Clock ticks to approaching financial aid deadline

Donovan Aird and Dustin Pritchard
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

For students struggling to make ends meet, or are wondering how they’re going to be able to pay their way through next quarter, the Financial Aid Office is there to help.

The time to apply for aid is now, says Mary Ann Hinkle, Cal Poly’s Federal Family Education Loan Program Manager.

The deadline for completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for next year is March 2, and according to Hinkle, it is something all students should consider.

“There is no reason not to complete a FAFSA,” said Hinkle, who has worked in the Cal Poly Financial Aid Office for 28 years. “It’s the perfect time to be applying. There’s no excuse; it’s free to apply. You can always say no to what we offer, but others that are specific to your major you’ll never know if you don’t apply.”

Those who miss the deadline will miss certain grant aid, work study, and Perkins loan opportunities, and will not be eligible for scholarships from the school.

While a loan must be repaid, scholarship money is a student’s to keep. The loan money is a student’s to keep.

Hinkle said.

The process of applying for aid is complex and requires many prerequisites before students can participate. The class is only offered during winter quarter, when most people are preparing for tax season.

More than 90 students are involved in the program, and all of them receive senior project credits for their involvement, said Norinne Morris, the administrative assistant for the accounting concentration.

The program aims to give students vital learning experience while helping the community.

VITA provides its services only to community members who are unable to pay for tax services, non-English speakers, the elderly, the disabled and those with a low income.

“(The program) is for people who cannot generally afford tax assistance,” said business administration junior Mark Skeehan.

The program is run nationally and sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service. Cal Poly’s program receives additional sponsorship from the Cal Poly business department and the California Franchise Tax Board.

VITA was established more than 30 years ago and has been present at Cal Poly for 15 years.

At Cal Poly’s VITA is run as a business course, which requires many prerequisites before students can participate. The class is only offered during winter quarter, when most people are preparing for tax season.

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see VITA, page 2

What: Clock ticks to approaching financial aid deadline
Where: The Rec Center’s racquetball courts
When: Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 6 to 11 p.m.
For more info: Call Falcon Pyle at (805) 756-6044.
VITA
continued from page 1
Business senior Michael Bonfante said that not only does the program give him the necessary senior project credit but also allows him to figure out what he wants to do after he graduates.
"It's given me a better understanding of the process of preparing returns," Bonfante said.
Janice Carr, a business professor and VITA program coordinator, has been running the program since its start at Cal Poly. She said the program has been a huge success at Cal Poly because students are not only practicing what they have learned in classes, but they are gaining self-confidence in communication and their tax skills as well.
"Students work in pairs and change partners every week. We (the faculty) are there to help students if they have questions, but we do not deal with clients," Carr said.

The program begins with a four- week training course for students. Two classes — taught by business professors Carr, Michelle Bissinnette and Jack Robins — provide the enrolled students with mock tax situations, essential software training and allow students to get familiar with the tax preparation process.
After only two weekends, VITA has had a successful turnout. During the second VITA session, students completed close to 103 returns and word about their services is spreading throughout the local community.
Being so early in the tax season, however, and other students are expecting an even bigger turnout in the next few weeks. Carr said that later in the year, near the end of the program, VITA was assisting 150 to 160 people a day.

For those participating in the program, VITA mirrors what a real job after graduation will be like. Students are required to abide by a professional dress code and converse with each individual person as they would a client.
Cal Poly VITA offers assistance in Spanish as well. This quarter, there are nine business students fluent in Spanish who are able to help the non-English speaking community. All forms are available in Spanish as well.
VITA takes place every Saturday until May 19, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Business building, room 306. Anyone in the community can participate if they meet the requirements. No appointments are necessary.

Textbooks
continued from page 1
The main factor behind the range in textbook prices lies in the hands of the professors. The bookstore asks teachers for their textbook requests two months before the quarter begins. This gives the bookstore enough time to "know which books to order and to buy books earlier so they can go through used bookstores," Maki said.
Only 15 to 20 percent of faculty request textbooks by the deadline, resulting in higher prices for students.
"If we get a requisition form two weeks before classes, we might be able to get them here by the first day of classes, but that doesn't leave time to order from used bookstores," said Cindy Gambalvo, the coursework division manager for El Corral Bookstore. "We are competing with all the other schools at used bookstores."
This means that if teachers don't put in their order forms on time, most of the used books are already gone, leaving the bookstore knocking at the doors of the original publishers, a much more expensive option. This then pushes up the prices for students, hence the $100 per year average spent on books.
This is also a problem at local popular bookstore Aidas, located on Foothill Boulevard.
Teachers could save students a lot of money," Aidas manager Jane Hinkle said. "When they place their orders only a couple weeks before the next quarter starts, it affects how long we have to search for used books. This can run us out of the time and we have to buy new textbooks."
This also affects the ability for the bookstore to buy students' books at a reasonable cost. If they don't know if a professor will require the same book of his students for the following quarter, then the bookstore can't invest in buying back the books at a higher price.
And while teachers can ultimately lower the prices of textbooks for their students, it is not yet the perfect solution.
"They ask for our book orders by week three of the previous quarter," and sometimes you haven't decided what you want to use for the next quarter," philosophy professor Rachel Fern said. "They want you to decide, and once you order the books, you're committed to that material."

A textbook solution
ASI has been looking at all sides of the book pricing issue and is working on a task force that will "look into the feasibility of developing a central place to access books and to buy books earlier so they can go through used bookstores," Maki said.

Starting July 1, sophomore stu­dents can borrow up to $4,500, juniors and seniors up to $5,500, and graduates up to $8,500. The maximum students can borrow through Sallie Mae Loans is $23,000. An advantage of a Sallie Mae Loan is that its interest rate is fixed at 6.8 percent, 4 percent less than the average private loan, where an interest rate constantly fluctuates. Additionally, Hinkle said students should research outside scholarships online.
"Students shouldn't be afraid to ask questions," said Hinkle, called by Sumsi the school's best financial aid counselor. "Many come in to explain special circumstances, such as parents dying or separating, or even more common situations like entering credentials or masters programs."
Financial aid is complicated, with many programs, rules and grades levels, but the Financial Aid Office is here to make sense of things.
Counselors are available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for Wednesday, when they close at noon. Located in the administration building, room 212, its phone number is 756-2927.
"I love helping people find out how to get financial aid and helping students stay in school and graduate," Hinkle said.

FAFSA
continued from page 1
The starting point to fill out a FAFSA is online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If students are dependent, they must have a parent assist in the process, requiring a FAX for both. The process can be lengthy, but "well worth the time," according to Beverly Sunseri, FFEL program manager.
"It's a win-win situation for a student," Sunseri said. "A student stands to gain a better chance at free money for college expenses in the way of grants, scholarships, work study, and subsidized Stafford Loans where the government pays the interest while the student is in school."
As paying for college has become increasingly more difficult through higher tuition costs and increasing unemployment, there has been an increase in Stafford Loans the school offers.
A Stafford Loan is a federal loan given to students to take advantage of Stafford Loans the school offers.
"We try to carry as many used books as we can and with the used books come lower prices," Rasmussen said. "But we also compare each price to make sure the apples are lower than what the students are getting on campus."
Web sites like www.scribewhethe­bookstore.com and www.half.com give students a convenient online option with perks such as free shipping and returns.
"The primary function of scribewhe­bookstore.com is to save students time and money, and selling and sending," cofounder Kirk DeClark said. "We don't have to keep going to the bookstore, which is a lot of money," Rasmussen said. "The system works much better."
Ancillary benefits include avoiding lines at the bookstore, saving time and money, and selling and sending," cofounder Kirk DeClark said. "We don't have to keep going to the bookstore, which is a lot of money," Rasmussen said. "The system works much better."
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California's HPV vaccine bill concerns residents

Kim Le
THE PENT POST [real people] POPO

POOMONA, Calif. — A new bill has been proposed to California legislature that would require sixth grade girls to receive the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine, Gardasil, before entering middle school. The vaccine is meant to prevent 70 percent of HPV cases.

Approved by the Federal Drug Administration in June 2006, many parents feel that the decision to get the vaccine should not be up to the legislature; they believe that vaccinating girls against a sexually transmitted disease will promote promiscuity and may not be safe.

"At this point, I haven't formulated an opinion either for or against the HPV vaccine," said Carla Jackson, health educator of Student Health Services at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona. "I think that more time needs to pass before we know for sure what the implications are for this vaccine. That said, I definitely don't think that having an HPV vaccine is going to promote promiscuity. That is like saying that having condoms available is going to encourage young people to have sex, which has been proven in scientific studies to be untrue."

The vaccine is covered by most health care programs for low-income children and families, making it virtually free for people who are uninsured or under-insured. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HPV infects approximately 20 million people in the United States with 6.2 million new cases each year.

The only available treatment is for related health problems, not HPV itself. While there are more than 30 strains of HPV that affect at least half of sexually active people in their lifetime, most strains of HPV do not produce any symptoms and disappear on their own.

HPV causes approximately 90 percent of cervical cancer cases, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The American Cancer Society reports that cervical cancer is the second-leading cancerous killer of women worldwide.

In the United States, nearly 10,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, killing 3,700 of those women.

"Not requiring the vaccine is almost like asking if the polio vaccine should be mandatory or not," said Josh Escoledo, a political science senior at Cal Poly-Pomona.

Kathy Spafol, associate director of Student Health Services, noted that the vaccine is a wonderful new discovery, but she feels that people should make their own health choices.

She said that they need to be educated on the subject before they decide what to do. The vaccine comes in a series of three shots, the first of which is given at the well-child appointment most children go to when they are around 11 or 12.

The next two shots are given over a period of several months, while the FDA does not know the length of protection that Gardasil provides; there may be another booster needed after that series.

Now open for Breakfast!

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Served Daily! 7am-2pm

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Pirated movie company BitTorrent launches legitimate movie, TV download service

Gary Gentile
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BitTorrent Inc., makers of a technology often used to trade pirated copies of Hollywood movies, is launching a legitimate Web site that will sell downloads of films and TV shows licensed between the ages of 15 and 35. TV shows such as "24" and "Punk'd." The service is squarely aimed at young males who regularly use BitTorrent to trade pirated versions of the same films and who often watch such files on their computer instead of a big screen TV in the living room. The San Francisco-based company is betting that at least one-third of the 135 million people who have downloaded the BitTorrent software will be willing to pay for high-quality legitimate content rather than take their chances with pirated fare.

The vast majority of our audience just loves digital content," Ashwin Navin, president and co-founder of BitTorrent told The Associated Press. "Now we have to program for that audience and create a better experience for that content so the audience converts to the service that makes the studios money.

To help win users to paying for content, BitTorrent is featuring content and pricing that appeals to in target demographic — males between the ages of 15 and 35. TV episodes are $1.99 to download to own, which is typical for competitor sites such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes.

The new site will rent movies for a 24-hour viewing period for $3.99 for new titles and $2.99 for older films. But the site has decided not to sell films for now because the prices demanded by the studios were too high.

"We're really hammering the studios to say, 'Go easy on this audience,'" Navin said. "We need to give them a price that feels like what they were getting for free.

The service also will offer Japanese anime and high-definition video, which is popular with its users. Individuals will be able to publish their works to the site, which will compete for attention beside studio content.

The BitTorrent technology pioneered by Bram Cohen assembles digital movies and other computer files from separate bits of data downloaded from other computers across the Internet. Its decentralized structure makes downloading more efficient, meaning that a full-length movie should download in about a half hour, about twice as fast as some other sites.

Navin said TV episodes should download in about one-third that time.

BitTorrent's decentralized structure also frustrated the entertainment industry's efforts to find and identify movie pirates.

In 2005, after the studios won a key legal decision against another pirate software company, Grokster, Cohen agreed to remove links to pirated files and start talks to license legitimate content.

Studios also got more comfortable with the idea of distributing content over peer-to-peer networks after they adopted strong digital rights management safeguards created by Microsoft Corp.

BitTorrent's content is protect ed by Windows Media DRM and will only play back using Windows Media Player. Studios striking deals with peer-to-peer networks is a good first step toward allowing users to more freely distribute films and TV shows on the Internet, something it may take another five years or more for Hollywood to become completely comfortable with, one analyst said.

"Their biggest concern is that an anonymous person passes it to an anonymous person," said Les Ottolenghi, chairman and president of Intent MediaWorks Inc., a company that helps content owners protect their works on peer-to-peer networks.

Ottolenghi recently chaired a task force that looked at digital watermarking, a technology that helps content owners track the runtime of its films as they make their way across the Internet.

"Their greatest hope is that someone at home passes it on to someone at home, and that becomes a value to the consumer," he said.

Suicide bomber strikes Baghdad college; Shiites condemn U.S.-Iraqi security sweep

Brian Murphy

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A female suicide bomber triggered a ball bearing explosion Monday, killing at least 41 people at a mostly Shiite college whose main gate was left littered with blood-soaked student notebooks and papers amid the bodies.

Witnesses said a woman carried out the attack at the business school annex at Mustansiriyah University. Interior Ministry officials said they were still investigating those reports. The school's main campus was hit by a string of bombings last month that killed 70 people.

The attack came as the powerful Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr said an ongoing security crackdown in Baghdad was doomed to fail because of...
11 day festival aims to make Hawaii romantic music capital

Brian Charleston

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — While Chicago has the blues, Nashville the country music, and the jazz world annually, a group of Hawaii musicians is launching an ambitious festival aimed at making Honolulu the nation's romantic music capital.

The islands already are famous for hula dancers, ukulele and the traditional Hawaiian music genre that's now got its own Grammy for a prolific recording industry.

Many of the islanders, who return from their home state with the desire to keep the islanders and add more big-name performers.

About two dozen artists are scheduled this year, to be backed up by the 40-piece Matt Catingub Orchestra of Hawaii for the event produced by Allen Swidrovich, who has produced 25 albums and earned 11 Grammy nominations.

"This is the most romantic place in the world, and we want to scream about that," Swidrovich said. "We're amoured no one else has done this yet."

The new festival is meant to promote Hawaiian musicians, celebrate different genres of romantic music and market Hawaii to more music lovers visiting from around the world.

The world needs to start paying attention to the talent and music we have here in Hawaii," said Swidrovich, former longtime manager of singer Rosemary Clooney.

"Traditional Hawaiian folk music has long been featured on Hollywood soundtracks and on film in some of the most romantic scenes ever.

But music from the islands using the slack-key guitar and ukulele also continue to gain ground in a market that once was ''beach music'' to newer fans.

The raid came a day after Israeli soldiers discovered an explosives lab and small caches of explosives in the West Bank since Israeli forces began the military operation in the West Bank in October.

Israelis official said the wide-scale raid was crucial to stopping future militant attacks against Israel, but Palestinian officials said the offensive threatened nascent efforts to restart the peace process.

"We condemn this military incursion," said Saeb Erekat, aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to construct an independent Palestinian state under curfew and conducted house-to-house searches for alleged militants.

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But music from the islands using the slack-key guitar and ukulele also continue to gain ground in a market that once was ''beach music'' to newer fans.

The raid came a day after Israeli soldiers discovered an explosives lab and small caches of explosives in the West Bank since Israeli forces began the military operation in the West Bank in October.

Israelis official said the wide-scale raid was crucial to stopping future militant attacks against Israel, but Palestinian officials said the offensive threatened nascent efforts to restart the peace process.

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But music from the islands using the slack-key guitar and ukulele also continue to gain ground in a market that once was "
Junipero Serra, planted the first
Target or perhaps even to tour the
wine regions in California.

One of the most up and coming
wineries off U.S. Highway 46.

Through Paso Robles, the short.

The Zinfandel grape. Abundant
has a long history of grape grow-

Increased nearly five fold in the last
10 years, from a measly 35 to a bol-

Believe it or not, Paso Robles is
10 years. Today, viticulturists have begun to

Paso Robles and are celebrated at
the Zinfandel Festival takes place every
March in Paso Robles.
The largest production grape in
Paso Robles is the Cabernet Sauvignon. With nearly 38 percent
of production, the Cab grapes dominate most of the 26,000 acres
of planted vineyard acres in this
acclaimed American Viticulture Area (AVA).

Before and during the Paso Robles designation of the
AVA, many larger wineries were estab-
limited, including Eberle Winery, J.
Lohr, Wild Horse and Meridian.

Viticulturists have begun to
focus their energies on Rhône
varietals. These pioneers in the
field are called "Rhône Rangers,"
planting Syrah, Viognier and
Roussane. In fact, these Rhône
Rangers were the first to plant
Syrah in all of California. These
Rhône varietals are all "le buzz" in Paso Robles and are celebrated at
the Hospice du Rhône in May.
This festival constitutes the largest
celebration of Rhône Varietals in the world (www.hospice-
duroche.com).

Speaking of wine festivals, which
many readers know are my favorite kind of festi-
vals, the Paso Robles Wine Festival takes place in May. This shin-
dig is held outside and is
comprised of nearly
70 wineries from Paso Robles.

Paso Robles has been the
source of several
debates lately. There have been
several moves toward dividing the
614,000 acre-wide AVA. The pro-
posed division could split Paso Robles into two or up to 11 differ-
ent pieces. The more popular
proposition is that Paso Robles be
split from the east and west side.
The west has always been well-
known for its prize wines devel-
oped closer to the ocean at cooler
temperatures. While the east domi-
nates the bulk production of
grapes, enjoying warmer and drier

weather.

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Paso Robles vineyards are
abundant in limestone, but
soon they will be headed towards the
limekiln.

Take advantage of these wines now,
and one day, you might be able to say,"I knew that wine way
before it got famous." 

The Eberle 2005 Viognier (Eberle
Winery, $20), which is coming from new
air and has some cinnam-
on notes sprinkled along
with hints of black pepper.
I would recommend"s nice
juicy steak with this gorgeous
wine.

So before Paso Robles is "dis-
covered," it might be prudent to take advantage of these award-win-
ning wines that don't necessarily fetch prices like wines from Napa
and Sonoma.

Some local favorites of mine are:
The Eberle 2005 Viognier (Eberle
Winery, $20), which takes a 94
Point rating. It is light, airy
and emits a sweet honeysuckle and
prickly odor. It is perfect paired with
seafood or creamy pasta dish.

Why not have it with some shrimp
Alfredo?

My second pick is the
2004 Kiara Reserve
Cabernet Sauvignon (Alberston's, $8).
This beautiful red has an
exquisite black cherry smell
drifting from a sexy dark
body and has some cinnama-
mon notes sprinkled along
with hints of black pepper.
I would recommend it's nice
juicy steak with this gorgeous
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Lauren Jeter is a 2005 wine and
viticulture graduate and is pursuing a
master's degree in agribusiness.

Feel free to submit any recommenda-
tions, wine festival tickets, favorite wines or recipes to
laurenjeter@gmail.com

Local band Hot Beef Injection brings
new mix of funk/rock to San Luis Obispo

Jackie Pugh

Hot Beef Injection, a local band
this started October 2005, recently
brought in a new drummer and for
the past five weeks has been jamming
at house parties and bars around San
Luis Obispo.

This rock-jam band, with occa-
sional hints of bluegrass and
classic rock, is made up of four Cal Poly stu-
dents who have been steadily gaining
in popularity.
The band, whose original drum-
mer moved to Hawaii, now has Aaron
Morales, a philosopher junior.

"I'm stoked (about Aaron), I think
we connect on a musical level," said
Chris Stephens, guitarist and electri-
cal engineering senior. Although
HBI rarely finds time to practice, the
group seems to be making
progress.

"We're a lot better because time
has passed and we've become
tighter," Stephens said.

Yet, HBI has a style all its own,
which the band said is all over the
place.

"We're not emo," said lead bass
and business junior Bart Powers.
"We all have our own separate influences. Chris is into the hippy starter bands,
me, I'm more about the funk stuff,
but I like everything,"

HBI pulls from famous artists like
Led Zeppelin, Tha Pack, Phish and
the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Music
junior Janes Martinet leads the band
in vocals, keyboard and piano.
Martinet is classically trained in piano
brings a unique spin to HBI's
already colorful palette of style.

"My sister had a big influence
on my work. She spent a lot of her
money on CDs," Martinet said.

As for Morales, being the newest
member, he supports the band fully
and tries to listen to what HBI has
done in the past for practices.

"I've listened to a lot of new music
in the last five weeks," Morales said
which, helps him when the band
decides to pick up new songs. "It
helps me level listen to very similar
styles of music, it's a progression that
you hear."

Martinet added that one of the
strongest ties the band members have
already comes together "just by listening
to music."

Besides Martinet, who has had
see HBI, page 8
Janelle Eastridge

Rachel Paullaci's dream is to be a pirate. Well, maybe not a pirate per se, but the psychology junior is quite the Johnny Depp and "Pirates of the Caribbean" fan.

Even the oh-so-reliable source that is Facebook is a testament to this. Her profile picture: dressed up in Depp-worthy garb, complete with thick black eyeliner, for a spur of the moment "Pirates"-inspired passion fruit rum drinking game. Her activities: pirating. Her classes: AG 324, Origins of Film, HUM 221, Pillaging and Plundering.

"Wouldn't it be cool to sail down the Pacific — and ultimately go to the Caribbean — on a pirate ship? Forget sailboats and yachts!" Paullaci chuckled. "Win! No —"

But all jokes aside, Paullaci was ecstatic when she found out that the Lady Washington, i.e. the Interceptor, the "fastest ship in the Caribbean," (behind the Black Pearl, that is) won the first "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie — and the Hawaiian Chieftain, two 18th century vessels, were scheduled to dock in Morro Bay for the weekend.

Sponsored by Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, a Washington-based group seeking to preserve the Pacific Northwest's maritime history, the ships sailed into port Thursday, staying until today. Their presence was an effort to educate local residents about sailing in the 1700s, giving the general public touring opportunities and local schoolchildren alternative history lessons.

On Saturday's beautiful, clear day, Paullaci and many other Central Coast dwellers made the trek out to Morro Bay to catch a glimpse of the ships, take a free docudisk tour or pay $60 to travel out to sea for a three-hour battle reenactment.

The crew, dressed in semi-traditional apparel (including Converse and modern-day sandals), provided the mainly young family- and elderly-infused crowd with detailed tours of the whaling ships.

Some even joyfully sang the "Pirates" theme song: "Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me."

The group, which has been coming to Morro Bay on its tour for the past eight or so years, traveled the West Coast, from Canada to Mexico, docking either by cities' invitations or by default in bad weather.

Though fitted for 28 people to live onboard, the Lady Washington plays host to a constantly changing crew membership of about 15. Each year, between 75 and 100 two-week volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 92, try their hands at swabbing the decks, navigating the high seas and educating youngsters on maritime history.

"You get cut up, scraped, bruised, but it's worth it," Lady Washington engineer Nick Williams said. "It's so much fun."

With this many people in such tight quarters, becoming a closely knitted family is inevitable, said nine-year-­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­&n

David Germain

LOS ANGELES — Martin Scorsese's mob epic "The Departed" won best picture at the Academy Awards on Sunday and earned the filmmaker the directing prize that had eluded him throughout his illustrious career, making him the American filmmaker without an Oscar who had the greatest number of nominations.

He received his Oscar from three of the four acting categor­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­�
after getting an invitation to come back and play roughly every five weeks.

While the band is planning to play at a house party on Stafford Street, next week HBI will normally hear of gigs on a Wednesday or Thursday and have to be prepared to play by Friday.

The band typically has two-three-hour shows in which they allot a large portion of time for free form. "Putting the words on top of the melody that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.
The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience for incoming high school seniors interested in joining the U.S. Army ROTC. The course provides an opportunity for cadets to earn college credits, develop leadership skills, and experience military training. HBI is now looking forward to training in piano, Morales participated in his high school marching band; Powers was in an orchestra playing stand up bass; and Stephens just picked up the guitar. It's a real rarity that I get involved in political issues. But what else can you do when politics consistently make its way into music?

When I was watching the Grammys a couple of weeks ago, one of my favorite rappers, Ludacris, won the award for best rap album. During his acceptance speech, he gave a special shout-out to political commentator Bill O'Reilly. Ludacris and O'Reilly have had an ongoing war of words since 2002 when O'Reilly's rants were able to get Ludacris dropped from his endorsement deal with Pepsi.

Who is Bill O'Reilly? O'Reilly said he doesn't understand how that would merit a Grammy. Maybe if O'Reilly had listened to the rest of the song, he would have learned that the song was about feeling overwhelmed by life's hardships. It's also one of Ludacris' most personal and political songs.

Other nominees in the best rap category included T.I., The Room, Pharrell and Lupe Fiasco. I guarantee that if anyone else had won, there would have been no mention of it on his show the next day.

He seems to have this fixation on Ludacris. He uses every opportunity to say how Ludacris is corrupting the youth. But he doesn't talk about how Ludacris has never been to jail, own his own label and created a charity foundation.

He said that he believes that listening to rap music, such as Ludacris', can lead young children into a lifestyle of destruction that can ruin them for years to come. I'm living proof of the contradiction. My friends and I grew up listening to my brother blasting what was labeled as the most offensive music on the planet N.W.A, Snoop Doggy Dogg and Tupac.

But we also had parents and teachers who taught us discipline and values. No song or lyric can change that. Ludacris has said, and I quote, "This rap stuff has destroyed music."

What? Who is he to say something has destroyed anything? He's obviously one of those music critics who judges music before his listeners to it.

Since the conception of 'gangsta' rap, have we seen such an assault on music. It's blamed for everything wrong in every community.

Gangsta rap is the reason people are in gangs. It's the reason why there's so much crime and it's the reason why drugs continue to devastate many communities. Are you serious?

Where did this notion of a rap role model come from? How does any medium of entertainment, whether it's video games, music or cause anyone to do anything?

We need to realize that rappers aren't role models. Then, we need to realize that people such as Bill O'Reilly shouldn't be in the business of popular music.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Where's the line between TV reality and reality?**

In These days, a great deal of commentary on television (How is it on the evening news, America's "Arrested Development," and "The Office") are referenced once after the initial paragraph. I'm guessing the author of the article has never watched either since they're lumped together with practiced-trash like "24" and "Lost." "Arrested Development" lasted three seasons, many awards and was loved by critics and fan alike, but was pulled because it didn't get high enough TV ratings. It boasted brilliant casting and writing, resulting in intelligent humor — on TV. What a contrast! "Arrested Development" didn't exactly conform to the "Friends" template. That's right, I said "template." "The Office" isn't exactly for idiots either. The author goes on to say that in "24," "George Bush then attempted to persuade the actor who portrayed the president to enforce stricter regulations on suspected terrorists." WTP! Paradigm real president telling fake president to tighten restrictions on fake terrorists. Only in the blessed U.S. of A does the president of a TV program's fake domestic policy carry enough importance to draw the attention of the EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF OUR GOVERNMENT. The way things are going in Iraq, our commander in chief shouldn't be allowed the time to indulge in Orwellian fantasies of a "clean, safe, America" over the episode of "24" and in saga of the anti-terror super hero Jack Bauer, while real American soldiers are dying by the dozens daily in what is now a civil war. However, I do agree that TV in general is a vehicle of seduction, apathy and fear that operate for the benefit of the corporations that own them, advertise through them and dominate the political, social and economic agendas for this country.

**Christopher Sahms**

**Philosophy freshman**

**Elfer excludes facts to promote his argument**

Brian Eller supports President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, which though contrary to my own opinions, is a valid viewpoint — after all, a staggering 26 percent of Americans share this view (Jan. 9 Gallup USA Today poll). My problem is not Mr. Eller's opinion, but his method of presentation. I would like to discuss all the problems with this column, but since there is a limit to the length of the letters, this endeavor would be impossible without a center spread. Ignoring for the moment Mr. Eller's ignorance regarding Vietnam (if he wants to simplify way to the terms "winning" and "losing," he was Nixon who withdrew from Vietnam, he was the one "for defeat"), lets look at Mr. Eller's implication that Democrats have been as much to be blamed as Republicans for defeat throughout history. Last time I checked, the American people who led us to victories in WWII and WWII were Wilson, FDR and Truman — some of the Democrats who "consistently oppose successful strategies that help America." As for the vague and biased poll question from Fox News which Mr. Eller quotes to support Democrats wanting to lose in Iraq (define "succeed"), I am fairly certain that if I constructed a question in a similar manner and asked Cal Poly Republicans: "are you in favor of Americans dying in Iraq?" a majority would say yes. Eller's implication that Democrats have been as much to blame as Republicans for defeat throughout history is simply incorrect.

**By Mr. Eller's definition, these republicans...**

**Johannes Lichtman**

**English junior**
Poly softball team wins for 6th time in last 7 games, off to best start since 1997

The Mustangs are 7-3 since beginning their 25-game road trip.

CATHEDRAL CITY — Senior catcher Jocelyn Ochoa-Jones' three-run home run kick-started a big inning that expanded into a 10-run outburst. The Mustangs evened their season record at 10-0 with a 10-0 win over Palm Springs on Saturday afternoon.

Poly has won 10 of its last 12 games since starting the season 0-5.

SANTA CLARA — Junior right fielder Grant Desme belted his second grand slam of the season and sophomore center fielder Justin Kuehn added six, shooting 4 of 4 from the field and 4-3 at UC Santa Barbara on Sunday.

Mustang baseball team wins 8-0 at Santa Clara

Cal Poly baseball team wins 8-0 at Santa Clara

SANTA CLARA — Junior second baseman Pat Pezet had a big day as the Mustangs beat the Gauchos for the first time in seven years. The Mustangs had three complete games in 2006, but all were one-run losses.

Mustang men's tennis team wins 4-3 at UC Santa Barbara

SANTA BARBARA — The Cal Poly men's tennis team won its first road Big West Conference match of the season 4-3 over UC Santa Barbara on Saturday.

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Game Day Highlights Men's and Women's Basketball Season

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Monday, February 26, 2007

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Mustang Daily Podcast

Game Day Highlights Men's and Women's Basketball Season

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Have late night pizza for $3 a slice!
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Leipheimer edges Voigt by 21 seconds to win Tour of California

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HELP WANTED

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH — Levi Leipheimer won the Angen Tour of California on Sunday having never trailed in the eight-day race.

Leipheimer, a three-time top-10 Tour de France finisher, completed 639.2-mile race with a 21-second advantage over Jens Voigt of Germany.

The Discovery Channel rider took the lead with a 1-second win in the prologue Feb. 18 in Las Vegas. He maintained a lead of no more than 3 seconds until he dominated the individual time trial fifth stage last Friday in Solvang.

"We know that the other teams would be aggressive and that it just wasn't going to be parade-laps around-the-circuits day," said Leipheimer, who finished sixth last year. "We coun ted on the other teams wanting to win the stage. We just tried to keep the gaps close."

His teammate, Jason McCartney, was third overall, 54 seconds back.

The Lions swept the three doubles matches to record one team point. The Mustangs will be on the road for the next four weeks after the match starting with UC Riverside on March 2.

CMSRG is actively looking for Research Candidates to participate in a clinical trial. If you are 18 years or older, diagnosed with a Sinus infection and have had more than 7 days with two or more symptoms, contact Coastal Medical Research Group at 805-549-7570 for more information.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday, February 26, 2007

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GAME in her match at the No. 6 spot, season when she defeated Serena

4-6. She then rebounded in the second

cruised to her seventh victory of the

6-3, 6-0.

Mustangs over LMU's Tamara Tanner,

five attempts.

"We won the first two matches to record one team point. The Mustangs will be on the road for the next four weeks after the match starting with UC Riverside on March 2.

"We knew that the other teams would be aggressive and that it just wasn't going to be parade-laps around-the-circuits day," said Leipheimer, who finished sixth last year. "We counted on the other teams wanting to win the stage. We just tried to keep the gaps close."

His teammate, Jason McCartney, was third overall, 54 seconds back.

The Lions swept the three doubles matches to record one team point. The Mustangs will be on the road for the next four weeks after the match starting with UC Riverside on March 2.

CAL Poly's Maria Malec lost the first

match starting with UCRiverside on

matches to record one team point.

Erickson recorded a win for the

Mustangs over a ranked opponent in

6-39.2-mile race with a 21-second

trailing in the eight-day race.

The 1 discovery Channel rider took

downs LMU at home, 4-3

Leipheimer, a three-time top-10

Tour de France finisher, completed 639.2-mile race with a 21-second advantage over Jens Voigt of Germany.

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Euglestone reaches 1,000 points, helps Mustangs win 8th straight

With at least three games remaining, Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Euglestone is only 65 points away from becoming the third-leading scorer in program history.

Devan McClaine

Senior Day is a celebration of career accomplishments.

Nobody in Mott Gym had more reason to celebrate Saturday than Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Euglestone.

In a 75-64 win over Cal State Fullerton — Cal Poly’s eighth straight victory — Euglestone surpassed the 1,000-point mark for her collegiate career in the final quarter of her final game.

Ushering in its becoming just the seventh player in program history, which dates back to 1974, to reach 1,000 points for a career, Euglestone remained humble afterward.

“Now that I’ve got it, it doesn’t feel any different,” Euglestone said. “It’s a good accomplishment, though.”

Euglestone was even surprised to learn she tallied her second straight double-double, finishing with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh praised the Mustangs’ team leader.

“Jessica is a champion,” Mimnaugh said. “She is driven and a competitor at anything she tackles. She’s been an amazing career.”

Mimnaugh presented Euglestone with a commemorative ball after the game.

The two embraced at halfcourt, surrounded by teammates and fans.

At tournament’s end, the two top teams in the eight-team conference’s standings receive an automatic berth in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament, which runs from March 7 to 10 in Arlington. The top four seeds receive a bye in the first round.

Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Euglestone (32) looks to pass against defensive pressure from Cal State Fullerton junior guard Dayana Frias on Saturday in Mott Gym. The Mustangs won 75-64 on Senior Day.

After a dismal 3-10 start, the Mustangs have won eight straight and nine of their last 11 contests to shock everybody, including themselves.

“That’s just an incredible story for anybody to even believe or to see from where this program has struggled through the season and where we are right now,” Mimnaugh said, adding, “we want to finish as high as possible and get a bye.”

Through 25 games, Cal Poly is above .500 for the first time since it was 4-3 in early December.

The Mustangs dug deep to put away Cal State Fullerton, sending the Titans to third place.

Both teams came out firing in the first half, with Cal Poly attacking from the outside.

Meanwhile, the Titans (13-15, 7-7) established their presence inside with center Toni Thomas, who finished with 22 points and nine rebounds.

After setting a torrid pace in the opening minutes, Cal Poly settled into a rhythm behind Euglestone and sophomore power player Megan Harrison. Harrison paced the Mustangs with 25 points, shooting 5 for 8 from the floor and adding 13 rebounds.

“I just wanted to win for my seniors,” Harrison said. “They mean so much to me.”

Harrison attributed her recent surge to a combination of confidence and being healthy for the first time all season.

After a Harrison free throw made the score 22-16, the Mustangs closed the final 7 minutes, 3 seconds of the first half on a 16-8 run.

Euglestone and Harrison combined to score 10 of the Mustangs’ 16 points during the run and 24 in the first half.

Euglestone’s baseline jumper as time expired gave the Mustangs a 38-24 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Titans employed the press, forcing the Mustangs into several bad passes and turnovers. The Titans stomed to a 16-7 run of their own, taking the lead back to 44-41 with 13:18 remaining.

“The press took us out of our offense,” Mimnaugh said.

Mimnaugh said Ty Clephane was key to holding Cal Poly to a 90-80 victory over Cal State Fullerton on Saturday.

True Clark and Dreshawn Vance added 12 points apiece for the Mustangs (16-10, 7-5 Big West), who have won five consecutive games and 10 of 12. Dawson Whitworth added 12 points and a career-high seven assists.

Bobby Brown scored 26 points for the Titans (19-8, 9-5 Big West), who have lost three of four.

Marcus Creswell added 20 points and Scoot Carley had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Creswell’s 3-pointer gave Cal State Fullerton a 42-40 lead with 44 seconds to play.

But Cal Poly’s Derek Stockdale made two free throws with eight seconds remaining to force a 42-42 halftime tie.

Stockdale then scored five points and Shelton added four during a 14-2 run that put the Mustangs ahead 56-44 with 13 minutes, 53 seconds to play.

Cal Poly led by as many as 13 points before Cal State Fullerton narrowed the deficit to 70-66 with five minutes left. Whiten and Vance combined for 12 unanswered points to extend the lead to 74-66 with 4:03 remaining.

A 19-0 run by Cal Poly converted 18 of 24 free throws in the final 4:15 and made 53.7 percent of their field-goal attempts.

Poly men 5th, women last at BWC swimming finals

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

LONG BEACH — The Cal Poly swimming and diving team competed for the fourth consecutive day Saturday in the Big West Conference Championships at Belmont Plaza Aquatic Pool.

At tournament’s end, the Mustangs’ women’s team sat in last place with 322.5 points and the men had 315 points, good for fifth place among six teams.

Cal Poly’s McKinna Long placed third in the women’s 1-meter dive competition with a final score 200.05. Daniel Lara placed seventh in the 3-meter dive with a score of 202.15.

In the women’s 1,650 freestyle, Julie Demers placed 11th in 17:58.92. Corwin De Dios placed 12th in the men’s event in 16:02.20.

Cal Poly’s Stacey Sorenson placed fourth in the women’s 100 freestyle final in 51.4 and teammate Christina Shilling placed two spots behind Sorenson with a mark of 51.96.

Two Mustangs placed 12th in the men’s and women’s 200 breaststroke event — Alyssa Rogers for the women in 2:28.18 and the men’s Kellen Kanah with a mark of 1:52.88.

Cal Poly’s team of Sorenson, Shilling, Erin Mroz and Ena Moore placed fourth in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:31.

Cal Poly senior Matt Monteiro, who was seeded No. 1 in the 197-pound bracket, was upset in the championship match by Cal State Bakersfield’s Brandon Halsy.

Within the final 30 seconds of the match, Monteiro was fighting off a potential fall from the aggressive Halsy. Monteiro fought back to the match 6-6 at the 1-minute mark in 2:20, but Halsy, who was named the tournament’s Outstanding Wrestler, controlled the match for the last period and a half to make the final score 10-7.

Monteiro senior Cody Parker lost in the championship match, 9-2, to No. 5 Ty Watson of Oregon State, who was undefeated in the heavyweight division. Parker prevented the shutout by recording a reversal as time expired in the third period. Parker earned his third trip to the NCAA Championships.

Cal Poly’s Jerry Stumino suffered a fall in the third-place match of the 157-pound bracket by way of Boise State’s Tyler Shortley.

Dave Roberts placed fourth at 141 pounds. Roberts was pinned in the first period of his first match by a sixth-seeded place match by Cal State Bakersfield’s Matt Stumino. Roberts has had three losses in the tournament and both were delivered by Schumann.

Also for the Mustangs, Yuri Kalika (184) and Nick Hernandez placed sixth in their respective brackets.

Kalika injured his back in his final match against Ernesto Anacona of Cal State Bakersfield.

Turk men’s squad squeak wins for 10th time in last 12 games

The Mustangs upset Cal State Fullerton 90-80 in a game televised on Fox Sports Net Prime Ticket to move into a tie for third place in the Big West Conference.

Staff writer Tristan Aird • mustangdailysports@gmail.com

Assistant Sports Editor; Frank Stranzl

Monday, February 26, 2007