Today's weather

Partly sunny
Low 47° High 68°

Volume LXX, Number 138

Poly students, community show their artistic flair at Craft Center sale

Sunday starter a leader on the hill for young Mustangs

IN SPOTLIGHT, 5

IN SPORTS, 8

Friday, May 11, 2007

www.mustangdaily.com

ROUND TWO

With election results too close to call for two ASI presidential candidates, ASI officials declared a run-off vote between Brandon Souza and Matt Taylor, which will take place Wednesday.

2007-08 Board of Directors
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Brandon Souza and Matt Taylor will be facing off next Wednesday in a battle for the 2007-08 Associated Students Inc. presidency.

To become president, a candidate must win 50 percent plus one of the vote and Souza was closest with 40 percent. All results are unofficial until approved by the ASI Board of Directors at the next meeting on Wednesday.

"My team is very excited and we'll see what the future holds next week," Souza said.

Taylor trailed with 30.3 percent and Arvand Sabetian followed with 29.67 percent. The difference between Taylor and Sabetian was just 30 votes.

"I'm relieved. I'm tired but I'm energized and ready to go again next week," Taylor said.

Polls will be open May 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at three polling locations across campus.

The last time a run-off occurred was three years ago between Blake Bolton and Rory Scerris-Marion.

Root Beer pong on campus

Justin Fassino

At 11 a.m. students were playing beer pong on Dexter Lawn. It was not an alternate reality, but instead a festival of root beer and drinking games to promote awareness of student drinking habits.

The scene was complete with every form of entertainment one might find at a backyard fraternity party: three root beer pong tables, an emcee, music and free root beer floats for everyone.

"We just wanted to provide a fun activity for all our students here," marketing senior Brandon Wadley said. "Drinking games are fun, but when you drink too much, things can get out of hand. But we're just showing people you can have fun with being sober."

Root Beer Fest, as it was called, was designed as a fun promotional event around the "Under Four" campaign seen on T-shirts and flyers all over Cal Poly. Wadley said that's the average number of drinks a Cal Poly student will consume in a given sitting.

"The average is just under four," he said. "It's a social norms campaign. If we promote that people are drinking less than what people are perceiving, then we hope to get people's perceptions down."

In addition to root beer pong, there was also a competition that involved some multitasking: Students were asked to keep a hula hoop around their waist while at the same time consuming an entire cup of root beer.

"It's all in the hips," nutrition

BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY
Students experiment more and writing a thesis. In the winter, the fall with research, experiments and getting a deeper experience than the average college senior. "Our process in general is long, complicated, and difficult and there are so many factors to consider," architecture senior Noah Ti said.

Ti said that the project begins in the fall with research and writing a thesis. Finally, in the spring, they actually build their project to whatever scale they need.

"My project is more theoretical than functional," Ti said, explaining that while the space could be walked on, that wasn't its primary function.

His senior project adviser, architecture professor Karen Lange, said that part of the project is for students to explore their own ideas about architecture.

"Their thesis defines how they see architecture," Lange said.

For Ti, this involved exploring a form design that he pictures as a staircase in the Architecture building.

"I wanted to bring people to the place and have them talk openly about it," Mizokami said.

He was inspired by the trips he took abroad to Denmark and Japan last year, and seeing facilities like this in one.

"When they shed clothes they shed their status symbols and are more free," Mizokami said.

Ti said that as a final part of the senior project process, students display their projects through the gallery in the Architecture building. Once that is complete, they will be doing one final presentation.

"You do a lot of research and experiments," said many people have forgotten about what went on there. It hovers over the top of the west staircase in the Architecture building. The staircase is one idea," Mizokami said.

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House rejects 9-month withdrawal for troops, moves to guarantee funds only through July

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House defeated legislation Thursday to withdraw U.S. combat troops from Iraq within nine months, then pivoted quickly to a fresh challenge of President Bush's handling of the unpopular war.

The vote on the nine-month withdrawal measure was 253-171.

On a day of complex maneuvering, Democrats said they would approve legislation funding the war on an installment plan, but Bush vowed he would veto it. But the president, under pressure from lawmakers in both parties, coupled his threat with an offer to accept a spending bill that sets out standards for the Iraqi government to meet.

"Time's running out, because the longer we wait the more strain we're inflicting on our troops," said Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif. "It is time to bring it to an end," said Rep. Dan Teckness, publisher of the Catalina Islander.

Despite Bush's ability to sustain his veto in the Senate, a series of meetings with key senators, a reflection of concern on the part of the government in Baghdad that support for the war was waning in Congress.

In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Saleh said the purpose of the meeting was to convey the "imperative of success against terrorism and extremism" in the Middle East.

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Justin Fassino

The oud is an Arabic instrument that eventually became the European lute. It’s a short, fretless stringed device used in Arab music, and it will be one of many unfamiliar musical tools on display in the Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble’s first ever complete performance Saturday at 7 p.m.

Directed by first-year music professor Kenneth Habib, the ensemble will be treating its audience to a short, treetless performance of the sound.” It’s not driven by harmony. It’s a melodic music; it’s not like choral,” Habib said in regards to his passion for the sound. “Just as the years went by I took more of an interest in it,” Habib said in regards to his passion for the sound. “It’s not driven by harmony. It’s a melodic music; it’s not like choral.”

In addition to the oud, the audience will be able to experience the riqq, a tambourine-like instrument; the darabukka, also called the goblet drum; and the stringed burqah, which shares similarities with the more recognizable guitar in that they both have frets and a long neck.

Those are just some of the traditional musical devices that will be in the show.

For his part, Habib has a formal education in Arabic music. As the grandson to Lebanese citizens, he grew up with the sound of the oud, among others, in his ears.

“Just as the years went by I took more of an interest in it,” Habib said in regards to his passion for the sound. “It’s not driven by harmony. It’s a melodic music; it’s not like choral.”

The performance itself is put together in a series of suites. Each suite is made up of several musical pieces that all relate to each other; at the end of each suite will be an Arabic folk dance number. Additionally, students will also sing in muwashshah, a classical form of the Arabic language that dates all the way back to the middle ages.

For the students involved in the production of the show, adjustments have been necessary. Habib said only three students have an Arab background, so most had to learn the Arabic vocals with no previous experience speaking the language.

Another challenge lies in the differences between Western and Arabic instruments.

“In certain ways there are parallels,” Habib said. But he was also quick to point out that in the Arab music tradition, the scale contains quarter notes, something that most Western music does not count. For example, it’s possible to play E and E flat on a piano, but not possible to play the note “E-half-flat.”

“On behalf of the students, they have done a phenomenal job,” Habib said.

The Arab Music Ensemble, which was formed this year when Habib arrived in San Luis Obispo, has played three times prior to Saturday’s show.

In fall and winter quarters, they played a brief recital in conjunction with other branches of the music department. They also had the opportunity to play the second half of a show the Cal Poly Choir put on earlier this year. But Saturday night will be the first full featured performance from the group.

Enrollment in the group is to the ultimate college experience quick to point out that in the Arab music tradition, the scale contains quarter notes, something that most Western music does not count. For example, it’s possible to play E and E flat on a piano, but not possible to play the note “E-half-flat.”

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Enrollment in the group is “completely open” and that no auditions are required of students who want to play with the ensemble in the future.

As for the upcoming performance, Habib said he hopes the audience members enjoy themselves.

“One of the things (I hope people take away from this performance) is a deeper appreciation of this long-standing art music tradition,” he said. “Ahlan wa sahlan.” (That’s “welcome” in Arabic).
Pottery, jewelry and glass, oh my!

Students and community members sell artwork at Poly's spring craft sale

Isaiah Narciso
MUSTANG DAILY

Artwork like pottery and blown glass from students and local artists will be on sale today at the University Union Plaza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The sale, which is sponsored by the Associated Students Inc. Craft Center, is designed to showcase the artistic talents of both students and locals.

"You can find anything from glass to handmade bags, handmade cards, ceramic things and framed photographs and pictures people have taken," biology sophomore Nicole Balvanz said. Balvanz is also a craft center manager and ceramics teacher. "A lot of the stuff is made in the ASI Craft Center, but not everything."

The event has been on campus for nearly 20 years and Balvanz said that anyone can have his or her crafts and arts on sale.

"It’s mostly (coming from) students, but it’s also open to non-students," Balvanz said.

"Some of (the vendors) come into the Craft Center and say that they want to sell their stuff."

She noted that the Craft Center takes a small percentage of the sales to fund its operations, and artists receive the rest of money that they earn from the event.

"The Craft Center only keeps 15 percent of student work, and 25 percent of non-student work," Balvanz said.

"Those costs mainly go towards our staff. Otherwise, the artist gets all the revenue."

Given that Mother’s Day is Sunday, Balvanz had a few suggestions on what items at the craft sale could make moms happy.

"There’s a lot of jewelry, a lot of earrings, and... cards if you wanted to go smaller... if you want to go larger, there (are) vases and sets of plates and bowls."

Biology sophomore and Craft Center manager

Noor Celebrates its 1st Anniversary
This Mother’s Day Weekend.

Join us for wine and appetizers

Friday, May 11th 3 – 8 pm
Saturday, May 12th 11 am – 6 pm
Sunday, May 13th 10 am – 4 pm

A prize drawing will take place!

US Army Corps of Engineers

Looking for challenging work with an internationally renowned engineering organization?

The Corps of Engineers will be on campus May 15th to recruit for career and summer intern positions in its Sacramento office. Sign up via Mustang Jobs by May 13th or contact Gregory Kukas at (916) 557-7255.

What other college newspaper lets you watch videos?
www.mustangdaily.com

Now hosting AP multimedia videos and Cal Poly TV clips.
H ow many people are in the world? How many languages? How many ethnic cultures and nations? Just how diverse is our planet? I can tell you that it’s more than you or I have thought.

I am just about to return from nine months abroad in Chengdu, China. Coming to China is like coming to another world. That sounds really cliché, but it’s pretty accurate. This is the Middle Kingdom. I had been used to life in the Beautiful Kingdom. That’s how to say “America” in Mandarin. I love telling people that I am a beautiful country person.

Life in China is fun and challenging. It took me a while to adjust, but now I love this place. I can eat at the spiciest hot pot restaur- ant, where you have a pot of boiling oil in the middle of the table and you cook your own food. The oil is full of peppers and well known throughout China as being very spicy. I always ask for the special Sichuan numbering peppers when I get tofu, fried green bean, or kung bao chicken.

Unlike some other foreigners, I also eat MSG. When I barter for goods, I can get good prices, not the foreigner prices. I zoom along on my bike every day, weaving through Chengdu traffic. Here, stop signs are more suggestions, and the mixture of private cars, bikes, buses, taxis, rick-shaws, and pedestrians on the streets often looks like frightening chaos. Chengdu has 12 million people. From the outside it can seem a little overwhelming, but I have found its harmony.

I expected all of this out of a study abroad program. Getting to know life throughout the rest of China was an added benefit. For spring break, I went on a journey to Xinjiang province in the west of China. This province has a large Uygur population. The Uygur people are mostly Muslim, while I am used to seeing Buddhist temples in the rest of China, there are mosques here.

Most men wear traditional rounded Muslim hats. They speak their own language which predominantly uses an Arabic script. This road trip Xing-jian meant feel more like the Middle East than China. The people there have a more suit-loving culture, swings are allowed, but also makes me sad. Why don’t we have more playground equipment.

In the biological and social sense, the concept of a swing is intertwined with the country’s less-structured and more innocent childhood. I have also come to see that traditional playgrounds may need awhile to be layered in. In some cultures, the youngest generation, and introduced new traditions, and new ways of playing.

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangedaily@gmail.com.

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Opinion/Editorial
Friday, May 11, 2007

The people you never heard of

STAFF COMMENTARY

Just gimme the playgrounds of yesteryear

love swings. I love getting a running start, pumping my legs back and forth in a steady rhythm and leaning back as far as I can to catch a glimpse of the world upside down. As I flip right-side-up, this is inevitably followed by a head rush as all the blood drains back down from my head.

Throughout my many swinging sessions, I have taught more than a few children the back-and-forth motion that seems so second nature to me. The look on their faces once they start getting some air is classic, but also makes me sad. Why don’t these kids know how to swing?

Well, as a testament to our love-losing culture, swings are becoming scarcer and scarcer in the playgrounds. In fact, lots of the favorites from my childhood, and probably yours, are being taken out of playgrounds. Infratec climbing structures and slides are being replaced by those dime-a-dozen plastic playgrounds with static-y slides and blister-inducing monkey bars. I am not above playing on these — I just miss old-school playgrounds.

The National Program for Playground Safety advocates adult supervision as an important way to improve safety without taking out certain structures. Parent supervision and teaching kids not to slide right after someone else can reduce the risk of injury. This combined with the country’s less-than-healthy eating habits has led to unprecedented childhood obesity rates.

Children today are so much more in touch with technology — there are elementary and middle school students who have their own cell phones and computers. There’s nothing like seeing a 12-year-old text message. In the biological and social sense, kids are getting older earlier. They are reaching puberty earlier than ever. There are 8-year-old girls who are more accented than I am, although very few of them are at “Little Miss Sunshine” beauty queen status. For the parents of those select few, the title of Celest Riven’s best book says it all: “Stop dressing your six-year-old like a clown.”

Now, I don’t claim to have any answers. It’s understandable that parents and caregivers may need guidance on how to catch up with this trends. I just hope that we can preserve some of our favorite childhood activities to our kids, even if they seem old-fashioned.

To me, “play” will always mean fresh air and human interaction. And, of course, swings.

Gianna Magnoli is a journalism sophomore, Mustang Daily staff writer and copy editor.

\begin{quote}
Write a letter to the editor!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangedailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangedaily.com
\end{quote}
Dressage

continued from page 8

ride, have 10 minutes to warm up and then you go ride your test," Brownlow said. "A rich person can't just go buy a really expensive horse

on their own horse," Brownlow

said. "It has been an extremely fun

year with the amount of diversity

we have on the team." A very sophomoric Kelly

Hamshott, who is the team's secretary, is excited with the team's growth.

"We're definitely grown up and we've basically doubled this year in size," Hamshott said. "I think that we have gotten stronger as a team. We

know how to ride and we're able to

drive different horses better that

we're not used to riding." Cal Poly has topped the West Coast with its closest rival being UC

Davis.

"They are the only school that

has come closest to unseating us as

West Coast champs," Brownlow said.

Along with UC Davis, UCLA and UC Santa Cruz attend the IDA competitions on this side of the

country.

A typical competition takes place

on a Sunday and with preparation,

competition and cleanup, Cal Poly

riders expect to be at the track from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., not even including

daytime for our horses!

"When we host a show, we spend

the day before traveling, riding, barnin'and bradling all the horses," Brownlow said. "Every piece of tack that will be used is cleaned and

labeled so it doesn't get lost in the

shuttle. The show day involves checking everyone in, signing safety paperwork

and the horse draw. The parade of

horses happens after the draw.

"The parade is simply riding each

horse individually in the arena while notes on the horses are noted. This is

intended to give the riders a glimpse of the kind of horse they will be riding. Then all the tests are

ridden and the awards ceremony happens afterward."

There is no dressage facility for

the team on the Cal Poly campus so it

travels to Coastal Equine, which has the exact competition-sized arena and the proper equipment required for the tests performed.

For the farthest road trip, there are no team-designated horses, so Elise Torres, the horse master, must find around 20 privately-owned horses for all of the competitors to ride.

"Many members have their own

horses but quite a few don't," Brownlow said. She personally does not have a horse. Instead, she named Carrot that helped her get into the love of jumping and eventually dressage.

The team is coached by Joselyn

Chandler, an animal science student who volunteers her time to the team and has ridden up to the Grand Prix level.

The latest event for the team was nationals last weekend at Centenary College in New Jersey. Cal Poly sent five competitors to the event.
Wildflower a singular experience

Evans Rudd • Mustang Daily

As a triathlete, I’ve been used to competing in relative obscurity. The majority of the population doesn’t even know what a triathlon consists of. But for one day a year, at a very special race, all that changes.

That race, of course, is Wildflower. For one day a year, I actually feel like a celebrity while I swim, bike and run across the legendary Lake San Antonio course. I turned in one of my best races ever to finish third in the Collegiate League

Baseball. However, I’ve also seen people

MUSTANG DAILY

I’ve never volunteered for Wildflower, do it for you graduate. It will be a wild experience you’ll never forget.

Only at Wildflower will you see

runners take off their beer bong. Not coincidentally, I’ve also seen people keeled over on the side of the road throwing up.

As if the hills on the run weren’t challenging enough, one year I was nearly tripped last year by a friend of mine dressed up as a devil.

This year I had to hurdle a dog as I ran through one of the aid stations. Then I was passed at the finish line by a friend who was a little too excited to see me after three days of training and drinking.

While I have never participated, I must mention the annual Cal Poly Triathlon Team run naked. This tradition dates back many years, and happens every year at Wildflower. It consists of at least 30 people from the team streaking our campsite. People reserve campsites ahead of time near our site just to experience the spectacle.

I’ve had some crazy experiences at Wildflower over the years. The first time I raced the Olympic course, I ended up running the entire route because of dehydration. It took me more than three and a half hours to finish.

Last year I crashed on the bike course, ripping skin off on my legs, stomach and knees. I still finished with a personal-best time in eighth place.

To fully understand my deep connection to this race, you have to understand the purists.

This year marked my eighth time competing at Wildflower. I did my first Wildflower the day after I competed in the Mountain Bike race. This was my fifth year racing

see Wildflower, page 7

Cal Poly ace pitcher always
Eager to take the mound

It is unclear whether Mustang RHP Thomas Eager will leave for the professional ranks next year, but he is already drawing interest from all but one Major League Baseball team.

Isaiah Narciso • Mustang Daily

It takes a great pitcher to make a baseball team competitive, and sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager has tried to make Cal Poly stand out in college baseball.

Eager, who is a business junior but a sophomore on the mound because of a redshirt season, is 8-3 with a 3.45 ERA. He leads the Mustangs in innings pitched (101 2/3) and strikeouts (89) and has held opponents to a .226 batting average.

Eager has always had potential, but the intraconference believes it has to be earned.

I think potential is about giving your best work,” Eager said. “If you think you have potential you get it is making out of it, doing the right stuff and taking care of business.”

Eager feels that baseball has taught him plenty of things on and off the field since he joined the Mustangs two years ago.

Playing baseball here is great because you learn a lot of things,” Eager said. “No, 1, you learn about preparation not only for baseball but for life. “Time management has to be used a lot because (playing) baseball is almost like a full-time job.

Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said that Eager has been a consistent force on the mound. He noted that whenever Eager takes the field, there is a good chance the team will win.

“Whatever makes him successful is that he’s very competitive and has a fastball slider mix,” Lee said. “He just likes to compete.”

Lee believed that Eager has improved on his emotional maturity as well as his fastball command and “quality secondary pitches.”

He thought that Eager fits the mold of a great pitcher.

This takes it personally when we lose,” Lee said. “He’s a team player.”

Lee said that Eager has the potential to make it into the major provided he improves his performance on the field in a year and a half.

And the big leaguers are paying great attention to Eager as a potential pro.

“I’ve been contacted by every team,” Eager said. “I have received questionnaires from every team except the Washington Nationals.”

Eager has dreamed of playing professional baseball ever since he was a small child. Even though he’s almost eligible to be drafted by Major League Baseball, he plays the sport because of his love for the game.

But he wouldn’t mind playing for one team in particular.

“it all depends on the draft,” Eager said. “I just want to play baseball, but the location is the biggest thing. But my favorite team is the San Francisco Giants, and I would love to play for them.”

Eager thought that he got his love for the game thanks to his father. He also mentioned a family connection to the mound.

“I fell in love with the game, and I’ve always been halfway decent at it,” Eager said. “My grandfather was actually drafted by the Cincinnati Reds, and my dad played high school baseball. But I introduced

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Cal Poly sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager winds up for a pitch during the Mustangs’ Oct. 8 Big West Conference win over visiting Cal State Northridge on April 7 at Baggett Stadium.

BUSY WEEKEND ON THE DIAMONDS

SOFTBALL

What: Pacific at Cal Poly
Where: Full Big West Conference series of regular season.
Senior Day on Saturday
Who: Bob Janssen Field
When: Noon and 2 p.m. today, noon Saturday
Need to Know: Cal Poly (36-15, 11-4 Big West) must win two of three games this weekend to clinch its first Big West title and an automatic NCAA Tournament berth for the first time since moving to the Division I level in 1995.

A complete preview of the series ran in the Mustang Daily on Thursday. It can still be viewed online at www.mustangdail.com.

The NCAA Tournament field will be unveiled live on ESPNNews at noon Sunday.

BASEBALL

Who: UC Davis at Cal Poly
What: Nonconference series
Where: Baggett Stadium
When: 6 p.m. today and Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday
Need to Know: Cal Poly (24-23) will try to bounce back from being swept in a three-game series last weekend at Long Beach State. UC Davis (20-25) will officially join the Big West next year. All games will be broadcast on 1280 AM.

Check out mustangdaily.com to listen to a FREE podcast with Ryan Chardron and Tristan And discussing the Cal Poly men’s basketball signings, weekend home series for softball and baseball and Big West Conference Championships for track and field.

To hear the 11-minute MP3, click on “Podcast” under Online Features.

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