Freshman: ‘Scary’ Virginia Tech threats were a Halloween prank

Poly professors receive NASA funding for future aircraft design

TV braces for impact of possible writers strike

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ONLINE

Mustang Daily

Blog.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny

High 73°/Low 47°

Arts

Ryan Charttrand

The threatening e-mails sent out to some Cal Poly students and faculty Tuesday morning were meant to be a Halloween prank, according to an apology letter sent to the Mustang Daily from the alleged author of the e-mails, computer engineering freshman Francisco Diaz.

Diaz, 18, wrote in the letter directed to the Mustang Daily that his intentions were to prank the person who left his/her e-mail account open at El Corral Bookstore, but that it became a "hugge and scary threat to public safety for students and faculty."

"It was an unconscious prank that became the biggest mistake of my life, which I am now repenting for causing the unthinkable panic, which was not my intention," Diaz wrote.

"I hope that [this] is not to [sic] late for your forgiveness and that it is not too late to try and leave this behind us as what it is an immature prank because I have never done anything and will never do anything that would ever harm anybody."

Diaz is reportedly no longer in San Luis Obispo County Jail after paying his $50,000 bail Wednesday. He was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of making criminal threats and unlawful access to a computer; police said.

Four different sources who preferred to remain anonymous forwarded the threatening e-mails to members of the campus community.

Freshman Francisco Diaz was arrested Tuesday for allegedly sending out threatening e-mails to members of the campus community.

Poly women’s basketball team wiped the floor with Australia’s elite high school team in exhibition.

Poly professors receive NASA funding for future aircraft design

Marlize van Romburg

Two Cal Poly aerospace engineering professors have each been awarded million dollar contracts with NASA for research related to future-generation aircraft.

David Marshall and Rob McDonald submitted separate winning proposals to NASA that, if received well by the agency, will be implemented into the design and engineering of commercial aircraft.

"NASA has had a transformation in their philosophy of how they want to do research," McDonald said.

"They’re getting more and more ambitious and giving out larger awards."

McDonald will work on developing optimization and design software, while Marshall’s project will develop prediction methods and test hardware for short-distance takeoff and landing airplanes.

Although their contracts are officially unrelated and separately funded, the two professors said the research has a symbiotic relationship.

"When the two proposals are put together, Professor Marshall’s is a complement to mine, and mine a complement to his," McDonald said.

McDonald was awarded a three-year contract worth nearly $1 million to develop software that will facilitate the conceptual design of complex generation-next aircraft.

The term generation-after-next refers to aircraft technology two generations into the future.

"NASA is trying to scale up their projects to meet the growing need for air transport in the next ten to fifteen years," McDonald said.

His optimization software framework will allow designers to test variable effects such as aerodynamics, structure and controls on the movements of the planes.

"We’re primarily looking at the way all the many disciplines interact to make the aircraft behave the way it does," McDonald said.

The scope of McDonald’s project, along with the significant funding allocated by NASA, will allow him to spearhead a comprehensive team of experts and students.

"These are very big projects," McDonald said. "Such that one person can’t possibly do all of it. It forces you to create teams."

He will team up with Phoenix Integration, the aerospace industry leader in design exploration software as well as renowned independent software developer J.R. Glesedean, who already has a history of working with NASA.

McDonald will be looking for four Cal Poly aerospace engineering students to work with him.

"I’m looking for students who like to take initiative and work well on their own," he said.

"Creativity is essential too. I want students who aren’t afraid to come up with crazy ideas."

"One of the really attractive parts of this project is that it gets students at the undergraduate and graduate level involved in major research," agreed Marshall, who will work with about 10 Cal Poly students on his team.

Several researchers, including Robert Englar of Georgia Tech Research Institute, will be heavily involved with the design portion of Marshall’s research, which will work to predict the performance of low-nose short-takeoff aircraft.

Marshall has been awarded a $870,000 budget for one year, with the possibility of an additional $3 million for another two years of research.

NASA funded the research in order to gain a better understanding of aerodynamic effects on an aircraft’s movement, propulsion and engine systems.

"We don’t understand the physics of it all that well yet," Marshall said.

see Strike, page 3

TV braces for impact of possible writers strike

Lynn Elberg

The first casualties of a possible Hollywood writers strike could be late-night laughs.

"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "The Colbert Report" will almost certainly be forced into reruns by a lack of fresh skits and monologues if writers walk off the job after their current contracts expire.

"If the strike happens, we are very likely looking at repeats for both shows," said Tony Fos, a spokesman for Comedy Central, which airs the shows starring Stewart and Stephen Colbert that lampoon political doings of the day.

"The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" could follow.

NBC declined to comment on what would be in store for the show.

But a person with the network, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said "Tonight" and other NBC late-night shows likely would have to resort to repeats with no writing staff to generate new material.

Contract talks between the Writers see Strike, page 3
Obama says Clinton dodging answers on tough questions

Amy Lorenzen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic Barack Obama said Wednesday that rival Hillary Rodham Clinton's less-than-straightforward answers in a Democratic debate raise questions about her ability to assume the presidency.

"This may be smart politics by Washington standards, but it's not what America needs right now," the first-term Illinois senator told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Chicago. "Turning the page means offering the American people a clear sense of your principles and where you'd lead."

Obama complained that during Tuesday night's debate Clinton didn't provide clear answers on a number of occasions.

"After the most secretive administration in memory, an administration that consistently misled the American people, we need a president who is going to be open and forthright," Obama said. "I think last night's debate really exposed this fault line. Senator Clinton left us wondering where she stood on every single hard question from Iran to Social Security to drivers' licenses for undocumented workers."

Obama said he was especially concerned by Clinton's response when asked if she would release her papers from her years as first lady.

"Her big answer on whether she would release the papers from her White House years was particularly troubling because she is running on her record as first lady as much as on her record as a senator," he said. "How can people fully judge that record if the documents from those years remain locked away?"

Tuesday's debate was the first in a month, and during that time Clinton has gained in the polls and firmly established herself as the front-runner. The debate also came soon after Obama said he would step up his criticism of the New York senator to make clear their differences.

"And frankly, Senator Clinton did it for us yesterday with some of her answers," he said.

Clinton's campaign responded that Obama has abandoned his pledge to run a positive campaign, or as he described it, the politics of hope.

"With each attack, Senator Obama undermines the central premise of his candidacy. The politics of hope that once characterized his remarks has now been replaced by the kinds of jabs one typically sees from candidates desperate to gain traction in the polls," said Mark Daley, a Clinton spokesman.

The Clinton campaign also posted a Web video arguing that her rival had been plunging.

"The politics of hope does not mean hoping that your opponents aren't going to point out the differences between you and them," Obama said.

He pledged to continue to draw clear differences between himself and Clinton.

"And frankly, Senator Clinton did it for us yesterday with some of her answers," he said.

Obama said he based his career on transparency with voters. While in the Illinois Legislature, he said he pushed for ethics reform. In Washington, he said he has released his congressional earmark requests and worked to ensure that lobbyists disclose bundling practices used in fundraising.

He boasted that he has "put forward probably the toughest set of ethics rules for how an Obama administration would operate compared to any other candidate."
Threat continued from page 1
account was found to not be a player, and was innocent in this case.”

Diaz allegedly sent the e-mail through another person’s e-mail account at 11:52 a.m. Tuesday. An FBI estimate between 30 to 50 people received the message, and that the target appears to be a random pool of students and faculty.

Diaz told the sender of the e-mail address Tuesday afternoon, but discovered they hadn’t found the actual whereabouts.

When journalist senior Brandy Scoggan received the e-mail Tuesday, she debated going to campus.

“I wanted around for most of the day for Cal Poly to send something out, but I went to school anyway,” Scoggan said.

The first notice to Cal Poly students would come at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday in a UPD warning about a suspicious person on campus and requesting any information about his whereabouts.

Scoggan was shocked by the content of the threatening e-mail and even called her mother for advice on what to do.

“It was really a graphic e-mail and even the fact that he referenced Virginia Tech was frustrating,” Scoggan said. “That’s something you don’t just throw around and joke about.”

she has known Diaz since high school, in an online message.

“He is a friendly guy who would never hurt anyone.”

Computer engineering freshman Mont Falco also knew Diaz and spent time with him away from class.

“I wouldn’t expect him to do such a thing,” Falco said in an online message to the Mustang Daily.

“He seemed like a respectable guy just like the rest of us. It was kind of a shock to see his picture in that campuscide e-mail that was sent around.”

Diaz, attending Anderson P. Hill High School in San Jose.

“At this moment I am suffering thinking about how everyone has to make us feel because of the consequences of my actions,” Diaz wrote in his apology letter. “Please find it in you to forget this incident.”

Scoggan, however, doesn’t believe it was a prank and is still upset about Diaz’s alleged actions.

“We’re not here to deal with vicious threats,” Scoggan said. “You can’t just turn around and say, ‘Oh, just kidding?’”

Police are still investigating the details and series of events of the supposed prank and will release more information soon, they said.

Authorities have still not verified whether the e-mails were sent from, but security camera images and Diaz’s letter suggest Es Condral Bookstore is the location.

Diaz was booked on suspicion of unlawful access to a computer and making criminal threats.

Students and faculty are asked to contact Cal Poly University Police at 831-6561 if they received the e-mail threat.

Jessica Ford contributed to this story.

Pumpkins taxed in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The tax on pumpkins in Iowa is going after this Halloween.

The new department policy is implemented after officials decided that pumpkins are used primarily for Halloween decorations, food, and should be taxed, said Renee Mulvey, the department’s spokeswoman.

“We made the change because we wanted the sales tax law to match what we think the predominant use was,” Mulvey said.

“We thought the predominant use was for decorations or jack-o-lanterns.”

Previously, pumpkins had been considered an edible squash and exempted from the tax.

The department ruled this year that pumpkins are taxable — with some exceptions — if they are advertised for use as jack-o-lanterns or decorations.

Iowans planning to eat pumpkins are off the hook, but may have to pay exemption if they fill out a form.

The new policy, published in the department’s September newsletter, has some pumpkin farmers feeling tricked this Halloween.

“I don’t mind paying taxes, but let’s get real here, people,” said Bob Kautz, owner of the Buffalo Pumpkin Patch in Buffalo, just west of Davenport.

NASA

continued from page 1

“We’d like to build a better design mechanism.”

Both professors stressed the need for airplane designs that would help reduce air traffic, in the increasingly crowded national airspace.

Currently, United States air traffic operations are what McDonald calls a “hub-and-spoke” system, where regional airports serve as air travel centers for large areas, resulting in multiple layovers and inefficient routes.

“We believe a point-to-point operation system that takes people exactly where they need to go,” McDonald said.

Right now the problem is in developing smaller, fuel-efficient aircraft that can handle increasing traffic and use the existing airport infrastructure to increase direct flights from smaller airports.

“I want to find a way that is as simple as possible. We’re trying to find ways to do that as well as possible,” Marshall said.

“Many of Marshall’s research will try to find ways to do that as well as possible,” Marshall said.

“Many of Marshall’s research will try to find ways to do that as well as possible,” Marshall said.

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State Briefs

BAKERSFIELD (AP) — Federal engineers say an auxiliary dam at Isabella Lake is among the most-at-risk in the nation.

If the dam were to collapse when full, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it could cover earthquake fault and water is seeping through it at a higher-than-normal rate.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is becoming a dumping ground for abandoned boats.

Among them is a paddle boat that was used in the John Wayne movie "Blood Alley" 50 years ago. The boat later ferried tourists as the "Spirit of Sacramento." But now it's getting some security upgrades thanks to $3.4 million in new state bond money.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Bay Area Rapid Transit system is getting some security upgrades thanks to $8.4 million in new state bond money.

BART officials say they plan to upgrade and expand the security camera system on board trains and at stations. Using sophisticated software, the cameras will be able to detect suspicious activity, such as an unattended backpack on a boarding platform, and sound an alarm to alert authorities.

Sleep-deprived risk emotional problems

Christine Chen

Researchers from University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Medical School concluded in a recent study that sleep deprivation can cause a person to have increased emotional responses to negative images.

Matthew Walker, assistant professor of psychology at UC Berkeley, along with research assistants at Harvard Medical School, looked at what sleep deprivation can do to a person's emotional state and noted that sleep-deprived subjects had brain activity like that of some patients with psychiatric disorders.

"We can take young, healthy people who don't have psychiatric disorders and we see that the pattern of brain activity is not dissimilar to those we see in psychiatric patients with post-traumatic stress disorder or depression," Walker said.

For the study, 26 college undergraduates at the UC Berkeley Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab were divided into two groups: the first group slept for approximately eight hours, while the second group was deprived of sleep for about 35 hours. Then, the subjects were put inside an MRI scanner and shown 100 picture slides, which ranged from neutral to negative.

"(We) found that the amygdala, an emotional sensor in the brain, over-activated for people that didn't sleep and was more reactive to negative pictures," said Seung-Schik Yoo, associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

In the sleep-deprived group, there was a 66-percent increase in the brain activity of the amygdala when viewing negative images compared to the group that received a normal night's sleep.

The prefrontal cortex sends chemicals to inhibit the activity in the amygdala. It serves as the volume control to the emotional brain, said Walker.

"(We) could hypothesize that sleep deprivation can reduce levels of activity in the prefrontal cortex. Therefore, the amygdala will increase in activity," Yoo said.

This connected circuit between the prefrontal cortex and amygdala was intact in those that had slept well, and Walker but not in people deprived of sleep. Because there were lower levels of chemical inhibitors, sleep-deprived subjects had heightened reactions to negative images.

Walker said that though scientists can't confirm it yet, one of the hypotheses they can now entertain is that sleep deprivation may not just occur simultaneously with, but actually contribute to, psychiatric disorders.

"We have known for a long time that people with psychiatric disorders exhibit lack of sleep," said Walker.

One of the next experiments will be to see if the same abnormality occurs in people who sleep only five hours per day for a week, Walker said.
Calif. sex offenders declare themselves homeless

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of California sex offenders who face tough new restrictions on where they can live are declaring themselves homeless — truthfully or not — and that's making it difficult for the state to track them.

Jessica's Law, approved by 70 percent of California voters a year ago, bars registered sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a school or park where children gather. That leaves few places where offenders can live legally.

Some who have had trouble finding a place to live are avoiding arrest by reporting — falsely, in some cases — that they are homeless.

Experts say it is hard to monitor sex offenders when they lie about where they are living or defy court orders to remain away from schools.

They drop off the registry because they don't want to admit living in a prohibited zone," said Corwin Ritchie, executive director of the association of Iowa prosecutors.

The organization tried unsuccessfully in the past two years to persuade lawmakers to repeal the state's 2,000-foot residency restriction.

"Most legislators know in their hearts that the law is no good and a waste of time, but they're afraid of the politics of it," Ritchie said.

The problem is worsening in Florida as about 100 local ordinances add restrictions to the state's 1,000-foot rule, said Florida Corrections Department spokeswoman Grel Plesinger. Sixteen homeless offenders are now living under a Miami bridge, while another took to sleeping on a bench outside a probation office.

"As society has imposed restrictions, it becomes almost impossible for them to find places to live," Plesinger said.

Twenty-two states have distance restrictions varying from 500 feet to 2,000 feet, according to California researchers. But most impose the offender-free zones only around schools, and several apply only to child molesters, not all sex offenders.

California's law requires parolees to live in the county of their last legal residence. But in San Francisco, for example, all homes are within 2,000 feet of a school or park.

"The state is requiring parolees to find eligible housing in San Francisco, knowing full well there isn't any," said Mike Jimenez, president of the California parole officers union. "It will be impossible for parole agents to enforce Jessica's Law in certain areas, and encouraging "transient" living arrangements just allows sex offenders to avoid it altogether.

State figures show a 27 percent increase in homelessness among California's 67,000 registered sex offenders since the law took effect in November 2006. Since August, the number of offenders with no permanent address rose by 560 to 2,622.

"This is a huge surge," said Deputy Attorney General Janet Neeley, whose office maintains the database. "Any law enforcement officer would tell you we would prefer to have offenders at addresses where we can locate them."
This year, we're going toward more of a majestic, beautiful theme; we're going for a naturalistic feel.

—Shawna Swanson
Rose Float design chair

Cal Poly's only Rose Float was loaded onto a semi-truck Saturday Oct. 13 and headed to Cal Poly Pomona. The Rose Float Lab Oct. 26 for inspections and continued construction as part of an annual tradition that officially announced last week.

Leaders and volunteers are connecting hydraulic lines, working on the engine and installing all controls used to maneuver the float during the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena. All to prepare for its first technical inspection Saturday.

"It's really exciting because there's a lot of projects going on," Cal Poly's Rose Float program leader and industrial engineering senior Christopher Tipping said. "I think we have upwards of 10 different things happening." This year's float is a tribute to the mythical tradition of China. Titled "Guardians of Harmony," the float features a massive phoenix soaring over mountain peaks as a red and gold Chinese emperor dragon hovers protectively over a peaceful garden and koi pond. A real three-tier waterfall cascades down from the mountains and is wrapped by the Great Wall. The concept was inspired by the Rose Parade's theme, "Passport to the World's Celebrations."

The technical inspection is conducted by the Tournament of Roses official float mechanics. Four similar inspections take place before the parade, and Cal Poly's float already underwent one such inspection this summer. The float is the only entry in the parade that is designed, constructed and decorated solely by students and volunteers. Both universities must build portions of the float on different campuses, joining them together in the building process, when Cal Poly students, parents, alumni, faculty and community members apply fresh flowers to complete the float.

This year's float is one of the last things that links the two campuses," said art and design senior Shawna Swanson, the program's design chair. "We take the chosen concept, and render and configure it into a float."

The design concept contest last spring prompted the start of the float's production. For months, Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona have been working on their respective halves.

"We split the two halves, and everything has to be connected to the float now," Tipping said. Rose Float leaders will be welding, shaping and machining Friday to prepare the float for the inspection's 7 a.m. call time on Saturday, Swanson said.

Last year's float was more of a fun theme, featuring cartoon-ish polar bears and penguins celebrating the New Year with a festival hat.

"This year, we're sort of veering away from the comedic, cutey theme that we usually deck," Swanson said. "This year, we're going toward more of a majestic, beautiful theme; we're going for a naturalistic feel."

This year's float will eventually move to Pasadena about 10 days prior to the start of the parade. Floral decorations constitute the final stage of the building process, when Cal Poly students, parents, alumni, faculty and community members apply fresh flowers to complete the float.

Topp Sparks were flying as students worked in Pomona's float lab. Below Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona connected the two halves of the float over the weekend of Oct. 19.
International Briefs

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain's National Court convicted the three main suspects in the Madrid commuter train bombings of murder Wednesday and sentenced them to tens of thousands of years in prison for Europe's worst Islamic terror attack.

But the verdict was a mixed bag for prosecutors, who saw four other key defendants convicted of lesser offenses and an accused ring leader acquitted altogether.

With much of the case resting on circumstantial evidence, the three judges may have been wary after a number of high-profile Spanish terror cases were overturned on appeal.

PIEDRA BLANCA, Dominican Republic (AP) — Tropical Storm Noel triggered mudslides and flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, pushing the death toll to 805.544.

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Mustang Daily

News

Offenders continued from page 5

Parole officers said some offenders are registering as homeless, then sneaking back to homes that violate the law. That's easy to do because fewer than 36 percent of transient offenders currently wear the Global Positioning System tracking devices required by Jessica's Law.

"If they tell you that they were under the American River bridge, we're going to take that at face value," said Corrections Department spokesman Bill Sessa, referring to a homeless hangout in Sacramento.

During a recent sweep in the Oakland area, parole officers discovered that two of the five offenders they checked weren't living in the temporary shelters they had targeted as their new homes. Neither had been issued a GPS device.

R.L., a 42-year-old sex offender who lives near Disneyland in Southern California, said he registered as homeless after his parole agent told him two potential homes were too close to schools or parks.

"I finally asked, 'Where do you want me to live?' He said, 'You have a car, don't you?"' said R.L., who asked that his full name be used because of the stigma surrounding sex offenders.

The law was named for 9-year-old Jessica Lunford, who was kidnapped, raped and buried alive by a convicted sex offender near her Florida home in 2005.

The author of Jessica's Law, state Sen. George Runner, said "99 percent" of it is working well. But he conceded that some portions need to be fixed.

"When the voters voted for this, they decided that they didn't want a child murderer to live across the street from a school," said Runner, a Republican from Lancaster in Los Angeles County's high desert. "If that means that in some areas that needs to be 1,000 feet or 1,500 feet, then I think that we still accomplish what it is the voters wanted."
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Birbiglia’s not-so-secret return to San Luis Obispo

Mollie Helmsmith

The speakerphone rang twice before a casual "hello," came through. "Is this Mike?" I asked, nervously knowing that one of the top comedians in the nation, Mike Birbiglia, was indeed on the other end of the phone.

It turns out, interviewing Birbiglia felt like catching up with an old friend. "I'm just walking around New York City having a cup of coffee," he said, amiably. Birbiglia, 29, will be performing at the Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. tonight on his tour. "I'm just walking around New York City having a cup of coffee," he said. "I recommend it to anyone who wants to be a comedian."

It was this experience that brought Birbiglia to admire (and open for) top comedians such as Brian Regan and to choose to make a career professionally of comedy. For the past seven years, he has been touring the country, gathering followers who love his down-to-earth, blunt, honest approach to comedy.

Performing again in San Luis Obispo was a personal request from Birbiglia, who had "head-academy," he said. "It was one of the first things he said when I met Haircut in 2002, when I was drumming on my floor. I met Haircut in 2002 when I was drumming on my floor. I met Haircut in 2002 when I was drumming on my floor. I met Haircut in 2002 when I was drumming on my floor. I met Haircut in 2002 when I was drumming on my floor."

Birbiglia said he will also release his newest CD, "My Secret Public Journal Live," on Comedy Central Records. He dedicates inspiration from comedians such as Bill Cosby and Muddy Allen. "I'm like, 'Embarrassing stories basically, and there are jokes within these stories," explained Birbiglia of the tour. "These are real-life stories of how I made awkward situations even more awkward!"

He doesn't traditionally step away from any topic, including politics. "It's like when you have to least question the status quo," Birbiglia said. "Put the job of questioning things that people accept as true."

Still Time's 'Stream of Consciousness' (KCBR)

Morning Recordings — "The Welcome Kinetic" (Lotus Throat)

Rich blends of organ fuzz and noise provide the backdrop to this slow waltz daydream.

Black Dice — "Load Blown" (Paw Tracks)

Rich in texture are the highly organized collages of lo-fi synth, samples and loops that are always on the verge of blowing up in (or on) your face.

Prefuse 73 — "Preparations" (Warp)

Fusing elements of glitch, dance and rock into hip-hop. Prefuse 73 crafts his latest album in his most developed and refined rhetoric of music production.

Om — "Pilgrimage" (Southern Lord)

Om manages to bring to their listeners the extremes of quietness and loudness, often simultaneously, in the most graceful fashion.

Black Lips — "Good Bad Not Evil" (Vice)

"Hailing from Atlanta, Black Lips brings us a fresh look at rock through the references of blues, punk and country.

Cassandra Carlson

Morning Recording

It's called Gau. Rock. Ever heard of it? The authenticity of this genre equals the authenticity of the new album by Still Time. "We all listen to different musical influences but also old stuff. Like any good guy, you keep it fresh by keeping the pins in, then you blend new stuff," bassist Paul Stewart-Smith said.

Formerly known as The New Longview and Longview, Still Time is releasing its new album, "Stream Of Consciousness" at Boot Records, where they will also be performing at 9:30 p.m. today.

Still Time started in San Luis Obispo in 2004 and has since been gaining fans across the state. Lead singer Dan Canino used to lead guitarist Chris "Haircut" Armstrong in 2002 while they were in the Sierra Madre dorms at Cal Poly. "I met Haircut in 2003 when I was drumming on my knee outside a building on campus when Haircut walked up to me and invited me to play with them," drummer and Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior John Vucinich said.

"For this album it came down to choosing the songs that are best live and have the best response," Vucinich said.

Still Time's songs have made it to radio stations along the Central Coast and Northern California. "High Tide" has been heard on New Rock 107.3 for regular rotation for more than a year, along with holding a top-10 spot at the station for more than four months. The band has been on San Luis Obispo's Coast 105.3 and also Santa Cruz's K-RPG 107.5.

The band will play at Downtown Brew Saturday for a 21 and over concert and on Nov. 12 for an 18 and-over concert. Troppo will be opening for them and the band says they will be flying. "We will also be performing Ultra-Techno '90s cover songs. These will also be a seven-hour band playing them."

Audience members are encouraged to dress up and the horn players will be judging. Costumes will be flying and there is said to be fog to face at this "90s extravaganza with rocking times."

Tickets are $8 in advance and $10 at the door, and are available at the DTB box office, Boot Records or online at ticketweb.com.

COURTESY PHOTOS

COURTESY PHOTOS

COURTESY PHOTOS
Ryan Charrtrand

Since the days spent jamming in the company of each other, for the better part of those two wars, I endured what I'd like to see other people get involved with fiction, literature and poetry.

"Short stories and novels are the things I most enjoy writing, and worked with fiction, too, and have that light touch when on them they understand what they're trying to do," Steve Blye said, "I think the perspective of being outside of the country and having some distance on your own is a pretty cool experience." Blye said. "It took me a while to shape it into something that looked like a book rather than rambling incoherent observations." After the personal experience of writing "The Australia Stories," Blye said. "Writing "The Australia Stories," Blye said, "I liked the world here and how it all works, like being around students and other faculty members. It's very homely."
Vampires: Perverts or Italians?

Lee: Hey Sean, what do you want to write about this week?

Sean: Ooh, I've been thinking about this one all morning. What's a better breakfast: cereal or cuppa-cuppa with a shot of Jager and a side of cigarettes?

Lee: Stupid. Let's just keep it topical. Halloween's this week. Let's do something about that.

Sean: Boo-yah. What's like a better treat to receive: good ol' candy corn, or a nickel?

Lee: Obviously a nickel is better. There's no debate there. I'd pay someone a nickel to not have to eat candy corn. Here's a classic Halloween debate: Vampires: perverts or Italians?

Sean: I'm 25 percent into that joke. You know: my grandfather's a pervert. In the news! Oh, here we go: Now that North Korea's dreamed its nuclear weapons, who's gonna be the new third member of the Axis of Evil?

Lee: Everyone: you know it's gonna be Hawaii. Just sitting out there, plotting, raining, drinking blood. I don't trust 'em. Here's some other news: Never buy olive oil. New grocer in town. Will his new contract net him more money than his home country's GDP?

Sean: He's from America, you idiot. Here's a gold mine. Which is more livable, Los Angeles or a snake pit?

Lee: Don't be silly, Sean. That completely depends on what kind of snake. Check out this one: What's more pointless: shoes or water?

Sean: Nav, nav. I gotta have my Pumas. I'll just suck oranges into a cup and go. It's a better pet: a hamster or baby human?

Lee: Inhumane. Let's just debate about who's more badass: Bruce Willis, or The Wiggles?

Sean: Come on, man. Hamsters or babies? I'm looking to get my cousin Lucas something for his fifth birthday. Plus, everyone knows Bruce Willis would use the corpses of The Wiggles to polish my cousin Lucas something for his fifth birthday. Plus, everyone knows Bruce Willis would use the corpses of The Wiggles to polish

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Pregnancy myths 101

There is no possible way for a pregnant woman to escape unsolicited advice — unless, that is, if I take off to a deserted island.

Learning of my pregnancy, people constantly tell me what to do and what not to do, flooding me with old wives’ tales to try to predict the gender of the baby — before finding out that it is a boy — determine how the baby will look and prevent complications.

There is something about a bulging belly that screams out the "expert" in everyone.

For instance, my mom saw me reaching high up in my closet to grab something. She gasped in horror and told me to put my arms down because she said reaching above the head will cause the cord to wrap around the baby's neck, causing suffocation.

Another time, my cousin walked in my room and saw me napping with the karate monkey I got at Build-A-Bear Workshop. She freaked out, grabbed the monkey and stuffed it in my hamper. She said that sleeping with a stuffed animal while pregnant will make the baby look like that animal!

“She said that sleeping with a stuffed animal while pregnant will make the baby look like that animal!”

I don’t believe in old wives’ tales much. Whether some of them are plausible or just apparently ridiculous, they are entertaining to hear.

I don’t believe in old wives’ tales much. Whether some of them are plausible or just apparently ridiculous, they are entertaining to hear.

Jennifer Ingan is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter. She will chronicle her experiences as a pregnant Cal Poly student every Thursday until she gives birth.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

Al Gore: More threatening to America than Osama

With the recent fires in Southern California finally contained, global warming fanatics are beginning to say “I told you so.” I, for one, believe that this so-called “global warming” played no part at all in these events. As a matter of fact, I believe that Al Gore himself — creator of the global warming fad — is either indirectly or directly responsible. Yes, I said it. With all the hate he’s generated about global warming, he has in turn created a cult of followers who may or may not be familiar with science. Like any cult, they are likely to go to extremes to support a belief, which in this case means attempting to falsely persuade skeptics of global warming’s existence by ignoring an elaborate series of forest fires in conveniently windy conditions.

Also, although it is somewhat impolite, we must not eliminate the possibility that Al Gore may have hired individuals to start the fires, thus seizing an opportunity to generate more publicity for himself. As the winds caused by global warming unlamentingly fueled the destruction of our nation’s forests and cities, we must now turn to the omnipotent and omnipresent Al Gore to save us from the end of human civilization as we know it (garden my sarcasm). With all of the money and publicity Al Gore is receiving lately, it is hard to believe that his incentives are genuinely good. Perhaps he believes he will someday have a second shot at being elected president of the United States, this time strictly by means of pathos. In my eyes, this man is conniving and dangerous. He is perhaps a larger threat to America than Osama bin Laden. Deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize? I think not.

Michael Vollmer
Business administration junior

LETTERS

To The Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Where have you been Troy?

Regarding Troy Kostanten’s article “Islamophobia?” all I have to say is Troy is where have you been, and how do you compare a violent faction of Islam declaring war on the West with some isolated Christian extremists? Maybe you forgot about Sept.11, 2001 and the many terrorist bombings since the “religion of peace” has openly stated that they would like to see the West converted or killed. The fact is that the tentacles of Islam are making their way into the West and it is our duty as a free society to examine this group of people and determine if their culture is compatible with ours. Personally I feel that Islam is a religion that does not fit in and should be excluded. I know that make me a racist to many small-minded people, but that doesn’t mean I’m not right. “Racism is the lowest form of human stupidity, but Islamophobia is the height of common sense.” —AIOE

Joey Carlson
Biochemistry junior
**Despite accomplishments, Atherstone values teamwork**

Sara Wright

For the record-tying fifth time this year, junior opposite Kylie Atherstone was named Big West Player of the Week.

Having captured the honor Sept. 3, 10, 14, 24 and now for the week ending Oct. 28, she's the only conference player to win back-to-back honors twice in one season. Just two players in the Big West's 24-year history have won nine times.

Atherstone has been awarded Player of the Week eight times in her career. "She's done really well this year in conference, she's turned up her game," head coach Jon Stevenson said. "She hit her stride at the right time."

Atherstone's continuously outstanding performances on the court have helped the team become No. 1 in conference and 23rd in the nation. After defeating Pacific 3-1 on Oct. 26 and UC Davis 3-1 Oct. 27, the Mustangs (16-7, 10-1 Big West Conference) have a seven-game winning streak.

Against Pacific, Atherstone had 26 kills against only four errors, 379 and 16 digs. She also recorded a team-record 12th double-double with a match-high 19 kills and 12 digs against UC Davis.

Unfortunately, Atherstone sprained her ankle in game three against Pacific. "We only found out about her on the b.s.," Stevenson said. "She's in the driver's seat to win conference; the rest of the season matters more than individual awards."

Atherstone's career accomplishments are extraordinary and numerous. In only her second year of play at Cal Poly, Atherstone was one of 20 college athletes selected in March for the United States Women's National A2 Team (9-2), a training group under the women's national team. She earned All-Tournament honors at the 2007 USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships in May.

In Spring 2007, Atherstone and setter Chelsea Hayes reached the semifinals of the inaugural eight-team Powerade Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championships in San Diego. They were the lowest-seeded team.

Atherstone was the youngest in 10 seasons to be selected for Big West Conference Co-Player of the Year award in 2006. In the 2006-07 season, she was named All-Big West First Team Co-captain.

Despite all her accomplishments, Atherstone remains completely grounded. "Obviously it feels good, but it's not really an individual sport," Atherstone said. "It's a team sport and without the people and people on the bench, it's not the whole picture."

During her career with head coach Tom Melton at Pleasant Valley High in Chico, Atherstone was a three-year letter-winner and Most Valuable Player of the Eastern Atlantic League. She also competed for the Chico Volleyball Academy club program.

Stevenson is pleased with Atherstone's accomplishments. "I thought she should have won Player of the Year outright last year," he said. "She shared it with a Long Beach player. It's difficult to think of anyone but Kylie to win "Player of the Year this year.""

Atherstone, born Jan. 25, 1987 in Chico, is a speech communication major. "I didn't know what else I wanted to do," Atherstone said about her major. "I talked to the coach and since I want to go into coaching, communication skills are important."

Despite having many responsibilities, Atherstone remains cool about them. "It's not about prioritizing, it's just part of my daily schedule," she said. "You don't realize it, it's what you have to do."

"We need to find out if she's recovered," unfortunately, Atherstone sprained her ankle in game three against Pacific. During her career with head coach Tom Melton at Pleasant Valley High in Chico, Atherstone was a three-year letter-winner and Most Valuable Player of the Eastern Atlantic League. She also competed for the Chico Volleyball Academy club program.

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Junior opposite Kylie Atherstone had a match-high 19 kills in the series-opening sweep of Cal State Fullerton on Oct. 5 in front of 1,575 fans. Her parents, Carmen and Mark Ather­stone, as well as Stevenson have a huge role in her success in volleyball.

"Obviously my parents pushed me in sports," Atherstone said. "And obviously Jon pushed me too. At a young age I went to a (volleyball) camp he ran. "I didn't look at any other schools, I knew I had to be coached by Jon."

Hayes values Atherstone's presence on the court for many reasons. "The thing I admire most about her is that she's a go-to-player," she said. "I have a lot of confidence in her on the court. We need a kill, I know I can set Kylie and she'll get it done."

**Johnny continued from page 16**

...dollars to watch Mrs. Johnson, a third-grade teacher, shape our youth. He doesn't pay to watch the local firefighter save lives. We all would agree that these jobs are more vital to our society than professional athletes, yet they make significantly less. This is just a reality.

People are astounded that anyone could demand more than $250 million, but it's pretty simple — A-Rod thinks he's worth more.

Of course, the key word here is "thinks." Someone must agree to pay him. Athletes are employees, pets to ownership. He can ask for a billion dollars, but that doesn't mean he is worth that much.

He may only receive $100 million. The market will determine what he's worth, not his own preconceived notion of his value.

Think about Peter who just graduated with an accounting degree from Poly. He's in negotiations with KPMG on what his compensation will be. Peter could ask for a three-year, $1 million deal. KPMG could laugh in his face, or pay the man. KPMG determines what Peter is worth, not Peter.

A-Rod is taking a calculated risk by leaving money on the table, believing he can get more. He could ruin his kidney tomorrow and never see that type of cash again. This is the risk he was willing to take, and I have to give him some credit for that.

Can you blame him for trying to maximize his value? The majority of us will do it one day while seeking our first "real jobs."

It's called life. This is a dog-eat-dog world — better get paid while you can.

This principle behind capitalist actions is what makes our country special. A-Rod represents every college student who asks for more money, but his contract just has more zeros.

So I applaud this man for trying to get more, and so should you. You'll probably be in a similar place one day. Remember that.

Good luck, A-Rod — just pray my Giants don't waste money on you.
Jackson

The New York Times

Crossword

Across
1. -et (8) 32. Dallas-to-Austin
5. Tar (7) 35. Author of a 1952
9. Bare (7) 39. Some personal
13. Of the (5) 42. Pearl-shaped
14. Long-term Wilk (9) 43. Oscar winner for
15. Burn slowly (9) 45. "Happy-go-lucky"
16. Of the Munsters (11) 46. Buckles
17. Popular (11) 48. Old nightclub
18. State (4) 49. "Openmg
22. Animal on the (5) 51. "Jolly good'
23. Crossword (11) 52. Place of work (4)
24. Takeout choice (11) 53. Move to first
26. Home of Sao (11) 55. Boombox button
28. Staff member (11) 56. Home of San
31. Light-colored (11) 57. State quarters
32. Some personal (11) 58. "Can't get a post to London!
33. "A Stooge" (11) 59. Truck stop sign
34. "The Swiss Family Robinson" (9) 60. All the
Down
1. Participation (10) 20. Odd jobs
2. Pioneer of 19-4-7 (10) 21. "Jolly good"
3. War participant (10) 22. Some personal
4. Nutritional Paul (9) 23. Some personal
5. The Stalag (9) 24. Some personal
6. "Who's on First" (9) 25. Some personal
7. "Anway You Want Me" (9) 26. Some personal
8. "Sock It To Me" (9) 27. Some personal
9. It's in every (9) 28. Some personal
10. It's in every (9) 29. Some personal
11. German poet who wrote "Die Wetterkreis" (9)
12. Some personal (9) 30. Some personal
13. "I'm Coming For You" (9) 31. Some personal
14. It's in every (9) 32. Some personal
15. "Can't Get A Post to London!" (9) 33. Some personal
16. "You're The One I Love" (9) 34. Some personal
17. "Don't Stop Believing" (9) 35. Some personal
18. "My Whole World Is Falling Down" (9) 36. Some personal
19. "The Good The Bad and The Ugly" (9) 37. Some personal
20. "What A Wonderful World" (9) 38. Some personal
21. "Let It Be" (9) 39. Some personal
22. "Another Brick In The Wall" (9) 40. Some personal
23. "Kung Fu Fighting" (9) 41. Some personal
42. "The Best Of - The Very Best Of-Hit Monsters" (9) 43. Some personal
44. "Ring Around The Roses" (9) 45. Some personal
46. "Let's Get Together" (9) 47. Some personal
48. "Send Me The Pillow You Dream On" (9) 49. Some personal
49. "Stairway To Heaven" (9) 50. Some personal
50. "Take Off" (9) 51. Some personal
51. "May Your Day Be Bright" (9) 52. Some personal
52. "I Am What I Am" (9) 53. Some personal
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57. State quarters
58. "Can't get a post to London!
59. Truck stop sign
60. All the

Men's soccer ties CSU Northridge

The Mustangs travel to UC Santa Barbara to play the Gauchos on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. Poly beat the defending national champions in a 2-1 thriller on Oct. 17.

HELP WANTED
Web Programmers Wanted
PHP + MySQL. Part & Full time. Casual Office in AG 58-512/hr to start. 489-9402

Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Activities Center. Stop by UU Room 217! or call (805) 756-2476

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AMERICORPS - Info Session. Your world - your chance to make it better. Central Coast Volunteer Corps is recruiting for 2008 (Jan-Dec). Info Session: Thurs 11/1 at 11-12, Bishop's Lounge of U9:30, 6:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30. Questions? Contact: Amber Tierny 756-5336 or atet@calpoly.edu

CLASSIFIEDS
Free list of all houses and condos For Sale in SLO. Call Nelson Real Estate (805) 546-1900 OR email steve@slohomes.com

LOST AND FOUND
LOST Von Zipper sunglasses at UCSB-Poly Soccer game vcorosi@calpoly.edu

SOUTHERN CA
Free every Thursday! Submit by Tuesday!
The ‘beach baby’ digs volleyball

Growing up in Manhattan Beach — the “beach volleyball Mecca of the world” — Kristen Jackson is still a “beach baby” at heart who will always find a way to pursue her passion for sports and the great outdoors. Even since she was 5 years old, Jackson has been following in her competitive beach volleyball dad’s footsteps.

“He taught me how to play on the sand when I was little and it was something we always played for fun, either on the beach or in my backyard,” Jackson explained.

It wasn’t until 11 that Jackson started playing competitively on club teams in Orange County and Long Beach. Jackson found that she enjoyed the sport so much that she chose to give up the other sports she was playing.

“I was playing softball, soccer and basketball as well as volleyball and chose to focus solely on volleyball and soccer,” Jackson said.

Once she entered Mira Costa High, Jackson was balancing her passions for volleyball and soccer throughout the school year. Jackson would play club soccer and high school volleyball in the fall and club volleyball and high school soccer in the winter and spring.

However, when it came time to pick between her two favorites, she knew exactly where her heart was.

“By my senior year I had to pick one sport and there was no question that my heart was set on volleyball,” Jackson said.

She says this decision was easy to make considering her at Mira Costa high won three CIF championships.

“I also played a lot of beach volleyball in the AAU tournaments as well as received my AA rating on the beach as a sophomore in high school,” Jackson said.

After high school, Jackson moved to San Luis Obispo to start her freshman year at Cal Poly. She chose to major in recreation and began her first season with the Mustang women’s volleyball team.

Kristen Jackson holds the Cal Poly and Big West career digs records and needs just 27 to become one of 24 players to reach 2,000 digs.