing history," said Daniel Martinez, chief historian at the USS Arizona Memorial. "We are seeing the passing of a generation.

The attack may have occurred 65 years ago, but survivors say they can still hear the explosions, smell the burning flesh, taste the sea water and hear the cries.

"The younger ones were crying, 'Mom! Mom! Mom!'" said Edward Chan, who witnessed the attack from the Ten-Ten dock, just a couple hundred yards away from Pearl Harbor, page 13.

Conservative Jewish scholars ease ban on gay ordination, overturn centuries of precedent

Rachel Zoll

NEW YORK — Conservative Jewish scholars eased their ban Wednesday on ordaining gay men, spending thousands of years of precedent to open a door just short of full acceptance gay clerics.

The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, which interprets religious law for the movement, adopted three starkly conflicting policies that nonetheless gave gay men the chance to serve as clergymen.

One upholds the prohibition against gay rabbis. Another, billed as a compromise, permits gay ordination while continuing to ban male homosexuals from holding the baton on gay sexual relationships in Jewish law and mentions the option for gay men to undergo therapy aimed at changing their sexual orientation.

That leaves rulings and syna-

gogues on either end on their own approach to follow.

It will also test what Conservative Jews leaders call their "big tent" — allowing diverse practices by the movement's more than 1,000 rabbis

and 760 North American synagogues.

The 25-member panel made its decision in a two-day closed-door meeting in an Upper East Side synagogue students from a gay advocacy group at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the flagship school of Conservative Judaism, stood vigil nearby while the results were announced.

Conservative leaders are struggling to hold the shrinking middle ground of American Judaism, losing members to both the liberal Reform and the traditional Orthodox branches.

Reform Jews, as well as the small Reconstructionist branch, allow gay men to become rabbis: the Orthodox ban but gay men and women from ordination.

The last major Law Committee vote on gay relationships came in 1992, when the panel voted 19-3, with one abstention, that Jewish law barred openly gay rabbis from serving in major synagogues and prohibited the more than 1,000 rabbis in the movement from officiating at gay union ceremonies.

The panel focuses on Leviticus 18:22, which states, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman" — echoing the fight in mainstream protestant groups about the Bible and

sustain

the nuclear whether any congrega-

tions in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the synagogue arm of the movement, will break away over the gay issue.

DECUBITUS

CLINIC

FEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — This will be their last visit to the watery grave to share stories, exchange smiles, find peace and salute their fallen friends.

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One day only Thursday December 7
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

By Emilie Egger

Bestseller portrays pain of lost parent

Jonathan Safran's second novel, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," is a national bestseller.

Dear Reader,

The California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo is seeking educators and health care workers to work at the California Men's Colony, 3-805-547-7680. Applications are accepted for Senior Librarians in Education, and LVN's, Physicians and Surgeons, Clinical Dieticians and Lab Assistants in Health Care.

For those interested, please contact Tammy Neotti, Institution Personnel Officer, at the California Men's Colony, 3-805-547-7680. A hiring workshop for these positions will also be conducted on December 9, 9 a.m. to 3 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. 5346 to RSVP for Senior Librarians. To RSVP for Health Care, call Aimee Yuki at 1-916-342-7007.

Spotlight editor: Katherine Tiffin; mustangdaily@spotlight.com
Assistant Spotlight editor: Jemima Wilson

www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, December 7, 2006

7

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," the national bestseller and second novel by author Jonathan Safran Foer, takes on a heavy task: describing the profound pain that comes from losing a loved one. Foer sets out to do this through the perspective of his main character, a grieving boy, coping with the recent death of his father in the attack on the World Trade Center.

Through the meticulous thought-process of a 9-year-old child, Foer masterfully portrays a kind of pain broken by the public and personal tragedy that he has endured. It's immediately obvious to the reader how tormented this young boy is; even though he is uncommonly bright, he is still unable to rationalize his horrible loss, and incapable of even beginning to come to peace with it.

Through the heartaches and triumphs of Oskar Schell, Foer depicts humanity's struggle to find peace amid the chaos of pain.

His naturally curious spirit still alive, we find Oskar snooping in his parents' closet the day after the funeral. The main plot of the book begins here, when he stumbles upon a key that belonged to his father. Never having seen the key before and always ready for a treasure hunt, Oskar immediately sets out to find its corresponding lock. His journey takes him all through New York City, and ends up being more about finding closure than anything else.

Don't be fooled by the simple premise of the story; however. The careful reader that will read between the lines of narrative and dialogue to find something deeper. During his eight-month journey, Oskar encounters numerous people who are dealing with deep pain themselves.

The glimpses we get of these characters widen the applicability of the book to more than just those directly affected by Sept. 11. We meet the woman going through a bitter divorce, the old man who hasn't left his apartment in 30 years because of his extreme loneliness, and perhaps most importantly, Oskar's grandmother, whose own story evolves into a riveting sub-plot, giving the reader a chance to put the pieces of the novel together to form an even more fulfilling story.

Foer's writing style is at once reliable and unconventional; he uses tools uncommon to the novel genre to add to his writing. There are drawings and photographs sprinkled throughout the book, as well as varying font sizes and styles used to magnify different points.

However risky, these moves don't in any way come across as overdone or exaggerated. In fact, nothing in the book seems faked or forced. Foer avoids the saccharine road that some writers have taken by keeping the book relatively true to life; it's evident from the beginning that he has command of where the novel is going, so, even when a little confused, the reader will have no problem letting go of convention.

An unusual, surprising and ultimately moving read, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" takes its readers on a journey similar to that of its main character. Through the heartaches and triumphs of Oskar Schell, Foer depicts humanity's struggle to find peace amid the chaos of pain. Although quite different than what might be expected, this novel is sure to be found reliable and rewarding by all.

Emilie Egger is a history sophomore and Mustang Daily book reviewer.

If you would like to read "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," you can visit your local bookstore or check it out from the Mustang Library. The book will be available at the Mustang Library for several weeks, so you can read it in your own time.

Enjoy your reading!

Emilie Egger

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Mustang Daily

Spotlight editor: Katherine Tiffin; mustangdaily@spotlight.com
Assistant Spotlight editor: Jemima Wilson

www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, December 7, 2006

7
The bars in a different light

Devan McClaine

I recently tried to kill two birds with one stone. This being the time of year when term papers, projects and finals heap themselves upon students with reckless abandon, I can't give up my night life just because I have a couple of projects and term papers due, can I?

The best of both worlds, right? Not so much. It is tough taking crowd photos at bars that are playing techno like it's Germany circa 1994. The pictures come out looking like a hallucination.

Also, there are some bouncers who have seen "Road House" one too many times and want to know why you are taking a picture in front of the bar. "What are you doin' man?" Chill out Swayze, it's for a project.

In addition to these setbacks, let's not forget every girl in the bar getting the stalker vibe when you are taking a picture in their general direction.

Nonetheless, I have fought on. I have some really awesome pictures, as most intoxicated people are inviting to anything holding a camera. I also have some great audio, you would be amazed at some of the conversations that go on in the background at bars. You just tend to forget them for obvious reasons.

Try bringing a tape recorder with you, it's like hearing a conversation from a parallel universe. Plus, it's fun because you don't know the context. For one thing, I really don't want pictures of empty bars, that dog won't hunt.

Remember, there is always tomorrow, until tomorrow comes in the form of an 8 a.m. final or 10-page paper.

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New hip-hop club breaks onto scene

Tristan Aird

Some people view hip-hop music as nothing more than just that, music.

But at Cal Poly group will in its first year on campus is representing hip-hop culture and all of its elements: emcees, DJs, graffiti art and breakdancing.

Formed last spring, Students United by Hip-Hop Culture's mission statement is "to provide a place for those interested in hip-hop culture to take part in or experience the culture as well as positively affect the community."

"There's so much behind hip-hop other than the music," said one of the group's three founders, business junior Matt Johnson. "In general and in the San Luis Obispo area, people get a misleading idea about hip-hop culture. It has a negative connotation in the older generation."

The group's president, journalism junior Brian McMullen, said part of the reason people often misunderstand hip-hop culture is because underexposure.

"You go to UCI, Houston and it's all rock bands, emo and things of that nature," McMullen said. "It's the students who are interested in hip-hop culture that are kind of hidden among the student body. The club is really a chance for those interested in hip-hop."

Though it may relocate next quarter, the group currently meets weekly at 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the Business building. Roughly 10 to 12 people showed up regularly, McMullen said. 

"The goal of the club is not only to give people interested a place to go, but also to bring venues and more hip-hop to the community in a positive way too," McMullen said. "We're in the roots or genesis stage. We're trying to make our mark and get known."

McMullen said the group strives to represent all styles of hip-hop, whether it's underground, Top 40 or club, West Coast, East Coast, old-school or anything else.

"The group covers everything," McMullen said. "We love all hip-hop. The group does not discriminate."

The group focuses on the positive origins of hip-hop before it became used as a marketing tool, Johnson said.

"Hip-hop has always been about having fun, but you have to be responsible," he said.

Though both McMullen and Johnson said they listen to all forms of hip-hop, their favorite emcees and groups vary.

McMullen said A Tribe Called Quest and Underground are his favorites, but he also listens to contemporary artists such as Ludacris, Johnson, who breakdances, listed his favorite acts as Aesop Rock, Binary Star, CunninLynguists, Zion I and Gateway.

"I listen to something you can get a lot from," Johnson said. 

Aside from McMullen and Johnson, the group's other founder is civil engineering major Brenton Smith. His adviser is Preston Allen, associate vice president of Student Affairs.

McMullen's ultimate goal for the group is ambitious.

"I envision it being part of Cal Poly's history in the future," he said. "It becomes something so big and well regarded that students when considering universities to go to might say, "Cal Poly has this really sweet hip-hop club. I want to see about going there.'"
S Sionalemente, todas las partes de este texto están en un tono formal y objetivo, sin implicar un sesgo o态度. Sin embargo, es importante notar que la naturaleza de los temas abordados puede llevar a reflexiones más profundas y comprometer el tono formal. Como modelo de lenguaje, sigo las pautas del texto y evito tomar decisiones sobre el contenido que podría ser altamente subjetivo o desencadenar tensiones.
Looking for reality after graduation

Erin Roef

I rented "Reality Bites" last night. It seemed like the right thing to do because I am graduating in two weeks, and I have yet to get my graduation gown, write my resume or concoct a life plan. In the end, the movie just made me more depressed. I wonder if a few months down the road I will find myself in Winona Ryder's character's position: chained-smoking cigarettes and lying on the couch for days, while running up a $600 phone bill pouring out my life story to a TV psychic. More likely, I will be consuming large amounts of whiskey and listening to Elliott Smith's music. I think shades of my mother would be ideal, but I will leave Kent State with a very expensive piece of paper, not a guarantee of success. I have to do that myself and I don't have any idea how. No one teaches you how to "work your way up in the business." I want to be able to pay off my student loans and still afford to eat at the same time. In short, I'm looking for a miracle.

At the heart of this drama is my worry. I will fail. I have always been a good student. I'm even graduating magna cum laude, damn it. But I will leave Kent State with a very expensive piece of paper, not a guarantee of success. I have to do that myself and I don't have any idea how. No one teaches you how to "work your way up in the business." I want to be able to pay off my student loans and still afford to eat at the same time. In short, I'm looking for a miracle.

I'm not ready to close this chapter of my life. But I have no choice. When tell people I'm graduating, they usually react as if that means I'm falling off the face of the planet. Is that what my adulthood is like? After the cliff of graduation is a bottomless pit of responsibilities, priorities and, oh God, babies or something! No thanks. I'd rather crawl back to sophomore year when I didn't even have a job, could sleep in until noon and my fancy little FlashCard would pay me dinner every night. My boyfriend is a junior. I looked at him yesterday morning, sleeping peacefully, and started crying. He has a year and a half left and doesn't realize how lucky he is.

What our professors have forgotten is that we're not here just forking over tuition money for a college education. We are paying for a college experience.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangedailyopinions@gmail.com
An Iraqi woman grieves over the death of her relative while waiting to receive his body, at the Yarmouk hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006.

Quais Al-Hashir
Associated Press

About 25 minutes later, a suicide bomber attack killed 215 people and wounded dozens in a southwestern district of Baghdad, authorities said.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to those family members who have lost loved ones today," said U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Christopher Garver. The military confirmed that the 10 Americans who have died since the beginning of the war in 2003, had died but gave no further details.

The two mortar rounds landed and exploded in the Haraj Market by the Sadr City's Gharraf neighborhood, said police 1st Lt. Thaer Mahmoud.

The report recommended new laws and enhanced diplomacy so that U.S. combat forces can "begin to move out of Iraq" as soon as that can be done responsibly.

"The situation in Iraq is grave and deteriorating," the commission warned in the report, portions of which were obtained by The Associated Press.

The report called for the Bush administration to try to engage Syria and Iran in diplomacy as part of an effort to stabilize Iraq and allow withdrawal of most combat troops by early 2008.

The report warned that if the situation continues to deteriorate, there is a risk of a "slide toward chaos (that) could trigger the collapse of Iraq's government and a humanitarian catastrophe." Some Iraqis, while critical of U.S. strategy in Iraq, said they feared any new policy would lead to more suffering for their country.

"They (U.S. officials) are preparing Iraq. So they are trying to seek for an outlet to get out of their plight in Iraq. And I think the outlet will be at the expense of the Iraqi people," Mamt al-Obeidi, a professor and political analyst at al-Nahrain University in Baghdad, told AP Television News.

Falah Shanshal, a Shiite lawmaker, said 115 of parliament's 275 legislators have signed a statement rejecting the U.N. Security Council's vote to extend the mandate of the 160,000 multi-national forces in Iraq for another year, beginning Jan. 1.

At the time, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said one of his government's priorities was to assume full responsibility for Iraq's security, but that it needed more time.

"We demand to set a timetable for the withdrawal of the these forces from Iraq," a statement by the lawmakers said. They have made similar requests before without any result.

Al-Maliki persisted, meanwhile, with efforts to curb violence, arguing university professors and students to ignore "the desperate attempts" of a Sunni Arab insurgent group to keep them from class.

The group had sent e-mails to students and posted signs at schools and mosques saying students should stay away while itelinates the campuses of Shiite death squads, according to a statement from al-Maliki's office late Tuesday.

The government also announced the capture of a senior aide to Abu Hamza al-Maliki, also known as Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who took over as leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq after his predecessor Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in a U.S. airstrike in June.

Mosulwak al-Raibai, the government's national security adviser, said U.S. and Iraqi forces captured the aide, though he did not specify where or when. He said three-fifths of al-Qaeda in Iraq's leadership has now been captured or killed.

Coalition forces have also detained several leaders of Ansar al-Sunnah, an insurgent group allied with al-Qaeda in Iraq, al-Raibai added.

"The noose is tightening around Abu Ayyub al-Masri, and I can say with all confidence that al-Qaeda in Iraq is undergoing a very real leadership crisis," al-Raibai said at a news conference.

يارق البشير
AP

The deaths raised to at least 2,017

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MUSTANG DAILY
www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Photos may show evidence of flowing water on Mars

Alicia Chang
ASSOCIATED PRESS

New photographs from space suggest that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday. The new images, taken by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor before it lost contact with Earth, do not actually show flowing water. Rather, they show changes in craters that provide the strongest evidence yet that water coursed through them as recently as several years ago and is perhaps doing so even now. "This is a quieting gun for water on Mars," said Kenneth Edgett, a scientist at San Diego-based Malin Space Science Systems, which operates cameras on the Global Surveyor.

The news excited scientists who have been searching for extraterrestrial life. If the finding is confirmed, they say, all ingredients favorable for life on Mars are in place: liquid water and a stable heat source.

In all, Mars exploration missions, NASA has pursued a "follow the water" strategy to determine if the planet once contained life or could support it now. Scientists believe ancient Mars was awash with pools of water, but they have yet to actually see water in liquid form.

"This underscores the importance of searching for life on Mars, either present or past," said Bruce Jakosky, a geologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who had no role in the study. "It's one more reason to think that life could be there."

Some researchers were skeptical that liquid water was responsible for the surface feature changes seen by the spacecraft. They said other materials such as sand or dry ice flow like a liquid and produce similar results.

Four in five servicemen on the USS Arizona — 1,177 in all — did not make it to the end of the day. It was the greatest loss of life on any ship in U.S. naval history. They remain entombed in the battleship's sunken hull, which still seeps oil every few seconds, leaving a colorful sheen on the harbor water.

The survivors say they have more horrific memories to overcome. "You can't imagine the pain," said Hyland, whose oldest brother visited. "It's the first bomb dropped and for the next 15 minutes, it was complete chaos," he said.

"I knew what was going on. Everybody was running around like a chicken with their heads cut off."

Chun saw the Oklahoma and West Virginia torpedoed by Japanese torpedoes as the turning point of the war. It left him and others who were not so fortunate as homeless artists who were not so fortunate as to survive Dec. 7, 1941.

But until then, they are drawn to Pearl Harbor and its memorial are at record levels. "We all have our turn and our turn is getting closer," he said.

There are those who are unable to forgive the Japanese, but others simply to the power of reconciliation.

"There are some guys that are still in the last stage of mourning," he said. "I don't have in me any hatred in my heart." said 87-year-old survivor Ira Sossey, of Plainsview, Texas. "They were doing their job... just like we were."

Hyland, who was almost killed in the attack, married a woman from Japan. They met at the 50th Memorial service and wed the following year.

"I got over it a long time ago," he said.

Former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, who dubbed Americans "the greatest generation," agreed to be keynote speaker for Thursday's ceremony. A moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. was to mark the time the first bomb dropped. It marked the start of a three-hour service that will end with "Remember Pearl Harbor," "We're coming home."

"The passing of that generation had its moment and we're going on, son," he said.

But some veterans don't believe, or refuse to accept, that this will be the last one. "They claimed the 60th was going to be the last one. Now they have the 70th when they'll be claiming. 'This will be the last one,'" Hyland said. "They've been crying wolf too many times." Hyland does accept the fact that their numbers are falling fast. "We all have our turn and our turn is getting closer," he said.

Then, until then, they are drawn to Pearl Harbor, and to each other. Military historian Douglas South, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., says they are proud of their service and eager to return "to their glory days," but most of all they revel in the bonds they formed long ago, when they were young.

The bond is so strong that some ask to have their ashes interred inside the Arizona, laid to rest with ships who were not so fortunate as to survive Dec. 7, 1941.

"We all have our turn, and our turn is getting closer," he said.

"The whole country is getting closer," Middlewood said. "They feel they're coming home."

Former White House press secretary Jim Brady speaks at a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the wounding of President Ronald Reagan, Thursday, March 29, 2001, at the St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington. Brady was wounded in the head in an assassination attempt made by John Hinckley Jr. in 1981.

Byester Walker, a former aide, gave a reading:

"I pray that you may have the joy of knowing that you have used your life to bring peace to others.

"I pray that you may have the joy of knowing that you have used your life to help others.

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The Global Surveyor, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, abruptly lost radio contact with Earth last month. Several attempts to locate the spacecraft, which has mapped Mars since 1996, have failed and scientists fear the mission was likely at an end.

Mars formed more than 4.5 billion years ago and scientists generally believe it went through an early hot and wet era that ended after 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion years, leaving the planet extremely dry and cold.

NASA's durable twin rovers have sent scientists strong evidence that the planet once had liquid water at or near the surface, based on observations of alterations in ancient rocks. The images from the Global Surveyor suggest the process is still occurring.

"We're now realizing Mars is more active than we previously thought and that the mid-latitude section seems to be where all the action is," said Arizona State University scientist Phil Christensen, who was not part of the current research.

There is the tantalizing possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, sci­ lences said Wednesday. The new images, taken by space suggestion that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday. The new images, taken by space suggestion that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday. The new images, taken by space suggestion that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday. The new images, taken by space suggestion that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday. The new images, taken by space suggestion that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists said Wednesday.
Day

continued from page 16

son, the Run for the Dream Invitational in Fresno on Jan. 16.

Last month was Day's first time practicing the high jump since July 2005.

Day won the national championship in the high jump as a sophomore in 2005.

"I said that her track coach, Jack Hoyt, knew she's been frustrated because she is not physically where she was before the injury, but most remain patient and wait out.

"I'm pretty, but getting better," Day said.

Track and field assistant coach Hoyt said she will be ready in time for the first meet to compete in the high jump.

Day

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with two-time All-Star catcher Mike Lieberthal, who agreed to a $1.25 million, one-year contract on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Lieberthal will serve as a backup to Russell Martin, who hit 282 with 10 homers and 65 RBIs as a rookie last season.

Lieberthal gets $1.15 million next year, and the Dodgers have $1.4 million option for 2008 with a $100,000 buyout.

In Los Angeles, Schmidt would join a rotation that includes right-handers Randy Wolf, a 2005 All-Star who had major elbow surgery in July 2005, and the Dodgers have SI.25 million, one-year contract on Schmidt before the 2002 season. Schmidt told The Associated Press in a telephone conversation that he did not want to comment on any deals until he officially has a new team. He has homes in Washington and Arizona, so staying on the West Coast was a preference.

Schmidt signed a four-year contract before the 2002 season that included a $5 million club option for last season.

The NL pitcher of the month for May after going 4-0 with a 1.17 ERA, Schmidt recorded 13 strikeouts against the Giants and also has pitched for Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

He was the only one of seven remaining free agents offered arbitration by the Giants last Friday, but San Francisco general manager Brian Sabean was doubtful that Schmidt might still accept.

"I probably had said," Sabean said. "It just wasn't going to be with us.

Schmidt was determined to explore his options this winter, knowing he could be signing the final contract of his career. He pitched 213.1 innings last season, the third time in four years he went over the 200 inning mark. On June 6, Schmidt struck out a career-high 16 batters in a 2-1 win over the Florida Marlins. He matched the 102-year-old franchise record for strikeouts set by Hall of Famer Charlie Root.

"We need to get her tuned up before the family guidelines match," Hoyt said.

Hoyt said that the last season Day competed in, she was only three-fourths of the mark based on the requirement of 6 feet, 4.75 inches. To go up to the Olympics, Day has to compete in the high jump since July 2005.

When the Olympic standard is not training, she loves to dance and hang out with her friends.

Sparks said Day is "always up to do anything" and "one of the coolest people you'll ever meet."

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Poly softball team signs 4 California recruits

The Mustangs have enjoyed two straight winning seasons, including a 27-23 campaign last year.

Cal Poly softball head coach Jenny Bonderhorst, an emerging Mustang program recruit, is considering four California prep standouts in pitcher Anna (Calm (Los Alamitos), first baseman Krista Haas (Solan) and utility players Stephanie Correia (Visalia) and Brandi Gutierrez (kernfield). Left-hander Cahn was an All-Sunset League first-team and All-Orange County Register selection for Los Alamitos High after posting a 17-8 record with a 0.71 ERA during her senior year. Gutierrez, a first-team All-Southwest Yosemite League selection this past season, hit .465 with 25 RBIs and four home runs while compiling a .396 on-base percentage and an .849 slugging percentage. An All-SWYL second-team member in both her freshman and sophomore seasons, Gutierrez is three-time scholar-athlete at Ridgeview High.

Johnny

Johnny continued from page 16

a pretty productive fall. Didn't host the NCAA Tournament in Mot Gyn last weekend? Cal, LSU, Michigan, Cal Poly...we're not in the BCS, are we?

Well, not quite. After winning the Big West regular season title and being ranked 14th nationally, the Mustangs were rewarded by hosting one of the six-at-large bids to the regionals. Meeting a very good Michigan team Friday night they were given the daunting task of playing Cal.

While Cal Poly couldn't advance past Cal on Saturday night, it was obvious who the better player on the court was, and wasn't anyone in a Golden Bears uniform. No. 5 for Cal Poly, outside hitter Kelli Athereiss, stood out above the rest.

I don't think I'm going to co-conference Player of the Year — as a sophomore. Final Four, National Player of the Year? We'll just have to wait and see, but given past performances are definitely on the horizon for the Cal Poly volleyball team, which returns all but one starter and has perhaps the best incoming freshmen and returning help in program history on the way next season.

Volleyball was able to create some things for the Mustangs this weekend. The Mustangs were able to draw roughly 3,000 fans each night, giving Mot Gyn an actual Division 1 tournament atmosphere, something that most students at Cal Poly never experience. Just imagine if that happened for every sport.

What if Pacific rolled in for men's basketball Mot Gyn was rocking with 3,200 fans? What if teams feared coming to Cal Poly like they do Duke? What if they knew from the moment they stepped off the bus that they were going to lose and they got back on the bus to go home?

Cal Poly has two of the best recruiting classes in the nation coming to town over the next three weeks Oklahoma and four-time defending national champion Oklahoma State.

If Cal Poly's baseball team has become a breeding ground for Major League Baseball. Coming out of a top-15 recruiting class, the Mustangs host several top-25 teams. Cal Poly hosts defending College World Series champion Oregon State from March 24 to 26. That's like having Texas here for football or Florida for men's basketball.

It just doesn't get any better than that.
Days return from injury bodes well for Poly women's indoor track team

Cal Poly senior Sharon Day won the national championship in the high jump as a sophomore.

Nicole Small

Since childhood, many have dreamed to fly like Superman or Peter Pan. Sharon Day can fly too.

"When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return," is a quote of Leonardo da Vinci.

That is among Day's favorite quotes. It fits the Cal Poly high jumper perfectly, as she hopes to compete in the 2008 Olympics.

Ever since the seventh grade, Day, now a senior, has been involved in track. Since a young age, she has been involved in some kind of sport, whether ball with her younger sister or karate.

An Orange County native, Day played soccer and volleyball and competed in track at Costa Mesa High School.

Day's roommate and childhood friend, Jenny Sparks, 19, and Day's younger sister, Jazzie, 18, continued to play for the Costa Mesa soccer team after Day left for Cal Poly in 2003. Upon graduation, Sparks said one of her friends asked the coach if he would retire her jersey numbers. The coach told her the only jersey he would retire would be Sharon Day's No. 9.

High jump is a gene that runs through the Day family tree. Day said her father, who is in the track and field coach at her high school, competed in the high jump, as did her older brother Louis, 23, and even her grandmother. Her little sister Jazzie, who is a freshman at the University of Arizona, competes in the high jump as well.

Both Sharon and Jazzie Day were state champions in high school in the high-jump category.

Day was recruited by coach Sheldon Blockburger, who now coaches Jazzie at the University of Arizona, to come do track for Cal Poly. Originally, Cal Poly wasn't Day's first choice. She wanted to attend Stanford or UCLA, but chose Cal Poly because of its coaches.

In addition, Day made an agreement that she would get to play soccer as well.

Day said if she only got to do the high jump all year, she'd get sick of it, because being involved in two sports "makes you miss the other one."

Day is a kinesthesiologist, senior, plans to change her concentration from exercise science, clinical track to independent courses study. No matter what her professional career turns out to be, she can see her athletic career clearly.

However, last fall her athletic career was put on hold when she broke her foot. Day said she was running one day and tripped and rolled her ankle. At first she thought she had sprained her ankle because she was able to walk home, but the X-rays taken the next day revealed that it was much worse.

Last spring, Day could not compete, nor play her position as a forward for the women's soccer team this fall.

This fall, she conditioned and worked on building her strength and technique to be ready for the first indoor track meet of the season. She figures that she will be free of injury by January, since there were no setbacks.

Shown during her sophomore season, in which she won a national title in the high jump, Cal Poly senior Sharon Day won the national championship in the high jump, as did her younger sister, Jazzy, 18, and was selected as a Heisman finalist.

Shirley Sirochek

Athletics at Poly more prominent than you might think

John Middlekauff

You won't see a Cal Poly athlete on the front cover of a Sports Illustrated, or any other major sports magazine or newspaper, for that matter. But don't let that fool you — every day when you go to class, you are surrounded by some of the best collegiate athletes that this country has to offer.

Cal Poly athletics has had a fall to remember, and I don't feel like the majority of this school really appreciates what's going on.

I was always told that Cal Poly has everything to offer — except when it comes to collegiate sports. If you want that you will have to watch schools like UCLA, USC and Cal on TV. It's been for three years and I am not sure that is far from reality.

Let's start with football. Over the last two years, Cal Poly has produced back-to-back Buck Buchanan Award winners in Jordan Beck and Chris Gocong. The majority of people at this school have no clue what this award is about or means. Let me tell you a group of people who do NFL scouts. Both individuals were selected in the third round of the NFL Draft.

The 2006 roster also featured some big-time talent. Great West Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year middle linebacker Kyle Shertell is up for the Buchanan this season. Whether he wins the award or not, he has already made his mark in college football and has scouts excited. A sure draft pick, Shertell just continues the tradition that is being created under head coach Rich Ellerson.

Additionally, cornerback Courtney Brown has the free safety spot. Kenny Chicone is NFL prospects as a senior. They are two members of that defensive secondary that held Division I-A bowl-bound San Jose State to 152 yards passing. Cal Poly men's cross country finished 13th in the nation, while being led by All-American junior Phillip Reed.

After the success the Cal Poly volleyball team had with its Yearly All-American junior Phillip Reed.

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After the success the Cal Poly volleyball team had with its Yearly All-American junior Phillip Reed.

Athletics at Poly more prominent than you might think

John Middlekauff

Y ou won't see a Cal Poly athlete on the front cover of Sports Illustrated, or any other major sports magazine or newspaper, for that matter. But don't let that fool you — every day when you go to class, you are surrounded by some of the best collegiate athletes that this country has to offer.

Cal Poly athletics has had a fall to remember, and I don't feel like the majority of this school really appreciates what's going on.

I was always told that Cal Poly has everything to offer — except when it comes to collegiate sports. If you want that you will have to watch schools like UCLA, USC and Cal on TV. It's been for three years and I am not sure that is far from reality.

Let's start with football. Over the last two years, Cal Poly has produced back-to-back Buck Buchanan Award winners in Jordan Beck and Chris Gocong. The majority of people at this school have no clue what this award is about or means. Let me tell you a group of people who do NFL scouts. Both individuals were selected in the third round of the NFL Draft.

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