16 vehicles vandalized over weekend

Kristen Marschall
MUSTANG DAILY

Her car had been vandalized before, but Janet Hopton didn’t expect it to happen again. The biology junior parked her car in front of a friend’s house on Hathaway Street on Saturday night and got a ride home from a friend. The next morning, she was shocked to see how different her car looked.

“I pulled up in front of it and my entire windshield had been smashed,” she said, adding that the car had visibly been jumped on, as there were footprint indentations. The truck parked in front of her had also been attacked, as well as three other vehicles vandalized over weekend

Tour rolls through town today

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CSU faculty take first steps toward strike

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Racers move out at the beginning of Stage 3 of the Tour of California bicycle race on Wednesday near Stockton, Calif. Cyclists will be stopping in San Luis Obispo today shortly after 3 p.m. at the end of Stage 4. For a complete story, see page 16.

After months of waiting, Apple store to open on Higuera St.

An Apple chain store will move into the space previously occupied by Men’s Express at 877 Higuera St.

Tyler Wise
MUSTANG DAILY

With a swelling of commercial businesses taking root in town, San Luis Obispo will soon join the ranks of a growing number of cities worldwide to receive an Apple retail store.

Unlike the existing Apple retailers, such as the Mac Superstore located on South Higuera Street and El Corral Bookstore at Cal Poly, the new Apple retail store will be headed by Apple Computers Inc.—one of several hundred corporate chain stores to open up worldwide since 2001.

“We very much handpick our sites and we feel San Luis Obispo is perfect and ready for an Apple store,” said Apple representative and design manager Benjamin Fay during a public meeting at City Hall last July. “We’re very enthusiastic about it.”

Approved by a 3-2 City Council vote on Jan. 9, Apple was awarded the permits to begin setting up a corporate retail store some time near the holidays.

“Last summer, Apple had cast its ambitious eyes upon San Luis Obispo City Council’s three-year plan to end the nationally known celebrations in the area. This year’s Mardi Gras weekend saw a total of 57 citations and 31 arrests, including six students from Cal Poly and four from Cuesta College.

The number of arrests on Saturday and Tuesday night of Mardi Gras was less than the typical number of arrests for each night. The overall cost to taxpayers for the three-year campaign, which was meant to make Mardi Gras in San Luis Obispo a “non-event,” was over $2 million.

“It’s not just the damage or the injuries that cause problems from situations like 2004; stopping Mardi Gras also became a question of how you measure the value of community that surrounds a college,” said police Capt. Dan Blanke.

Police reported an 85 percent decrease in the total number of arrests made from 2004 to this last weekend.

Other than the San Luis Obispo Police Department, all officers were released early on both Friday and Saturday night following early arrests. For a complete story, see page 16.

Police hang hat after 3-year campaign against Mardi Gras

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

Mardi Gras 2007 marked the final year of San Luis Obispo City Council’s three-year plan to end the nationally known celebrations in the area. This year’s Mardi Gras weekend saw a total of 57 citations and 31 arrests, including six students from Cal Poly and four from Cuesta College.

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Campaign continued from page 1

The campus residence halls. In addition to ongoing activities in the community, Tuesday night also saw an early release plan with officers being relieved between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m. This was intended as a low enforcement effort, but as opposed to the eight that are on staff on an average weekend night, the core group of officers came from San Luis Obispo Police Department, California Highway Patrol and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department. San Luis Obispo Police Department also called upon University Police, Union Pacific Railroad Police, and officers from other cities within the county.

Out of the weekend's 57 citations, 25 were traffic citations and 18 were for alcohol.

Scaled down from the previous two years, the police force only had one DUI traffic checkpoint near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Chorro Street across from Bali's Yogurt. The stop, which operated from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, screened 676 drivers for signs of intoxication, conducted seven field sobriety tests and made a single arrest.

Vandalism continued from page 1

"I don't really think the DUI checkpoints are going to deter senseless people who drink and drive on a regular basis, but putting them out there makes people think about it and question themselves," biological sciences senior Patrick Kelly said.

There has been active discussion on the effects that reinstating the Mardi Gras parade for 2008 would have.

"It appears from students and community member leaders that, due to the campaign and student turnover, the memory of 2004 is gone," Blanke said.

"As far as the parade goes, it would be a shame to run a parade too soon, we could restart the celebrations and potentially flush $2 million worth of taxpayer money down the toilet."

Unlike past years, 2007's city outreach plan did not have a slogan, but police officers still made the rounds by passing out door hangers in student housing complexes and talking with community leaders.

Three years after 2004's riots, the San Luis Obispo Police Department has achieved its goal of significantly scaling down Mardi Gras celebrations.

"Cal Poly is known for being an amazing school, I don't think Mardi Gras really hurt our reputation overall. No one is going to not come to school here because we party one weekend a year," Kelly said.

"This is the second time my car has been parked on a random street and someone has tried to destroy the hood and the side fenders."

Despite the fact that the vandalism occurred on Mardi Gras weekend, both Watton and Staley said they would not comment until fact-finding is over, it may be too soon for such a conclusion.

"Nobody's going to notice if we strike in the summer," he said.

"Rather than saying it's an allegation, they made it sound like the investigation is closed and that's it," Sanger said.

"He adamantly asserts his innocence and denies that this ever happened," said Frimpong's attorney, Robert Sanger.

"He is the time to take action."
Apple
continued from page 1
Express at 877 Higuera St. on the corner of Morro Street was selected to become the host for the new Apple store.

The owners of the retail space, the Copeland family — who also own several retail spaces downtown, including the new Court Street shopping center — presented the design changes for the new retail space with representatives from Apple, to the San Luis Obispo Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC) late last July.

In a direct appeal to the City Council, Apple was finally awarded the permits to open a retail store in San Luis Obispo.

"They (Apple) appealed directly to us because the ARC would not approve their plans," said San Luis Obispo City Commissioner Christine Mulholland. "Throughout the process of appeal, anybody can come up to us for a direct vote of appeal regardless of what, say, the ARC, might have disapproved."

Though it took several months longer than expected for Apple to receive the green light, it comes as no surprise to local Apple retailers who have been wary of the arrival of an Apple store for some time.

"I knew it was coming," said Preston Sirois, the computer division manager of El Corral Bookstore. "They might have fallen off the public radar here for a couple of months, but I was not surprised at all to hear that they would still pursue a store in town."

It was a different story several months ago, when the news of a corporate Apple retailer came as quite a shock to Sirois and Shane Williams, the owner of the Mac Superstore, because neither could figure out why Apple had chosen a considerably small location such as San Luis Obispo.

What was even more frustrating for Sirois and Williams was the fact that Apple had in large part left them out of the loop.

"They didn't really explain to us why they wanted to move into the area. It was just like one day they said, 'Thanks for all the hard work, but we'll take it from here,'" Williams said.

"I think we do a great job of marketing their (Apple) product on our own, so it really doesn't make much sense for them to open up here," Sirois said.

For Williams, the decision by Apple to open a corporate store is reflective of his annual profits and the accelerating trend of commercial businesses flooding the area.

"Last year we made over $6 million in revenue so I think that played a hand in Apple's decision to go corporate here," Williams said. "Apple seems to think we're a big town now because they look at the demographic and all the big stores coming in and they think that having another Apple store in town wouldn't hurt us."

Williams pointed out that the arrival of a corporate Apple store would be the first time that Apple has in large part left them out of the loop.

"It's hard for us to be too critical of Apple because we are also marketers of their product. It puts us into a strange position trying to lash out against them when I've built my business standing by their product," Williams said.

Regardless of what threat the arrival of the corporate store might pose to the Mac Superstore or El Corral Bookstore, both Sirois and Williams said that they can stay competitive by providing superior customer service on levels that a corporate Apple store is not readily capable of.

"We're going to expand our customer service to include things like at-home service and installation of Apple products and introduce aftermarket products and accessories that the Apple store can't carry," Williams said. "It's a start, but we have some major reworking to do if we're going to have any longevity in this community."

Some of the City Council members understand the competition that the arrival of Apple might bring to the current retailers, but said that it is not their responsibility to pick sides on this matter.

"We have no say on what businesses can or can't come into town," Mulholland said. "Our job is to make sure those contractors and companies who want to come into town strictly follow the zoning and building regulations."

Apple Computers Inc. was not available for comment as to when it might open the store, but Councilmember Mulholland suspects that they will open sometime in the spring.

San Luis Obispo will become the 35th city in California to host an Apple retail store.
**Question of the day:**

Do you think Britney Spears can make a comeback?

"Oh my God, no. Not at all. I think she's gone crazy."

"I do because she was really really good at one time."

"I think she'll be in the news for a while, but not as successful as she has been."

"No. I think she's dead. She hasn't made any music for a while."

"I think it's just going to intensify her career. So many people are still gonna love her."

- Erin Rogers  
  biochemistry  
  freshman

- Sarah Schertz  
  forestry and natural resources  
  senior

- Steve Rutter  
  mechanical engineering  
  senior

- Katie Bohn  
  journalism  
  freshman

- Meghan MacRae  
  journalism  
  senior

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**Bush's plan to raise Pell Grant may be misleading for students**

**Tim Magaw**  
**Daily Kent Stater (Kent State U.)**

KENT, Ohio — President George W. Bush signed a bill into law last week that would raise the maximum Pell Grant award by $260. The increase is effective at the start of July, bringing the maximum award to $4,310.

Financial Aid director Mark Evans said this is good news for some, considering about 10,000 students from the university's eight campuses receive this kind of grant, which is given by the federal government. Because they are grants and not loans, students do not need to pay them back.

"The Pell Grant program is the largest grant program for any institution," he said.

The legislation signed by Bush will fund most federal education programs for the remainder of the 2007 fiscal year. The president is calling for an even higher increase in the Pell Grant program in his 2008 budget plan, but it could be at the expense of other programs.

By 2008, Bush plans to raise the Pell Grant to $4,600, increasing it by $200 each year. This could be the largest Pell Grant increase in three decades.

According to the College Board, the maximum Pell Grant award in 1977 covered 72 percent of the total cost of attending a four-year public institution. But by 2004, the maximum Pell Grant covered only 38 percent of the total cost.

But in order to pay for his possible increase, which has a five-year cost of about $19.8 billion, Bush has proposed the elimination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program.

"Eliminating the program would have a major impact on our highest-need students," Evans said.

The supplemental grant program is for high-need Pell Grant recipients, he said.

Because allocations for the supplemental grants have already been received for the 2007-08 school year, the elimination wouldn't take place until the 2008-09 school year. But if the supplemental grant program is cut, students could be cut out to $1,000 in the first year, he said.

"If they continue to increase Pell Grants by two or three hundred dollars in the next few years, they could eventually break even."

David Creamer, senior vice president for administration, said Bush's Pell Grant proposal could misinform some.

"It means for many students they might not see as much grant money as they would have expected," he said.

---

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See a Cal Poly Arts show tonight!

Tonight, see Mozart's famous opera

**The Magic Flute**

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(Sung in German, with English superslides)

Free lecture at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

**AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR**

**February 28 — 7:30 PM — PAC**

$5 Rush Seats (As available at the door)

**National Philharmonic of Russia**

Amazing classical music from one of the world's finest orchestras.

(8 pm curtain)

More great shows at www.calpolyarts.org
Britney Spears flees Malibu rehab facility less than a day after checking in, reports say

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Britney Spears left a live-in rehabilitation facility early Wednesday, less than a day after checking in, according to several reports.

It was the second time in a week that Spears entered a rehab facility and checked out before her first day was finished.

The UsWeekly news magazine reported that Spears called a car service, walked out of the facility and went to the airport.

Motivation Treatment Center and left the facility early Wednesday morning.

Lured two 15-minute periods "Extra" and the celebrity website TMZ.com said the 25-year-old pop star had left the center for the short 45-day stay. TMZ said she couldn't handle rehab and went home.

Federline's manager Dan Dymtrow said there would be no comment.

Entertainment TV shows and Web sites reported Friday that Spears had gone in and out of rehab that week. Some reports identified the facility as Eric Clapton's Crossroads Center in Virginia, in the Caribbean, but the AP wasn't able to confirm those reports.

Eddie Michael, a spokesman for the public relations agency that handles Promises, said he had no comment on whether Spears had been there or that she had left that day.

There was no response to an e-mail sent Wednesday to Spears' manager, Larry Rudolph. On Tuesday, Rudolph said Spears had voluntarily checked herself into an undisclosed treatment facility.

"We ask that the media respect her privacy as well as those of her family and friends at this time," Rudolph was quoted as saying. He didn't deny why she entered rehab.

Spears had a meadow weekend that included shaving her head, tattooing her wrist and clubbing with friends. On Friday night, she shaved off her hair at a salon. Spears was later seen wearing an expensive blond wig.

Since filing for divorce from ex-husband Federline in November, Spears has been photographed pantyless, wearing skimpy outfits and showing her underwear.

Federline's attorney earlier confirmed that Spears and Federline would continue to share custody of 5-month-old Jyden James and 17-month-old Sean Preston this month, following terms of a January custody agreement.

Can Wii be a weight-loss tool?

Carlos Militante

Video games and fitness usually don't go hand-in-hand, but the Nintendo Wii is showing that gamers can lose weight and still have fun at the same time.

According to Philadelphia Mickey DeLorenzo's blog on WiiNintendo.net in early December of 2006, the 25-year-old came up with what he calls the "Wii Workout," after he and his fiance found themselves out of breath when playing the "Wii Sports" boxing game.

Ryan Okuda, a San Jose State University radio, television and film junior, said that the Wii might have contributed to his recent weight loss.

"It's a great alternative method to the gym because it's fun," Okuda said. "I can see myself doing push-ups on my arms while playing boxing and help you lose weight." Okuda said.

In DeLorenzo's blog, the plan was to do everything he normally did, eat everything he normally ate and check himself after changing playing after 30 minutes of "Wii Sports" every day for six weeks. He dedicated himself to playing tennis, bowling, baseball and tennis games in "Wii Sports" per day.


During the six weeks he kept track of his weight, body mass index, body fat percentage and at rest heart rate, DeLorenzo said in his blog.

Starting at 180 pounds, DeLorenzo said in his blog that he lost nine pounds in six weeks, without changing his diet. His body mass index went from 25.2 to a 24.31, his resting heart rate dropped from 82 to 68 beats per minute and his body fat percentage dropped from 19 percent to 17.2 percent.

Biology junior Victoria Furman, said it's a great way to stay in shape if you're a gamer that doesn't have time to go to the gym and who wants to play more video games.

"It's a cool method," Furman said. "If I was more into video games I would probably try it."

Michael Balangitao, a 23-year-old Biology junior, said if you have a workout regimen, it's good that kids can be active while playing the games, rather than being a couch potato.

According to a press release from VideoGameFitness.com, the National Sports Science Association (ISSA) is praising the Wii and other video games that help to combat childhood obesity.

"Exertainment and home video consoles are the wave of the future," said Josh Trout, a kinesiology professor at California State University, Chico. in a press release from VideoGameFitness.com. "Everygamming, and entertainment, is an excellent way for getting kids hooked on physical activity, producing good exercise habits that can last their lifetime."
WASHINGTON — Cracking down on college stu­
dents, the music industry is sending thousands more
complaints to universities this school year than it did
last year as it targets music illegally downloaded over
campus computer networks.

A few schools, including Ohio and Purdue universi­
ties, already have received more than 1,000 complaints
accusing individual students since last fall — significant
increases over the past school year. For students who are
called, punishments vary from e-mail warnings to
semester-long suspensions from classes.

The trade group for the largest music labels, the
Recording Industry Association of America, identified
at the request of The Associated Press the 25 universities
that received the most copyright complaints it sent so far
this school year. The group has long pressed schools to
act more aggressively against online pirates on campus.

"It's something we feel we have to do," RIAA
President Cary Sherman said. "We have to let people
know that if they engage in this activity, it's not
acceptable." The top five schools are Ohio, Purdue, the
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Tennes­
ssee and the University of South Carolina. The RIAA complained
about almost 15,000 students at those 25 universities,
neatly triple the number for the previous school year.

"They're trying to make a statement," said Randall
Hall, who polices computers at Michigan State
University, seventh on the list with 753 complaints.
Michigan State received 432 such complaints in
December alone, when students only attended classes for
half the month.

Hall meets personally with students caught twice and
forces them to watch an eight-minute anti-piracy DVD
produced by the RIAA. A third-time offender can be
suspended for a semester.

"I get the whole spectrum of excuses," Hall said. "The
most common answer I get is, 'All my friends are doing
this. Why did I get caught?'"

At the University of Massachusetts at Amherst —
which received 897 complaints — first- and second-time
offenders receive escalating warnings about piracy. After a
third complaint, the school uploads a student's Internet
connection and sends the case to a dean for additional
punishment.

Each complaint represents an accusation that a
student was identified sharing at least one song over the
 campus network. Egregious offenders, who make available hun­
dreds or thousands of songs to other students online, are
targeted by the RIAA in expensive civil lawsuits. Unlike
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Gnutella and FastTrack services.

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Silly trailer, ‘Terabithia’ isn’t a fantasy film

Aaron Allen

Going into the movie "Bridge to Terabithia," I wasn't familiar with the 1977 Newbery Medal-winning children's book on which it's based, so I was expecting what the movie trailers had led me to expect: an epic fantasy full of strange and dazzling creatures on par with "The Chronicles of Narnia" or "The Lord of the Rings."

"Terabithia" is nothing of the sort: It's an intimate and very earthbound grade-school drama with the occasional flights of fancy as Jesse and Leslie, our young hero and heroine, escape the perils of playground bullies via their wildly vivid imaginations.

Truth in marketing is about as flexible as taffy in a taffy-puller. I'm sure the movie's marketers were trying to sell the movie to the same fan base that made "Narnia" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy worldwide box-office sensations, but I can't help but wonder how much that misdirection will hurt "Terabithia's" business in the long run. Anyone going to see this movie expecting wall-to-wall action and more magical monsters than you can shake a wand at will be disappointed. Frustrated audience expectations breed bad word-of-mouth.

So I'm here to say that "Terabithia" is not "Narnia" and it's not "The Lord of the Rings." It's simply a good movie on its own merits and not on the merits on which the studio would like you to base your judgment.

Josh Hutcherson ("Zathura") plays Jesse Aarons, a farm boy who's teased at school because of his hand-me-down clothes. He takes comfort in his drawings — vibrant illustrations of armor-clad beavers and lumber-giants that exist in kingdoms far, far away from his family's farm. His dad (Robert Patrick, playing a nice guy for a change) struggles to make ends meet and lectures Jesse on the impracticality of immersing oneself in fantasies.

Now to the neighborhood is Leslie Burke (AnnaSophia Robb), a radiant, blue-eyed blonde whose cutie-punk clothes immediately tag her as free-thinking and irre sistibly cool. She has storytelling skills to match Jesse's drawings, and together they create the pretend world of Terabithia in their backyard woods. Jesse and Leslie's relationship is the kind of fifth-grade, boy-girl relationship that misdirection will hurt. "Terabithia," after all, is about bravery in the face of real-life challenges. So I'm here to say that "Terabithia" is not "Narnia" and it's not "The Lord of the Rings." It's simply a good movie on its own merits and not on the merits on which the studio would like you to base your judgment.

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MUSTANG DAILY
SPOTLIGHT
www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, February 22, 2007

Check out what's going on in SLO County this week. Whether it's art, film, music, theater or culture, POLYBILL posts the latest events.

The Graduate gets a little bit country and a little bit reggae with a stellar weekend lineup. Performers include country artist Robert Earl Keene with Cross Canadian Ragweed on Feb. 24, and reggae artist Midnite with Denisse Waters Scholarship fund to aid deserving art and design students; Call 766-1266 for more information.

Aaron Allen
DAILY MUSTANG CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 22, 2007

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7 DAYS A WEEK

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SALADS
WRAPS

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HOME MADE SOUPS
SALADS
WRAPS
logically decadent. Long gone are ety's hand through the Technicolor the days when television held soci­

Today, we have the Internet for that.

So, for those of you anxiously awaiting the arrival of the next tech­

But it wasn't always so. For those who enjoyed a hearty dose of good-ol'-tech­nology in fast-forward mode, here it is, we're living it.

Emerging within the par­

The iGeneration has come to be known as the new Internet generation, which superseded the MTV generation of the '70s and '80s.

The iGeneration of today has embraced anything "i," or Internet-related, toppling previous models of antediluvian advancement.

How television is destroying America

Daniel McNally

How television is destroying America

Daniel McNally

"Lost," "The Office," "24," "Arrested Development," and "Prison Break." What do all these shows have in common? They are entertaining, wildly addictive, available on DVD and ruining America's youth (myself included).

If you haven't watched these or any similar shows, you must have an angel watching over you. My only advice for you is that you sell your TV and remove your computer's DVD player to maintain this blissful ignorance. Pick up a hobby like chess or collecting french fries that look like former presidents. If you are in a room and you hear someone say, "Did you see that last episode of 'Lost'?" or "'24" is on tonight," leave immediately and take a cold shower.

It may sound harsh, but drastic measures are needed if one is to avoid these temptations. These shows are like cocaine, only they're measured in episodes instead of kilos, and they're 10 times as addictive. Despite the similarities, I wouldn't advise grinding up season DVD's into a fine powder and snort­ing them in an attempt to watch episodes faster. Don't ask me how I know this is a bad idea, just don't do it.

The point is, once you're hooked you will want days and even weeks watching DVDs, downloading entire seasons online and salvaging over new episodes. For me, it has gotten to the point where I'm anxiously waiting for the day I can spend 18 hours watching an entire season of the same show in one sitting. Mondays have gone from my most dreaded day of the week to my most anticipated, thanks to "24" at 9 p.m. I won't even let myself watch a single episode. We are bombarded with stimuli, forcing many of us to hide out on the outer rim of social interaction in hopes of catching our breath.

But let's be serious, I wouldn't have it any other way. This is our time, our age, our generation, our lives. So buckle your seatbelts people, we're in this for the long haul.

Alexandra Bezdikian is a journalism senior with a minor in religious studies. Email questions or comments to alexbezdikian@gmail.com.
New York Mozart Opera Festival presents 'The Magic Flute' for one night only

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY

When 2006 Cal Poly graduate Jessica Reed left San Luis Obispo for Boston in the fall to pursue her master’s degree in music, she had high hopes of entering the professional opera world.

But that time has come sooner than expected — Reed will be making her professional debut tonight in the Mozart Festival Opera’s performance of Mozart’s, “The Magic Flute.”

“This is a dream come true for me — to make a professional debut on my home stage,” she said. “I definitely didn’t expect it to come this soon.”

Reed first met “The Magic Flute” director Giorgio Lalov last February during a master’s class — a special class in which selected students participate — and was immediately criticized by professionals. Last year, Lalov had been impressed with Reed’s talent, informing her that she was “ready to enter the profession.”

At a pivotal coffee meeting, he turned this praise into a reality, offering Reed a chance to perform with the company at both Cal Poly and tonight again in Boston on March 6.

“Luckily my school (the New England Conservatory of Music) really values hands-on experience, much like Cal Poly,” Reed said. “So they really value me going out to get professional experience while we’re still students.”

“The Mozart Festival Opera — sister company of Teatro Lirico d’Ortampa — made its U.S. debut in fall 2003. Since then, the company has successfully completed tours of ‘Don Giovanni’ and ‘Le Nozze di Figaro’, adding ‘The Magic Flute’ to its repertoire this year.

“The Magic Flute,” or “Die Zauberflöte,” is the whimsical love story of the Egyptian prince Tamino with a magical flute and a bird catcher Papageno, who are on a somewhat perilous quest for love. Reed will be performing the comic role of Papageno.

The world will feature a 50-piece orchestra, a full-opera chorus and internationally renowned soloists. The opera will be presented in the original German with English subtitles projected above the stage.

Music department lecturer Jacalyn Kreitzer will conduct a pre-show lecture on the opera at 7 p.m. in the Philips Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

“I will be giving the synopsis for Mozart’s opera ‘Magic Flute’ or, in German, ‘Die Zauberflöte,’ Kreitzer wrote in an e-mail interview. ‘Mozart was a Mason, as was his father, and I will be explaining the Masonic, esoteric significance of the opera.

Showin in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the opera will begin in one-night performance at 8 tonight.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 to $54, with student discounts available. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center ticket office, at www.pascalo.org, or by calling (805) 756-2767.

There will be a student rush an hour before the show begins where tickets will be $5 with a valid PolyCard.

The world of “24” and letting my brain exist. After all, what you don’t know together. You’re better off pretending you can’t hurt you. As for me, there is no hope. I’ll have to hit rock bottom before I ever recover. I’m going to spend the next few weekends cooped up in my room, catching up on earlier seasons of ‘24’ and letting it go.

At least I’ll be thoroughly entertained. After that, you know, maybe I will borrow those season-one DVDs of ‘Lost’ after all.

The real story, however, is how these “shows can have such a big effect on so many people in the first place. Let’s face it, they are often repetitive, far-fetched and predictable. Watching an episode without knowing all the characters and the plot can be confusing and doesn’t amount to the same experience.

So, what makes these shows so appealing? It’s that they are good at making you feel that they are important. These shows instill in us a desire to understand the alternate universe they provide. They make us want to empathize with and relate to their characters. That’s why I’m simply hoping Jim and Pam from “The Office” will one day be together and that Tom Lennox from “24” isn’t killed for trying to save the president.

When a show makes the fate of its characters mean something to us, it can bring out a wide range of emotions in its viewers. This provides a refreshing change of pace from our own lives, where we sometimes need an escape from our mundane work and responsibilities.

The fact of the matter is that these shows are a little too good at making us feel that we’re still students."

New York Mozart Opera Festival presents ‘The Magic Flute’ for one night only

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY

According to Wikipedia, March 5

This year’s Academy Awards seem to be absolutely loaded. I can’t recall a year this good since 1994, which featured "Forest Gump," "Shawshank Redemption" and "Pulp Fiction."

This year’s trio of "Babel," "The Departed" and "Little Miss Sunshine" should run as close a race as the class of 1994. The best actor nominees are also stacked, unlike years past.

Best Picture nominees: "Babel" "The Departed" "Letters from Iwo Jima" "Little Miss Sunshine" "The Queen"

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, “The Departed” is the best movie I have seen since “Crash.” The cast, Nicholson, DiCaprio, Wahlberg and Sheen, combined with one of the greatest directors of this generation in Martin Scorsese should equal an Oscar. It’s Easily one of the most dynamic movies of the last decade.


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Loving, learning and living together

Caffeinated cramming sessions. Professors. The anxiety of unifying college experiences. Just another one that most of us won’t ever forget when we think back to our college days. The (initially repressed) recollection of our merriment and misadventures with roommates.

Freshman year, it’s you and your dorm mate. You share a cozy 12-by-12 space with another terrified freshman who tries, as do you, to make the best of the new experience by hanging posters on every square inch of brick wall, and stocking the mini-fridge with drinks (like water).

Dorm-roommate stories cover every genre, from horror to epic to romance (you may get along with your roommate swimmingly; or you may spend most of your time out socializing for the sole purpose of avoiding him or her; or you are plainly indifferent to each other, but take care to mind when there’s a scrunchie on the doorknob.

Then you move on, perhaps to sophomore-on-campus residences or migrate into the big scary off-campus world of leases and landlords. Presuming you have some choice in your living arrangement, it’s a sure easy route to pick a group of friends with whom you can go along—right? So you may think! Whether you’re an apartment nomad or you’ve had the same roommate since dorm life; whether you live with one other roommate or you’ve had designated dinner nights or keep entirely to yourselves, living with roommates in college proves this truth: you can’t live with just anybody, no matter how fond you are of each other.

In relationships, the same rule applies just because you love each other to pieces doesn’t necessarily mean you can be together.

For example: generally speaking, having a good, solid friendship seems like golden ground upon which to build a steady roommate-shut. But even the closest of BFFs won’t know you can share a kitchen, bathroom and bedroom without killing each other.

In the same way, having a healthy, functional friendship (and, obviously, mutual desire) seems like enough rationale to move in; but you may not really know your significant other as well as you’d like to think.

If we could set up a camera to scrutinize our own behavior with for a 24-hour period, we would end up with a video check full of the little quirks and idiosyncrasies that potential roommates would have to live with.

Some examples? You use a new cup every time you get a drink from the kitchen. You leave your socks in little corners in the bedroom and forget you ever took them off. You and your partner are loyal to the sacred order in which you perform your preparatory morning bathroom rituals.

You also said that “the Viennan War happened under the watch of a Democratic president. You forget to mention that the Republican President Dwight Eisenhower was the first president to send American troops to train the South Vietnamese army in 1950, and that the war happened under the watch of both parties. Eller, know your role.”

Also, I can’t believe that you criticized “The Vagina Monologues” without even realizing this is next to impossible. Selina Chang

Fabricating engineering sophomore

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and car­

To the Editor

Bm kJing 26, Room 226
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

March 5, 2007

Dear Editor

February 22, 2007

Letters to the Editor

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Re: U.S. wars in the place

Do not be dining the Democrat, Brian Eller! In your column, you said “Democrats have tried to undermine the military success and safety of our country.” But he fail to point out that the Vietnam, Gulf, and Iraq wars were won by Democratic presidents.

You also said that “the Vietnam War happened under the watch of a Democratic president. You forget to mention that the Republican President Dwight Eisenhower was the first president to send American troops to train the South Vietnamese army in 1950, and that the war happened under the watch of both parties. Eller, know your role.”

Also, I can’t believe that you criticized “The Vagina Monologues” without even realizing this is next to impossible.

Selina Chang

Fabricating engineering sophomore

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

submit your opinions in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
STAFF EDITORIAL

OK, it's time we had a little chat about opinions...

Welcome to the opinions page. Yep, opinions, as in people's views. The Mustang Daily serves as the public forum for Cal Poly students and faculty, meaning that when you send us a (coherent) letter to the editor, we run it. When you send us a (coherent) guest commentary, we run that too. We want to get your voice and message out to the general student population if you've got something to say.

We also have columns, like Sarah over there. She's probably pretty familiar with this year's columnist lineup by now (and if not, just look to the bar on the right). Again, we're here to bring you different views and opinions every week so that you, our readers, can see what's going on outside your bubble and think twice about your beliefs and decisions.

Now get ready for something extraordinary folks: they're columns, Columns. They don't write straight-up news articles for the Mustang Daily; moreover, they don't receive academic credit and are not paid for their contributions. Instead, they have to come up with a fresh topic every week and write 600 to 800 words about it. It's a challenging job.

They're not journalists in this context — they're ordinary students who have stepped up to contribute writing every week for your engagement and consideration. If you're looking for objective reports on what's happening around campus and in the community, that's what the rest of the paper's all about. But here, in the section you're reading right now, it's all about personal points of view. Articles don't run in the opinions section — just commentaries, editorials (opinions that reflect the editorial staff), columns and letters to the editor. Furthermore, columns, commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

So if you have your own thoughts on a particular topic, by all means, write in. This is why the Mustang Daily exists — to share stories and thoughts. You can send in letters to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com (see the ad on page 10 for further instructions) or you can send in guest commentaries, which should be around 500 words and cover original topics (see the ad on the upper right).

If you've ever thought about writing in but haven't yet, you should the next time you're feeling passionate about something. Without the courage to speak up, this page could become pretty darn bland. Keep it spicy.

Editors reflect the opinion of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.
Blair announces withdrawal of at least 1,600 British troops from Iraq

David Stringer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — British troops have achieved many tangible successes in Iraq — securing oil platforms, rounding up rogue police units and driving smugglers carrying weapons and contraband from waterways and border crossings.

Now some of these tasks will be ceded to Iraqi troops for good.

Under proposals laid out by Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday, Britain will withdraw about 1,600 troops from Iraq over the coming months and hopes to make other cuts to its 7,100-mong contingent by late summer.

British troops would likely stay in the southern Basta region until at least 2008, the Iran-Iraq border and maintaining supply routes to U.S. and coalition troops in central Iraq, Blair told legislators.

Britain could further reduce its force level to below 3,000 once a base at Basra Palace is transferred to Iraqi control in late summer, the prime minister said.

"What all of this means is not that Basra is how we want it to be, but it does mean that the next chapter in Basta's history can be written by Iraqis," Blair said.

The announcement, on the same day Denmark said it would withdraw in 460 troops, comes as the U.S. is implementing an increase of 21,000 more troops for Iraq — putting Washington on an "unexpected" path to turn over more control to Iraqi forces when possible.

"We have to show a great deal of realism," and not get ahead of the coalition's ability to transfer security responsibility to the Iraqis as the situation permits," Blair said.

British troops have mounted recent operations against Shiite militia, most notably raiding a Basra police station in December that had been run by a rogue police squad and freeing 70 people held captive.

Some analysts fear a militia resurgence once British troops withdraw and warn Iraq may attempt to step up in influence in the region.

Blair's official spokesman, on customary condition of anonymity in line with policy, acknowledged British officials "still believed Iranian supplied ordnance is coming across the border.

But Blair said the decision to withdraw was made because the south had "no Sunni insurgency, no al-Qaida base, little Sunni on Shia violence." The Iraqi capital Baghdad, however, was suffering from what he called an "orgy of terrorism unleashed upon it in order to crush any possibility of it functioning.

The other major coalition partners in Iraq include South Korea (2,300 troops), Poland (900), Australia and Georgia (both 800) and Romania (600), according to the Brooksings Institution.

South Korea plans to halve its 2,300 British contingent in the northern city of Irbil by April, and is under pressure from parliament to devise a plan for a complete withdrawal by year's end.

British troops would likely stay in the south, said Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Iraq at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"I would admit that there is a sense of uncertainty, but things are not getting better with the British in Basta," he said.

"The British are aggravating tensions by just being there."
Texas campus offers Mean Greens, low-calorie cafe with smaller portions

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Police respond to bomb scare at coffee shop near UCLA

Michaela Huilston
DAILY BRON [UCLA]

LOS ANGELES — Part of Gayley Avenue was shut down Monday night after an unknown man dropped off a suspicious package at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf on the corner of Weyburn and Gayley avenues, according to Los Angeles Police Department officials.

All of the customers at the coffee shop were evacuated from around 7:35 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., said Annaliza Burnacod, a (loffee Bean employee.

Burnacod said a man came into the shop before 7:35 p.m. and gave the package, about half the size of a manila envelope, to a table of customers, who said they thought they could hear it ticking.

She said the customers called the police, who responded and also brought a bomb squad and the fire department.

"Everyone was surprised," she said. "We didn't think it was an actual bomb, but then the police came and yelled 'Evacuate now,' so we ran out."

Lerry Chaure, an LAPD bomb squad official, said it was that force that responded to the call.

None of the officers on duty Monday night were available for comment.

Burnacod said the squad 'blew up' the package at around 9:15 p.m.

David Yanez, a fifth-year philosophy student, was driving past the blocked-off street around 9 p.m.

"Pretty much from Lindbrook on (the street) was shut down, with cop cars with their lights on in the middle of the street," he said.

Yanez said he and his friends, wondering what was going on, tried to speak to a firefighter near Veteran Avenue.

"(The firefighter) said 'It's controlled and it's been taken care of.' and didn't give any more information," Yanez said.

He said he and his friends believed it may have been a bomb threat, but were not sure.

Burnacod said she did not get a good look at the man who dropped off the package.

"He was long gone before they told me what was going on," she said.

She added that this is the first time this has happened since she has worked for the Coffee Bean, and she does not know of any previous instances of this happening.

Mean Greens

DENTON, Texas — These days Mean Greens means more than the green-jerseyed football team at the University of North Texas.

The campus also has a hot new cafeteria called Mean Greens. And as you might suspect, it serves up a lot of green, and otherwise healthy, food.

Steven Garza says he's been eating most meals there since it opened in October. One day recently, he was dining on a turkey sandwich, three pieces of sushi, vegetable soup, milk and water.

Garza likes the fact that an entree generally has fewer than 300 calories and 10 grams of fat. And meals with an entree and three side dishes usually total no more than 400 calories, so you might suspect, it serves up a lot of green-jerseyed football team at the Texas campus offers Mean Greens. And otherwise healthy, food.

an entree and three side dishes usually total no more than 400 calories, so you might suspect, it serves up a lot of green, and otherwise healthy, food.

The competing campus dining spots offer everything from barbecue to pizza to more traditional cafeteria lines. There are also two other larger dining halls on this campus of 32,000 students.

Mean Greens manager Peter Balabuch seems to be pleased with how his operation is doing.

"The people that have come like the offerings. We can keep them coming," he said.

Phillips said that opening Mean Greens was a risk because even though students said they wanted healthier options, it was hard to tell if they would actually choose healthier.

Students today are more health-conscious, and there are definitely more and more options," said Jodi Smith of the National Association of College & University Food Services.

Across the country, university cafeterias are trying to serve up less processed and lower-salt items, more organic products and access to nutritional information on Web sites or in the cafeterias, said Russ Meyer, president of the National Association of College & University Food Services.

The Mean Greens Cafe showcases three potential meals each day and displays a nutritional tally. On one day, a display meal included a plate of herb-crusted chicken with peas, rice and carrots totaling 385 calories and 9.2 fat grams. Also offered were shrimp tacos with the same sides totaling 447 calories with about 10.7 fat grams, and a grilled chicken breast with peas, beans and carrots adding up to 289 calories with 6.5 grams of fat.

"I'm always looking at those little tags," said 21-year-old Garza, who likes to get about 30 grams of protein per meal and not exceed 10 grams of fat.

Desserts are all 150 calories or less, with choices that include brownies, peanut butter cookies and a small chocolate torte with strawberry sauce.

Low-calorie items are marked and among the offerings at the school's other cafeterias, but in the Mean Greens cafe there's less temptation.

As Phillips points out, choosing a chicken breast over a cheeseburger is a little more difficult when they are sitting right next to each other.

Mean Greens cafe there is less temptation. As Phillips points out, choosing a chicken breast over a cheeseburger is a little more difficult when they are sitting right next to each other.
Women
continued from page 16

play against UC Riverside, which has seven players 6-foot or taller. The defending Big West tourney champs on Highlanders also boast a roster that has swatted 159 shots this season, compared to only 47 by their opponents.

"They're huge," Mimnaugh said of the Highlanders. "You've got 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 - that's the frontcourt and the backcourt. They're so big, they do a lot of things defensively. They like to switch screens, which has created some problems already. They're huge, so defensively, we're probably going to

Men
continued from page 16

that will be regionally televised on Fox Sports Net Prime Ticket.

Bromley has said that possibly the most important statistic to him is field-goal percentage defense. "When asked Monday what area of the defense he most hopes to shore up, Bromley said: "It's not one thing. I wish it was one thing. It's multiple breakdowns from everybody at different times in the game. It's two possessions we get beat on dribble penetration. Then we helped out too much and we've been explosive as of late."

Consider these numbers:

- The Mustangs have scored more than 85 points in four of their last five games.
- Dawn Whiten tied a school record with nine 3-pointers on his way to a career-high 37 points in a 98-80 win over UC Irvine on Feb. 10.
- Derek Stockalper set a school record with nine 3-pointers on his way to a career-high 37 points in a 98-80 win over UC Irvine on Feb. 10.
- Only one game separated the No. 2 through 5 teams in the Big West standings through Wednesday, finishing in the top four is crucial because those teams receive a first-round bye in the Big West tourney, which runs from March 7 to 10 in Anaheim. The top two teams are awarded an automatic trip to the semifinals of the conference tournament.

"It's been kind of even with the defense since the whole time," Bromley said. "We've got the right guys taking shots and with tremendous confidence."

"It's nice to have because you never know what teams defensively or schematically are going to do against you," Bromley said. "We've just got to keep it going." Cal Poly last played UC Riverside at home Dec. 30, winning 67-64. The Mustangs kept the Highlanders in the game, however, by shooting only 5 for 11 from the free-throw line and committing 18 turnovers.

"We killed them by three here," Bromley joked. "They've got a little bit of everything. They've got good guards. We've got to defend and rebound."

Bromley said tonight's game is particularly important because it could give more meaning to Saturday.

"It'll be a heck of a lot more exciting (Saturday) if we win on Thursday, because then we put ourselves in position to finish as high as second in the conference," he said.

"I feel that there's tremendous par-

try," Mimnaugh said of the Big West. "Any team could win on any given night."

And even though it took the Mustangs seven weeks to reach the conference tourney opener to get a healthy, balanced squad that could string together wins, Mimnaugh said it happened before postseason play begins.

"It's never better to win games at the end of the season than in the middle," she said. "You're learning things as you really go along. I don't know that I would have scripted it this way, but I'll take it. We're peaking at the right time."

Women
continued from page 16

I am looking forward to seeing friends and more support in San Luis Obispo," Euser said.

Experts predict that the race will come to a close at roughly 3:22 p.m. today.

Residents and students of San Luis Obispo are advised that road closure and bus times will be affected due to the race. A city bus employee said that there would be no bus closure, just delays and rerouting of buses along Foothill and other nearby streets.

Dan Blanke of the San Luis Obispo Police Department said that roughly 25 city police officers will be at the event, assisting volunteers and controlling traffic and road closure.

"The CHP is primarily responsible for bringing the race down the street," Blanke said. "We take over when it enters San Luis Obispo. There are certain intersections and roads that can only be properly managed by others."

One of the most significant intersections is Chorro Street and Foothill Boulevard, Blanke said. There is a critical turn in the course for the riders, and the intersection tends to be one of the busiest on the San Luis Obispo portion of the course. The riders head to Solvang on Friday, after ending stage four in San Luis Obispo, for the time-trial portion of the competition. Beginning at 11 a.m., that portion of the race will only be 14.5 miles long and will test the bikers' speed capabilities.

The tour will come to a close Sunday in Long Beach, where riders will compete in their final stage, a 77.5-mile circuit race in the city's downtown. The 10-lap portion of the race will begin at 1 p.m., and is expected to last roughly 2 3/4 hours.

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Voight takes third stage; Leipheimer finishes second, maintains overall lead

SAN JOSE — Jens Voight of Germany easily outsprinted race leader Levi Leipheimer to claim the third and most difficult stage Wednesday of the Amgen Tour of California.

Voight (CSC), the 2006 Tour of Germany winner who also won a stage of the Tour de France last year, claimed the 94.6-mile Stockton to San Jose road race in 3 hours, 45 minutes and 32 seconds. Leipheimer (Discovery Channel), of Santa Rosa, gained six bonus seconds for finishing second and extended his race leader from one minute, 20 seconds.

Voight, who gained 10 seconds for the first win in his long career in the United States, also gained three bonus seconds earlier in the stage to move into second place overall.

Christopher Horner (Predator-Lottomatica) of Bend, Ore., finished third in the stage and moved into third overall, 15 seconds behind.

"I think we did a great job to make it to the finish ahead of the group," said Leipheimer, who has led the race since winning the prologue last Sunday in San Francisco. "It was a hard day for our team and it was a real bike race today." Voight, Leipheimer and Horner were among five riders who reached the top of Sierra Road, the steepest climb of the race, after 76.5 miles. The climb, a 1,300-foot ascent in approximately three miles, reached an 11 percent grade, split the field into numerous groups and resulted in the race's largest finishing time gaps. Nine riders finished outside the time limit and were eliminated from the race, reducing the field to 130.

The top three finishers eventual­ly rode together entering San Jose and often exchanged positions with the Dutch rider taking quick looks.

"I started sprinting out of the final corner and when I looked back and saw no one was coming back to me, I thought it would be easy," said Voight, a 2001 race leader of the Tour de France. "If Levi didn't get some seconds in the sprint, I would be in the lead." The eight-day, 639.2-mile race continues Thursday with 132.6­ mile Seaside to San Luis Obispo tour of the coastline as the longest stage of the race. It will primarily take the field on a coastal route and will include three lower level climbs during the first half of the stage and an undu­lating final 60 miles.

The race concludes with the seventh stage circuit race Sunday in Long Beach. The winner earns $15,000, plus various daily stage and bonus money, from a total purse of $165,000.

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Surgling Mustangs look to knock off first place UCR at home tonight

Cal Poly alums Lucas Euser and Ken Hanson, both 23, will be two of the 141 professional cyclists arriving today in San Luis Obispo.

Taylor Moore multimedia editor

The Amgen Tour of California bicycle race comes through downtown San Luis Obispo this afternoon, bringing two Cal Poly graduates with it.

San Luis Obispo will play host to the race, which began last Monday in Sacramento as the fourth stage ends shortly after 3 p.m. today at the cross-section of Chorro and Monterey streets.

Stage four begins in Seaside at 10 a.m. today and travels approximately 130 miles on U.S. Highway 1 to reach San Luis Obispo in the early afternoon. This stage, one of the longest of the tour, brings the event into its second half.

The two Cal Poly graduates competing are Lucas Euser, 23, and Ken Hanson, 23, both residents of San Luis Obispo. The tour is an eight-day event.

"I've been riding a bike since I could breathe," Euser said.

Euser, who graduated this past fall with a degree in industrial technology, has been racing professionally for the past two years. Competing in last year's race, he placed 49th out of 97 racers.

"I really felt I was 49th," Euser said. "More importantly however, we stood out as a team.

Euser is riding with Team Slipstream, sponsored by Chapelle. The team is gaining attention for its young, multi-national riders and plans to compete in the Tour de France in two years.

Team Slipstream is doing well so far in the race, with one of its riders placed 135th coming in about 4 minutes, 27 seconds behind the leader, Levi Leipheimer (U.S.) of the Team Discovery Channel team. Hanson is one of the most promising riders in this year's tour.

The most recent win, last Saturday, was a 71-68 victory at UC Santa Barbara in which Jessica Eggleston scored 25 points to be named Big West Conference Player of the Week on Monday. The Mustangs used an 8-2 run in the final 45 seconds to steal the win, the second straight season they have won in the Thunderdome.

"Winning in the Thunderdome is a thrill for us," Mimnaugh said. "To produce magic in back-to-back years in the Thunderdome is something that's special to our players.

Although UCSB (11-14, 7-3) is not the perennial power it once was when it went to the NCAA Tournament three straight seasons from 2002-03 to 2004-05, Cal Poly's win in Santa Barbara served notice to the Big West that the Mustangs' winning streak is not a fluke.

"We went into the game with great expectations and confidence that we could beat the Gauchos," Mimnaugh said. "As the game progressed, we didn't do as good a job on the glass as we could have.

Cal Poly was outrebounded 55-33 by UCSB, but made up for it by shooting 44.4 percent from the field in the second half — exactly 10 percent better than the Gauchos.

Rebounding is likely to come into

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