Dancers show off moves at first Mustang Ball

Hayley Bramble

Dancers reeled, teetered, tangoed, and merengued to the beats of jittery East Coast swing and spicy salsa at the Cal Poly Mustang Ball Saturday in Chumash Auditorium. The ball is a DanceSport competition hosted by the Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club and DanceSport team.

Over 150 dancers from 13 different studios and schools in California, including USC, Stanford University, UC Berkeley and San Jose State University competed in the event.

The events were divided into three styles: American, international and night club. The competition was open to anyone, so each category was also divided by skill level.

The competition also featured a showcase from professional dancers Perfrinio Landeros and Lezuita Santore and open dancing until 11 p.m. after the competition. Dancers were judged based on skill, presentation and showmanship.

"My favorite is the cha-cha," said biology freshman Ember Jensen. Jensen won a first place ribbon and several third place ribbons in the competition. She said it was her second competition and that she had danced internationally and night club. The competition was open to anyone, so each category was also divided by skill level.

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Riley Gerbrants and Serena Clane displayed their dancing skills in front of a panel of judges on Saturday at the first Cal Poly Mustang Ball.

Hillel brings Jerusalem Post reporter to campus

Jackie Pugh

Cal Poly's Jewish club Hillel, along with co-sponsors StandWithUs and the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles, will be hosting speaker Edgar Lefkovitz, a reporter from The Jerusalem Post, today at 6 p.m. at the Sandwich Factory.

"I found out about him from a friend at the consulate," said computer engineering senior and Hillel member Jeff Pathman. "We all wanted to bring him, especially with him being a reporter who has a take on the fact that he works at a more international level.

"Khaled Abu Tourah — he was also a Jerusalem Post reporter — was one our most successful speakers," Holan said. "He provided an objective and unbiased journalistic point of view."

And this year Hillel is trying to bring back that same point of view from a new angle. Tourah, an Israeli Arab, reports from Palestinian territory, while Lefkovitz covers events in Israel as the Jerusalem correspondent.

Lefkovitz will be on Cal Poly's campus to share his firsthand accounts of what it has been like reporting on suicide bombers, the Herzbollah conflict and other turbulent issues in Jerusalem.

In the fact that he works at a more international level.
DanceSport

continued from page 1

with four different partners that evening, some from different schools. During the ballroom dance competition every hosted by Cal Poly, Competition Organizer Christopher Ellwood, who co-organized the Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club, said he had been trying to organize a competition at Cal Poly for some time. “Finally, this year we made it happen,” he said. The event had an even bigger turnout than originally anticipated. Ellwood said he expected about 150 couples, but there were probably closer to 170. “We had to add extra seats,” he said.

Ellwood began dancing when he was a student at Cal Poly and took the ballroom dance classes. “I got hooked,” he said.

Ellwood teaches dance lessons every Thursday evening at Cal Poly with a different dance being featured every three weeks. Ellwood reviews the basics and adds an extra move at each session. The Waltz and the rumba have been taught so far this quarter. The waltz will be the next featured dance starting Feb. 22 in the Architecture and Environmental Design building, room 225 at 8 p.m. The lessons are open to dancers at all skill levels and no dance partner or experience is necessary.

Ellwood, a Northridge native, graduated from Cal Poly in 2003 with a computer science degree. He is currently working for a software company in town and said teaching lessons gives him a chance to give back to the ballroom dancing community. “It’s such a nice, healthy activity to be involved in,” he said.

The Ballroom Dance Club also goes to the Madonna Inn on Wednesday nights for open ballroom dancing, which Ellwood said is good for partnering.

Computer engineering senior Chris Cline came to the Mustang Ball to see his friend compete. Cline dances with the ballroom club and attends Ellwood’s lessons. “It’s a great way to flirt with people,” he said. Most girls appreciate a man who can move. “I like seeing dancing mostly for the social aspect and just goes to have fun,” he said. “When you see as much as you put into it; he said. “And to have a good time is really not that hard.”

REPORTER

continued from page 1

He will talk about Jordanian involvement in the Temple Mount, a story that barely broke just last year and other topics like Israeli politics after the Gaza withdrawal and current events in the Middle East.

Reflections of a Jerusalem Correspondent” will be held with Lefkovitz first sharing his stories and then an open question forum for the audience.

Lefkovitz, who does speaking engagements all over the United States, will be arriving in California with the help of the Israel Consulate.

“The club is working to ensure his safety and coordinate logistics,” Palmiet said.

Hillel has been promoting the help of a group called StandWithUs. StandWithUs is an advocacy organization that promotes education and understanding in hopes to secure the future for Israel and its neighbors is founded on the StandWithUs Web site, www.standwithus.com. Their primary means of education is through fact-based materials, weekly alerts, programs, conferences and speakers.

After the success of last year’s speaker, Holan estimated an audience of 50 to 100 people. The club is excited to hear a firsthand perspective from abroad and share the latest information with the Cal Poly campus.

Holan said that Hillel has brought in speakers like Toanieh and a former terrorist the last couple of years, but that this year they want to have more speakers and events.

Hillel is currently working to set up another speaker and will also be holding a movie night, showing the impact on the lives of victims and families of terrorism. The date has not yet been set.

For more information about Lefkovitz or to check out some of his previous articles, go to www.jpost.com. And to find out about upcoming events with Hillel, go to www.hillelofsanluiso-bispo.org.

SICK?

As a last resort, use the Mustang Daily as a tissue.

Maxhealth be with you

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Obama says voters are curious about his race, religion

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In an event that was as much group therapy as a campaign rally, Mayor Gavin Newsom opened his re-election headquarters Sunday with an apology.

"What I did was wrong. And for the rest of my life I'm going to have to deal with that," Newsom told a room packed with hundreds of supporters.

Newsom, 39, announced Monday he would enter counseling for alcohol use, just days after admitting to an affair with his former campaign manager's wife.

"Any of you who've ever made mistakes about what your life is going to be like, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about," Newsom said.

The mayor said he especially wanted to apologize to "someone I care deeply about," Alex Toork, 39, who resigned as Newsom's campaign manager after confronting Newsom about the affair.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Eleven Marines remain hospitalized and are expected to survive after a fatal rollover crash of a Marine Osprey transport aircraft at Camp Pendleton, Air Station Miramar, authorities said Saturday.

The dead Marine was identified as Cpl. J. Gomez from Southern California. The seven others were treated and returned to base for regular scheduled training — rolled over an embankment on the base early Saturday.

The dead Marine was identified Sunday as Cpl. J. Gomez from Southern California. Suedmeyer said no other information was being released "to allow the family to grieve privately." 

News of the crash came at a time when military leaders were looking for ways to improve safety and combat readiness after a series of transportation mishaps this year.

Marine officials said they had ordered the Osprey known as "328" to stop flying because of a dangerous condition that could have led to the crash.

In the interview, Obama also said his race might be "a novelty" this early in the presidential contest, spurred with the prime minister of Australia over Iraq, and said he has a burden of proof with voters because of his relative inexperience.

Obama formally announced his candidacy in Illinois on Saturday and is already known to voters, the U.S. senator from Illinois said Monday, February 12, 2007. The 2(M)8 presidential field also included a Mormon, and Sen. Sam Brownback, K-Kan., an evangelical Christian who converted to Catholicism in recent years.

Obama's leading rivals for the Democratic nomination are far better known to voters, the U.S. senator from Illinois said. He was elected in 2004.

"At least two of my fellow candidates have been campaigning nationally for years," Obama said, referring to New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. "They have an infrastructure and name recognition that are higher than mine so there will probably be a higher burden of proof for me."

Few minorities reside in early voting Iowa and New Hampshire but Obama said his race — his mother is white, his father is black — will not play a determining role.

"I think that early on it may spark some curiosity or a sense of novelty, but I think that very quickly we'll be judging me on the merits. Do I have a message that resonates with the concerns about health care and education, jobs and terrorism?" he said. "And if they do, then I think race won't be a major factor."

At a press conference later in Ames, Obama said he was proud to have opposed the Iraq war from the start while Clinton and others authorized the U.S.-led invasion.

"I think there is a more significant set of decisions than the decision to go to war," Obama said.

"I think the war was a tragic mistake and it never should have been authorized."

State

REDFIELD, N.Y. (AP) — This village in upstate New York's snowbelt gets a lot of snowfall during the winter, but last week's total — more than 11 feet, unofficially — might be an all-time record. Before it began to wind down Sunday, persistent streams of squalls fueled by moisture from Lake Ontario during the last week consistently dumped lake-effect snow in western New York.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard University named historian Drew Gilpin Faust as its first female president on Sunday, ending a lengthy and secretive search to find a successor to Lawrence Summers and his tumultuous five-year tenure.

The seven-member Harvard Corporation elected Faust, a noted scholar of the American South and dean of Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, as the university's 28th president.

Faust, 59, recognized the significance of her appointment.

"I hope the day's own appointment can be one symbol of an opening of opportunities that would have been inconceivable even a generation ago," Faust said at a news conference on campus.

But she also added, "I'm not the woman president of Harvard, I'm the president of Harvard." 

With Faust's appointment, half of the eight Ivy League schools will have a woman as president.

Her selection is noteworthy given the upsurp over Summers' comments that genetic differences between the sexes might help explain the dearth of women in top science jobs, comments which sparked debates about equality at Harvard and nationwide.

International

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Pentagon chief Robert Gates responded Sunday to Vladimir Putin's assault on U.S. foreign policy by saying "one Cold War is enough" and that he would go to Moscow to try to reduce tensions. Gates also sought more allied help in Afghanistan.

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Anna Nicole Smith's 5-month-old daughter and the baby's purported father have reclaimed the Bahamas mansion where they lived before the former Playboy Playmate died last week, her lawyer said.

Not only is the paternity of Smith's baby in dispute, but so is the Bahamas mansion where Smith had been living.

Smith, who died in Florida on Thursday, had claimed that a U.S. developer and former boyfriend, G. Ben Thompson, gave her the house. Thompson said he had only loaned it to Smith.

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal's conservative government has imposed on Thursday a constitutional law on abortion which outlaws abortion even in cases of rape.

The law, which has been imposed by Portugal's parliament, passed in the face of opposition from the Catholic country.

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The administration is engaged in a drumbeat with Iran that is much like the drumbeat that they did with Iraq. We're going to insist on accountability.

Ron Wyden
Senior Intelligence Committee member

Iraq's most powerful Shiite political organization, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, whose leaders also have close ties to the U.S.

The analyst said Iraq's Shiite-led government had been briefed on Iran's involvement and Iraqi officials had asked the Iraqis to stop Al-Maliki has said he told both the U.S. and Iran that he does not want his country turned into a proxy battlefield.

"We know more than we can show," said one of the senior officials, who praised for tangible evidence that the EPFs were made in Iran.

Many key government figures and members of the Shiite political establishment have deep ties to Iran, were required on Highway 88 and 80.

40 percent in the Sierra Nevada needed, is phenomenal, and is exactly what Alpine Meadows and the entire Sierra Nevada needed," Alpine Meadows spokeswoman Rachael Woods said Sunday. "I see more car-to-car crashes today than any other day this winter."

At Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, above Lake Tahoe's northeast shore, the snowfall allowed skiers and snowboarders to access about 75 percent of the resort's terrain compared with 80 percent before the storms. "Three feet of snow in three days is phenomenal, and is exactly what Alpine Meadows and the entire Sierra Nevada needed," Alpine Meadows spokeswoman Rachael Woods said Sunday. "I see more car-to-car crashes today than any other day this winter."

"It's a significant improvement in conditions from a few days ago when the temperature was so warm and the snow was melting," Haggott said. "We're just extremely happy we got snow, and we're looking forward to more."

The Sierra snowpack has been dismal at best this season — its water content averaging on Feb 1 only 43 percent of normal for the date over the 400-mile-long mountain range.

As of Sunday morning, the figure stood at 42 percent of normal in the Lake Tahoe Basin, 54 percent in the Truckee River watershed, 40 percent in the Carson River basin and 42 percent in the Walker River watershed, according to the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"This storm helped, but we certainly need to continue with more snow through February and March to improve the water situation," said Brian O'Hara, a weather service forecaster in Reno. "We went through a dry January, so things are looking better."

But the weather service was calling for no chance for significant snowfall in the Sierra this week.

The latest storm prompted controls on most highways in the Lake Tahoe area, including Interstate 80 over Donner Summit. But on Sunday afternoon, chains or snow tires only were required on Highway 88 over Carson Pass.
Won't you be wine, valentine?

I got pretty excited for a moment and realized that for Valentine's Day, the good wine comes off the shelf. It comes off the shelf because no one is going to say, "I cared about you enough to buy you Charles Shaw. Want to go make out?"

Heaven knows how much men pay for roses when V-day rolls around and any subsequent romantic necessity is no exception. So how do you make the wine experience memorable? Two words: prep work.

My first suggestion is to visit your favorite local winery. I advise staying clear of the wine aisle because labels with blondes in cowboy hats, Marilyn Monroe and Harley Davidson bikes generally don't taste as cool as they look.

For Valentine's Day, I suggest pairing wines to make for a more elegant experience. If I learned anything from watching "Pretty Woman," it's that strawberry-ries bring out the flavor of champagne, and that bookers can be anything they put their mind to.

But for now, it's primarily focused on the strawberry and champagne thing. Another good pairing is a bittersweet or dark chocolate paired with a deep dark rich Zinfandel. A full-bodied Pinot Noir can do the trick as well. If you do go the winery route, you may also want to purchase stemware specifically for red wines in the tasting room. The large bulbous glasses can bring out a lot of good fragrances that sometimes hide in more modest-sized glasses.

If you're going solo, I suggest pairing it with milk chocolate. There are also flavored dessert wines, such as Bonny Doon's legendary framboise ($12, Cost Plus). With this raspberry-infused dessert wine, I suggest, well, raspberries. It's pretty fundamental.

On Valentine's Day ... no one is going to say, "I cared about you enough to buy you Charles Shaw. Want to go make out?"

Take the characteristics of the wine and pair it with some food or dessert that has similar characteristics.

What if you're flying solo for Valentine's Day? No problems. I suggest you and a favorite wine consider seriously dating. One of my favorites to take home for the night is a heart-healthy red. Especially like the Sanford 2005 Pinot Noir, Santa Rita Hills ($23.99, Trader Joe's), which has a beautiful bouquet of vibrant cherry, lucious raspberry and a slight peppery subtext.

The Bonny Doon Cardinal Zin is a close second, ($16.99, Trader Joe's) with a jammy, sweet flavor and a real pungent kick of fruit and tannins in the finish. Both wines have killer legs and are dead sexy. It's best for most reds if you pour them about 20 minutes before you enjoy them. This lets them "breathe" and gives you the best the wine has to offer. Since it is occasion appropriate, I should mention that drinking wine is good for your heart!

Research studies have shown that wines (especially red ones) have polyphenolic chemicals that improve the health of your heart. So treat your heart or sweetheart to something good this weekend and bring out the nice stuff!

Emile Forst

"Pharmaceutical Research Center." A few weeks ago, I explored the AXELab as it made the Milwaukee stop of its Midwest tour. It was located in a rented space on Plankinton Avenue and was essentially a live infomercial dressed as a laboratory.

When I stepped in, I was greeted by a few women about my age in lab coats that would neither protect the wearer from a toxic spill nor be allowed in any recognized laboratory.

I was given a tour of the facility, which included such "experiments" as a series of sexually suggestive images created by Rorschach inkblots, and an experiment where a woman achieved an orgasm when exposed to the scent of Axe cologne. I took the tour with two male students from Marquette University and an older gentleman who insisted that he had to repeat the tour to be certain of its effects.

The message of the promotion was clear: If you buy this cologne, you are guaranteed sex with desirable women.

The projected image is much more specific than a standard advertisement. By walking through the tour you are intended to become aroused, meet the kinds of women who you want to have sex with, and then conveniently be directed to a computer where you can order your own orgasm in a bottle.

It is the kind of thing that is effectively so beyond absurd, even its absurdity is beyond question. The AXELab could have convincingly sold jeans, cars, washing machines or any other product as remotely related to sex as cologne.

Then again, why else would you buy a product for several times what it's worth unless you truly believed it would get you laid? It is the same absurdity as found in Calvin Klein ads: Sex in public requires Obsession perfume. Axe's claim is that sex with Playmates is possible for the average college student or middle-aged pervert splashed with Axe.

Although I have not been convinced of the effects of "pharmacological research," I am, however, anxiously awaiting AXELab's unveiling of the instantaneous orgasm. The irony is that if they ever developed it, there would apparently be no need for cologne at all.

The scent of the cologne is the standard chemical cologne smell, but why would any woman be attracted by this scent when its market is overserved college students and over-the-hill perverts? Vern."
Pacific Fish'a Chippery serves up fried fins and fun

Taylor Moore

Catching a fish is harder than it sounds. Creating the perfect basket of fish and chips is a difficult feat at best. Like fishing, mastering the art of fish and chips requires patience, skill, the perfect batter and a good amount of luck. Pacific Fish'n Chippery is giving it a shot and hoping San Luis Obispo residents will take the bait.

The restaurant, previously a sushi bar, began its transformation from raw to fried food about 12 weeks ago. The owners, Gary Wallace and David Katz, had owned the sushi restaurant, which developed a great sushi display cases are filled with remnants of the restaurant's sushi menu, even if they are fried, but probably the healthiest thing on the menu, even if they are fried, but...
Veteran artists steal Grammy spotlight

Nekesa Mummbi Moody
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The Grammys kicked off with a retro feel on Sunday as the recently reunited Police opened the show with their classic "Romance," Tony Bennett and Seal/Wonder bust out huge new songs like "Promiscuous" and "Crazy" with a female and the veteran Red Hot Chili Peppers nabbed three trophies to emerge the early leader.

Another veteran, Mary J. Blige, had three early wins, including R&B album of the year for her comeback album, "The Breakthrough."

"For so many years I've been talked about negatively and this time I am being talked about positively by so many people," said a tearful Blige, who has often discussed her past substance abuse and negative self-image. She said the win showed not only how she had grown as an artist, but as a person.

Another tearful winner was Wonder, who dedicated his win with Tony Bennett for best pop collaboration to his late mother. They won for a rendition of Wonder's "For Once In My Life."

"This is an amazing moment for me. I have to say that I never thought this song when I was 17 a whole 'mother way and to come back and do a record with the great Tony Bennett,'" he said.

Though not nominated, the Police, who are reuniting for a tour, won one each. Carrie Underwood won best female country vocal performance for her hit "Jesus Take the Wheel."

This is my first Grammy!" said Underwood, the 2005 "American Idol" creator Simon Fuller in her acceptance speech. Last year, another "Idol" champ, Kelly Clarkson, was criticized for not paying tribute to her "Idols'"

Irina Thomas, known as the Queen of New Orleans Soul and a Hurricane Katrina survivor, was a tearful winner for best contemporary blues album for "After the Rain."

"First of all I want to say thank you God, and thank you New Orleans — 49 years you believed in me and it finally paid off," she said.

R&B album of the year for her hit "Jesus Take the Wheel."

Get ready to "walk this way" to Paso Robles when classic rockers Aerosmith headline at the California Mid-State Fair this summer as part of their 2007 world tour.

A spokesperson for the fair announced last Friday that the band, led by crooner Steven Tyler, will join other artists such as country music stars Martina McBride and Phil Vassar on the fair's entertainment line-up. The announcement was made at the annual fair board of directors' dinner.

Aerosmith is best known for '70s jams such as "Sweet Emotion" and "Walk This Way." Later popular ballads include "Janie's Got A Gun" and "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," the hit single off the soundtrack for blockbuster movie "Armageddon."

This year's Mid-State Fair will run from July 25 to Aug. 5 at the Paso Robles Event Center. Ticket prices, sale dates and appearance dates have not yet been released.

An attack on Iran ... would make the total, unmitigated disaster that is the current Iran conflict look like a spring picnic.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eller's Liberal bias rivals McCarthyism

I would like to thank Mr. Eller for the wonderful history lesson from his Wednesday column ("Liberal Bias does exist at Cal Poly," Feb. 7). I have not seen such an extensive list of accusations since McCarthyism incapacitated our government nearly 70 years ago. Despite the years gone by and the feedback given here, you are throwing accusations like McCarthy himself. But fret not; there are differences between you two. During McCarthy's time, women had few rights and minorities were kept quiet. But wait, you hold those views as well, proving by your allegations that the Women's Center and the Multicultural Center are leading our wonderfully conservative campus on the run from the free speech and intellectual diversity we have been promised. Let's not be naive; this is a liberal bias at Cal Poly, as you claim (over and over again. Seven times to be exact! Count it) then perhaps it is a good thing. Then we won't be dragged back 70 years kicking and screaming by those diversity. Were they segregated from each other; however, the sight of your pie chart and its segregation of Christianity annoyed me one-two-many times.

It's a known fact that pies are usually delicious and charts are usually informative. Your pie chart, however, was neither delicious, nor sweet, yet it was somewhat informative. It reminded me of a general army strategy: control over with regards to each other's religion. To those who believe that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, rose from the dead to forgive humanity of its sins, isn't enough to be considered Christian these days?

Even overheat conversations around the UU, or Via Carta, and hear, "Oh I'm not Catholic, I'm Christian." That sort of ignorance needs to be quelled, like a hero, because it also bugs the wookies out of me. Next time, keep an eye on the way you would watch out for “ins” and “ex’s.”

Gino Valderrama
Materials engineering junior

POLITICAL COLUMN

U.S. plans for Iran sound familiar

Defense Secretary Robert Gates made the case that Iran is directly linked to the improvised explosive devices used by some Iranian insurgents in a NATO security conference in Seville, Spain last week. Gates told reporters that there is a "pretty good" chance that the serial numbers on some of these devices prove that Iran is supplying weapons or technology to insurgent fighters in Iraq. He made these allegations without releasing any concrete evidence or proof to support them.

Ideally, the American public should be able to trust the claims and policies used by the U.S. military and the president to justify going to war. Unfortunately, this president is far from ideal. Also last week, the Pentagon's Inspector General released a new report examining the Pentagon's quest for intelligence connecting Saddam Hussein's Baath regime and al-Qaeda in the run-up to the Iraq war in 2002. This report found that, while the actions of those gathering intelligence were not illegal, that the Pentagon had developed intelligence that was inconsistent with the findings of the intelligence community as a whole. In an attempt to link Saddam Hussein to the events of Sept. 11, of evidence is eerily similar to that of the run-up to the Iraq war in 2003, which four years later is being labeled highly dubious. Ironicaly, the United States is accusing Iran of supporting Shiite extremist groups in Iraq, many of which are supporters themselves of the Iranian Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, considered a U.S. ally in the Iraq war.

It is painfully obvious what the United States is attempting to do. Instead of focusing on the development and deployment of nuclear weapons or the threat it poses to Israel, the U.S. is pumping Iran into an ally to sectarian militias currently operating within Iraq. This is an effort to build evidence for an attack on Iran under the guise of "protecting the Americans from the Use of Military Force in Iraq." The Bush administration knows that any attempt to gain new authorization for military action in Iran is dead on arrival; Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and a host of other Democratic leaders in Congress have already indicated that they will not allow a request from the Bush administration to gain approval. Although it is obvious that public opinion means little to the Bush Administration when it comes to foreign policy, the American public also strongly opposes military action. An early example of this was a trip by President Bush to Iraq to visit troops shortly before he left office this year, and a 2006 poll conducted by CNN/Opinion Research showed that 64 percent of Americans disapproved of the war in Iraq. This was in the wake of the United States achieving Iraq and the Pentagon, under pressure from the President, knows that any attempt to gain new authorization for military action in Iran is dead on arrival; Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and a host of other Democratic leaders in Congress have already indicated that they will not allow a request from the Bush administration to gain approval. Although it is obvious that public opinion means little to the Bush Administration when it comes to foreign policy, the American public also strongly opposes military action. An early example of this was a trip by President Bush to Iraq to visit troops shortly before he left office this year, and a 2006 poll conducted by CNN/Opinion Research showed that 64 percent of Americans disapproved of the war in Iraq. This was in the wake of the United States achieving Iraq and the Pentagon, under pressure from the

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Defense Secretary Robert Gates made the case that Iran is directly linked to the improvised explosive devices used by some Iranian insurgents in a NATO security conference in Seville, Spain last week. Gates told reporters that there is a "pretty good" chance that the serial numbers on some of these devices prove that Iran is supplying weapons or technology to insurgent fighters in Iraq. He made these allegations without releasing any concrete evidence or proof to support them.

Ideally, the American public should be able to trust the claims and policies used by the U.S. military and the president to justify going to war. Unfortunately, this president is far from ideal. Also last week, the Pentagon's Inspector General released a new report examining the Pentagon's quest for intelligence connecting Saddam Hussein's Baath regime and al-Qaeda in the run-up to the Iraq war in 2002. This report found that, while the actions of those gathering intelligence were not illegal, that the Pentagon had developed intelligence that was inconsistent with the findings of the intelligence community as a whole. In an attempt to link Saddam Hussein to the events of Sept. 11, of evidence is eerily similar to that of the run-up to the Iraq war in 2003, which four years later is being labeled highly dubious. Ironicaly, the United States is accusing Iran of supporting Shiite extremist groups in Iraq, many of which are supporters themselves of the Iranian Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, considered a U.S. ally in the Iraq war.

It is painfully obvious what the United States is attempting to do. Instead of focusing on the development and deployment of nuclear weapons or the threat it poses to Israel, the U.S. is pumping Iran into an ally to sectarian militias currently operating within Iraq. This is an effort to build evidence for an attack on Iran under the guise of "protecting the Americans from the Use of Military Force in Iraq." The Bush administration knows that any attempt to gain new authorization for military action in Iran is dead on arrival; Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and a host of other Democratic leaders in Congress have already indicated that they will not allow a request from the Bush administration to gain approval. Although it is obvious that public opinion means little to the Bush Administration when it comes to foreign policy, the American public also strongly opposes military action. An early example of this was a trip by President Bush to Iraq to visit troops shortly before he left office this year, and a 2006 poll conducted by CNN/Opinion Research showed that 64 percent of Americans disapproved of the war in Iraq. This was in the wake of the United States achieving Iraq and the Pentagon, under pressure from the President, knows that any attempt to gain new authorization for military action in Iran is dead on arrival; Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and a host of other Democratic leaders in Congress have already indicated that they will not allow a request from the Bush administration to gain approval. Although it is obvious that public opinion means little to the Bush Administration when it comes to foreign policy, the American public also strongly opposes military action. An early example of this was a trip by President Bush to Iraq to visit troops shortly before he left office this year, and a 2006 poll conducted by CNN/Opinion Research showed that 64 percent of Americans disapproved of the war in Iraq. This was in the wake of the United States achieving Iraq and the Pentagon, under pressure from the Bush administration, released intelligence that implied a direct connection between them. The Senate Armed Services Committee debated this report last week, with committee chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., calling it a "deshumanizing con­

You can also find the full text on the Mustang Daily Online at www.mustangdaily.net.
Poly grapplers lose 26-18 at ASU

The loss is the Mustangs’ third straight in the Pac-10.

SPORT INFORMATION REPORT

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Cal Poly wrestling team was defeated by Arizona State 26-18 Sunday at Wells Fargo Arena.

The loss dropped the Mustangs’ record to 6-9 overall at 4-4 in the Pac-10.

Cal Poly won four of nine bouts wrestled.

Cal Poly senior Darrell Vasquez, currently ranked No. 6 nationally at 133 pounds, recorded a fall over Arizona State’s Jake Hannaford at the 1-minute, 28-second mark, the fastest for Vasquez this season in conference action.

Senior Cody Parker pinned Quentin Pruett of the Sun Devils at 1:53 in the heavyweight match.

Cal Poly sophomore C’hase Pami pinned Cal Poly’s David Christian (141) recorded a 13-7 win over Robert Galvan.

Cal Poly’s Eric Muldoon (149) defeated Chris Renssen 11-6.

The Mustangs forfeited the 197-pound weight class.

Cal Poly returns to action Wednesday when it travels to take on UC Davis.

Softball

continued from page 12

Poly posted another two runs starting with a left-center single by senior center fielder Lisa Modglin. She rounded the bases on home after freshman outfielder Christina Brex reached third on the Santa Clara left fielder’s fumble. Brex ended up coming home for the eighth and final run of the game.

“It was great, we played really well all weekend and we kept up our intensity and focus,” Condon said.

The Mustangs dominated earlier Sunday, defeating Sacramento State 4-0. The highlight of the game came in the bottom of the fifth inning when four Mustang singles were followed by a three-run double by Cary. Monday, February 19, 2007

Friday afternoon marked the start of the tournament, when Cal Poly won the second game against Washington 7-6 after a season-opening 4-3 loss Modglin recorded in each game.

Cal Poly now begins a 25-game road trip that starts against Arizona State’s Jake Hannaford at the 1-minute, 28-second mark, the fastest for Vasquez this season in conference action.

Senior Cody Parker pinned Quinton Pruett of the Sun Devils at 1:53 in the heavyweight match.

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Basketball

continued from page 12

six boards) and Dreshawn Vance (two points, one rebound and one block). Vance’s lone bucket came when he threw down a two-handed, and–one jam on the low block that sent the crowd into a frenzy with 12:05 remaining.

“Tina, Matt and Dreshawn created inside presence for us tonight,” Bromley said. “It was absolutely terrific. We got (Darren) Fells into foul trouble and he’s a beast.”

Fells had nine points and three rebounds but played only 20 minutes because of accumulating four fouls.

The Mustangs continue their four-game homestand against rival UC Santa Barbara at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The Gauchos will be trying to avenge an 87-79 home loss to Cal Poly on Jan. 20, the Mustangs’ first win in the Thunderdome since 1998 and only their second there since 1995.

“As crazy as it may sound,” Bromley said, “they’re a better road team than they are a home team right now. That’s a big game for us on Wednesday and then we have (ESPN's) Bracket Buster on Saturday. It’s a great week ahead for Cal Poly basketball.”

Something the Mustangs still need to work on is their free-throw shooting. Nothing, where they were a paltry 12 of 37 Saturday and have shot 811 this season.

“We still have a lot of work to do,” Whiten said. “We have to get better at rebounding, taking care of the ball and making our free throws. Now that we’re getting everybody back, we have to stay healthy. We can’t have Tina getting hurt, then he comes back, then I get hurt and I come back and then somebody else gets hurt. We’ve got to have everybody healthy, everybody on the same page.

“We all have to just enjoy the journey and realize we have a lot of work to do, but we can do it. We can accomplish our goals and possibly get into the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the school’s history.”

Thinking about studying abroad?

Attend the Study Abroad Fair

Thursday, February 15th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dexter Lawn

Back-up Location: College of Business Breezeway

To find out about the full range of study abroad opportunities, visit with a USAC representative at the Fair.

Just look for the USAC table!

If you can’t make the fair, pick up a USAC catalog at the International Education & Programs Office

Hawks edge Warriors, 106-105

Golden State had six players score in double figures, but couldn’t overcome Josh Smith’s 29 points and 10 boards.

Janie McCauley

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Josh Smith scored 11 of his 29 points in Atlanta’s big first quarter and also had 10 rebounds, leading the Hawks past the Golden State Warriors 106-105 on Sunday night for their fifth straight road victory.

Joe Johnson added 21 points and 11 assists in Atlanta’s 78-75 win.

The Warriors were led by Stephen Jackson, who had 23 points.

Barnes had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Andris Biedrins had 16 points, 16 rebounds and four assists for the undermanned Warriors.
The Mustangs won 15-2 over Nevada on Sunday before their five-game winning streak ended with a 10-6 loss.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Junior right fielder Grant Deime's grand slam in the third inning opened the game and Cal Poly went on to beat Nevada 15-2 in the opening game of a nonconference baseball doubleheader Sunday afternoon at Baggett Stadium.

The victory clinched the series for Cal Poly and stretched their winning streak to five games after a 1-5 start to the season.

Nevada salvaged a win in the final game of the series Sunday afternoon with a 15-6 victory, snapping a five-game losing streak as catcher Korina Schmidt drove in seven runs with two home runs and a pair of three-run home runs.

Cal Poly is 3-6 on the year and Nevada is 3-6.

In the opener, Cal Poly scored in each of the first six innings for a 15-2 lead and coasted to the win behind a 21-hit offensive attack in most in two years.

Junior second baseman Pat Pietrow, moved to the leadoff position for the first time this season, had three hits and a pair of RBI and sophomore third baseman Ben Motel hit a single, double and home run, driving in three runs. Freshman designated hitter Wes Dorrell also had three hits, including a double, and knocked in one run.

Sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager (2-3) pitched 6 1/3 innings for the win, one strikeout and six hits with one walk and five outs.

Nevada first baseman Shawn Kott singled twice.

After Nevada scored a run in the top of the first inning on an RBI single by San Luis Obispo High graduate Ben Motel, Cal Poly added two runs in both the second and third frames, one in the fourth and Deime's grand slam in the fifth.

Eager allowed two runs in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Kort. Cal Poly added two runs in both the seventh and eighth frames, and a pair of three-run home runs in the ninth.

Deime, who had three hits and a pair of three-run home runs, hit the walk-off home run at the end of the ninth.

Deime went 3 for 4 with a walk and drove in seven runs.

Josiah Thomas and Pietrow.

Nevada added a run in the fifth on an RBI single by San Luis Obispo High graduate Ben Motel, driving in one run.

Nevada scored a run in the seventh with a two-out double by San Luis Obispo High graduate Ben Motel.

Cal Poly took a 13-2 lead with three runs in the seventh, and a pair of three-run home runs in the eighth.

Cal Poly added two runs in the ninth with a pair of three-run home runs.

With the win, Cal Poly improved to 1-5 on the season and Nevada fell to 0-6.

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**Whiten scores 31, leads Mustangs to 6th win in 8 games**

Cal Poly is only a half-game back in the Big West standings from a first-round bye in the conference tournament.

Tristan Aird  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

Davin Whiten was a flame thrower, torching the UC Irvine defense what seemed like every time down the court. 

One 3-pointer from the wing here. Another from the corner there. In the end, Whiten — still recovering from an ankle injury — had piled up a school-record eight 3-pointers on his way to a career-high 31 points. The gutsy performance led the Cal Poly women's basketball team to an 89-80 Big West Conference win over hosting UC Irvine in front of 2,381 fans Saturday in Mott Gym.

"I'm about 75, 80 percent (healthy)," said Whiten, a junior shooting guard who was sidelined for Thursday's 80-77 loss to Long Beach State. "My teammates needed me. I'm about making sacrifices for the basketball team and I did that today." Whiten, who said he had his left ankle about 20 times Friday and Saturday before the game, shot 9 of 15 from the floor, 8 of 11 from beyond the arc and 5 of 7 from the free-throw line. He had 22 points at halftime.

"That shocked me a little bit, when I looked at the stat at halftime and it was 22," Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said. "There was one time I was going to sub for him and I had to pull Chaz (Thomas) back out. You hate to cool off a shooter, but then you don't want him to get fatigued and start missing, so I left him out there a couple more possessions." Whiten's 31 points were the most by any Cal Poly player since Varnie Durand's 35 in a 97-95 overtime win at UC Riverside on Feb. 26, 2004. Whiten eclipsed his previous career high of 29 points set in a 92-76 home win.

Also patrolling the paint for Cal Poly was senior shooting guard Tristan Aird, left, drives past UC Irvine freshman swingman Chad DeCasas on Saturday in Mott Gym.

**SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT**

IRVINE — Sophomore Megan Harrison scored a game-high 20 points and senior Jessica Eggleston recorded 16 as the Cal Poly women's basketball team defeated UC Irvine, 65-62 Saturday at the Bren Events Center to run its winning streak to five consecutive games — just the second such stretch by a Mustang squad in the last 24 seasons.

Cal Poly (10-12, 5-4 Big West Conference) improved its winning percentage in Big West play for the first time this season, took the lead for good at 35-34 just after halftime on an Eggleston jumper.

The Mustangs used a season-best 32-for-62 (.516) field goal percentage and a 13-4 run to push their lead to 46-38 with 14 minutes remaining. The Anteaters (6-18, 3-7) tied the game twice down the stretch but Harrison blocked a Keryonna Johnson jumper as time expired to preserve the victory.

In the process, Cal Poly posted its first five-game winning streak since opening the 2000-01 campaign with five triumphs. Cal Poly hasn't won six straight games since the 1981-82 Mustangs won nine consecutive contests midway through the season.

Saturday's win-second a season-series split for the Mustangs against the Anteaters, whom Cal Poly fell to 84-73 Jan. 4. Beginning with a Feb. 17 matchup at UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs lost four of their final five regular-season games against teams slotted above them in the Big West standings. Tip-off at UCSB is scheduled for 2 pm.

**Mustang softball team comes out of own tournament with 3-1 record**

Among Cal Poly's wins at the Mustang Classic was a 7-6 upset of No. 12 Washington.

Amanda Retzer  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

Scoring 22 runs on its way to three big wins, the Cal Poly softball team dominated this weekend in the first ever Mustang Classic at Bob Jenner Field.

The Mustangs (3-1) defeated both Santa Clara and Sacramento State on Sunday and split a pair of games against 12th-ranked Washington on Friday. Games were rained out Saturday.

After two scoreless innings in the Santa Clara game Sunday, the Mustangs got the cogs turning in the bottom of the third. The bases were loaded with two outs and it was the first real chance to score for Cal Poly. Freshman Kristen Cary was up to bat and setting on a full count. Then with the pitch came a season-high 3 runs.

"We were really well and I knew we'd stay ahead. I was very confident that we were going to win," Cary said.

With enough insurance runs to keep them safe, the Mustangs kept Santa Clara grounded with three quick outs. At their last at-bat, Cary drilled a two-run home run.

Cal Poly junior shooting guard Davin Whiten, left, drives past UC Irvine freshman swingman Chad DeCasas on Saturday in Mott Gym.

**Mustang toport**

**BRENNAN ANGEL**  
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