Tatiana Lau
THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN (PRINCETON)

Though the issue of embryonic stem cell research has been one of the most contentious political topics in recent years, a landmark discovery may finally bring an end to the debate.

In two separate studies published last week, researchers from Kyoto University and the University of Wisconsin — led by Shinya Yamanaka and James Thomson, respectively — announced that they had successfully reprogrammed normal human skin cells to act like embryonic stem cells.

"I think it's probably the most important finding in biology in 10 years," molecular biologist and Wilson School professor Lee Silver said.

The findings may render moot the ethical debate over the use of embryonic stem cells for research. Developed in 1998, the original method involved removing eggs from an ovary, fertilizing the eggs in vitro and removing embryonic stem cells from the resulting blastocyst.

The process raised concerns from opponents who argued that embryos, as nascent human life, merit the same protections as humans who have already been born.

In 2001, President Bush signed a bill that prohibited federal funding to research using the already existing stem cell lines and not to research using new lines, thereby limiting the amount of research that could be done.

Additionally, New Jersey voters rejected a ballot referendum this month that would have lent $450 million for stem cell research in the state.

Under the new method publicized last week, skin cells are removed from a human, after which four genes are inserted into the cells. The inserted genes, transported by way of a retrovirus, then transform the skin cells into pluripotent stem cells, which are capable of differentiating into various cell types.

The transformed cells are referred to as "induced pluripotent stem cells," or iPS. The iPS method is so straightforward that its creator, Yamanaka, told The Wall Street Journal that "any scientist with basic technology in molecular and cell biology can do (the reprogramming)."

"Once we have an understanding of the biology of cells, there's no limit to what we could transform," he said.

Silver said that the method is "such that scientists could be able to repeat (it) easily."

"If we have an understanding of the biology of cells, there's no limit to what we could transform," he said.

"If we have an understanding of the biology of cells, there's no limit to what we could transform," he said. "This is going to open a whole new door for the treatment of the disease that we care about."
SLO Transit bus drivers change their route schedule three times a year to keep things interesting.

**Bus**

Sometimes you'll get people who you know ride the bus all the time. And when you pull up to the bus stop, they start fumbling around in their pockets or their purses for their bus fare.

"Sometimes you’ll get that three of four stops in a row, and it starts putting you behind on your schedule and it starts getting really annoying, especially when you know that they're boarding the bus all the time. There are a lot of little things like that (that are annoying)." And you thought waiting for the late bus that one time was annoying."

The Stories

Some of those regulars, though, make for interesting people-watching. Although it's bad policy to talk about specific patrons, Bace said he has seen all aspects of humanity through his years as a driver.

"You run into all kinds of characters. You name it, you'll run into (them)," he said.

A lot of people are really nice, and then a lot of people are really not so nice. If you ride the bus a lot, you see it, without being a driver. It's interesting." Jones said his favorite bus-driving story, like his singing, came when the bus was completely full — and completely (and uncharacteristically) quiet.

"There comes a moment in time when wherever you are there is just a moment of silence, whether it's at a Thanksgiving dinner and there's a lull in the conversation, or wherever you are, there's just a moment of silence," he said.

And just such a moment took place on the bus that morning, except for a girl in the front on her cell phone and another girl on a cell phone in the back, who were the only two people on the bus who didn't stop talking.

"And I thought, 'Oh, yes, the technological age.' They wanted to say hello to one another, but couldn't because of all these people, so they used their phones. I thought that was great," Jones said.

Another driver, Alice, said once a pair of ladies thong underwear was found on one of the buses at the end of the night. If that's not strange enough, though, later a man who claimed the pair was his picked it up.

So next time you take that ride to school, remember to be kind to your driver — and don't leave your belongings behind.

Bryan Bilek

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Research

continued from page 1

Embryonic stem cell lines in Wisconsin and Kyoto work could not have progressed, since the embryonic cell lines provided us with the "markers" for pluripotency," Shapiro said.

Shapiro added that, while he was confident about the legitimacy of the new findings, embryonic stem cells will continue to play a vital role in research.

"It is quite possible that we will continue to need human embryonic stem cells for some aspects of the continuing research program surrounding stem cells," Shapiro said.

But politics professor Robert George, who serves on Bush's council on bioethics and has vocally weighed in against embryonic stem cell research in the past, lauded the new method as a way to balance the need for science and ethics.

"From the beginning we have been arguing that we must do everything we can to advance the cause of stem cell science but without sacrificing our respect for nascent human life ..." Shapiro said.

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Harold Shapiro

Former Princeton University president

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Silver said the new findings would level the playing field for researchers around the world.

Because of the ethical issues surrounding embryonic stem cell procurement, many governments have banned embryonic stem cell research, while others — including those of California and Singapore — have legalized it.

This has led scientists to flock to jurisdictions that permit the use of embryonic stem cells.

With the IPS method, however, scientists will no longer have to relocate in order to legally conduct cutting-edge research. "There will be no more geographic disparity," Silver said.

Silver added that, though the IPS method has not been perfected, any problems with the procedure will likely be discovered soon.

One risk is that the genes in the transporting virus could become incorporated into the genes of the transformed cells, causing them to become cancerous or acquire other negative characteristics.

"Clearly some further work needs to be done to fully understand the potential of this discovery ... and continue to improve our understanding of genetic reprogramming," Shapiro said.

"Most importantly, we need to let enough time to pass to carefully evaluate this discovery and its implications for a broad set of issues."
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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fire crews watched for flare-ups Wednesday afternoon as high winds and low humidity levels increased the danger of a new blaze in fire-scarred Southern California.

Sustained winds were reaching 30 mph in parts of the region, with gusts hitting 55 mph in mountainous areas, according to National Weather Service forecasters.

The winds were expected to mellow later in the day, but humidity levels could continue to drop into the single digits overnight, forecasters said.

MODESTO (AP) — The three-bedroom Modesto home where Scott and Laci Peterson lived has sold again, this time for $280,000 to an unnamed buyer.

Police believe Scott Peterson killed his pregnant wife, Laci, at the bungalow-style house in December 2002. His body and that of her fetus were later discovered along the San Francisco Bay, and Scott Peterson was convicted of their murders in November 2004.

The house sold for $394,000 in July 2005, a few months after he arrived at death row at San Quentin State Prison.

That owner eventually declared bankruptcy and lost the house to foreclosure.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A fired sheriff’s deputy faces federal charges after being arrested in an Internet child predator sting, prosecutors said.

Joseph Carlos, 31, was charged Tuesday with one count of meeting a minor for lewd purposes and one count of attempted lewd act upon a child under 14, the district attorney’s office said in a statement.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to two to 15 years in state prison, prosecutors said.

Briefs

National

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Twelve states, including California, sued the Bush administration Wednesday to force greater disclosure of data on toxic chemicals that companies store, use and release into the environment.

The state officials oppose new federal Environmental Protection Agency rules that allow thousands of companies to limit the information they disclose to the public about toxic chemicals, according to New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, the lead attorney general in the lawsuit.

EL DORADO, Kan. (AP) — A missing Kansas college student believed to be the victim of foul play led a double life as an Internet porn star by the name of Zoey Zane, a friend told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

“She opened it. She is a young teenage girl and she wanted to be in the movies and enjoyed movie star image,” said Nikki Watson, a close friend of Zander’s at Butler Community College.

BOLINGBROOK, Ill. (AP) — A relative of former police officer Drew Peterson reportedly helped him move a large, heavy container out of his suburban home the day his wife vanished, an allegation that sparked a furious denial from Peterson’s attorney.

Peterson and his stepbrother removed the container from an upstairs bedroom and put it in his sport-utility vehicle, according to media reports that cited anonymous sources close to the investigation to Stacy Peterson’s disappearance last month.

The stepbrother, Thomas Monroe, later became distraught after learning that Stacy Peterson was missing and tried to kill himself, the Chicago Tribune and The [Joliet] Herald News reported Wednesday.

International

LONDON (AP) — European film and television writers demonstrated Wednesday in support of U.S. colleagues who are striking over payment for work broadcast on the Internet and mobile phones.

The Writers Guild of America has been on strike since Nov. 5, halting productions on many TV shows and movies.

In London, several dozen writers rallied in front of the headquarters of Britain’s main union federation holding red-and-black placards saying “We Support the Writers Guild of America.”}

LOYAL, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia announced Wednesday that it had arrested 208 suspected terrorists in six cells and thwarted several planned attacks in the kingdom’s largest terrorist sweep to date.

Among the plots, the Interior Ministry said, the capture of eight al-Qaeda-linked suspects “pre-empted an imminent attack on an oil installation” in the country’s east, which is home to most Saudi petroleum reserves.

A ministry statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency said the eight were led by a non-Saudi man, who was among those arrested.

Eighteen other suspects led by a non-Saudi missile expert were arrested for “planning to smuggle eight missiles into the kingdom to carry out terrorist operations,” the statement said.

LONDON (AP) — Roman pottery and a coin from the Iron Age have been found on the site of the aquatics center planned for the London 2012 Olympics.

Digs on the Olympic Park site have discovered evidence of Iron Age settlement, including fourth century pottery and a Roman coin from the time of Emperor Constantine II.
Cassandra Carlson

Cal Poly’s campus is becoming more of a fluorescent hue of green, due to groups like the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club. They are making a zero-carbon footprint by committing themselves to their many events in the winter and spring quarters, one of which will be to convince Campus Dining to start using waste as biofuel.

“It’s kind of a secret project but we are working next quarter with campus to spread awareness of biodiesel,” said Cal Poly Biodiesel Club President Eric Veium.

Helping them spread the word, but not all of the information since it is a secret, is Students in Free Enterprises (SIFE). The clubs will work together to heighten consciousness on campus and in the community.

“We feel that if students at Cal Poly are behind this movement it is more likely that administrators at Cal Poly will be more likely to implement more biodiesel vehicles,” said Brian Rules, finance junior and member of SIFE.

Members of SIFE have put their heads together to create a marketing plan and cost analysis for potential expenses of the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club.

The club is also in the process of buying a $5,000 tractor because their biodiesel processor is designed to be mobile.

“The tractor will provide our processor with electricity, compressed air and heat — all integral parts of the process,” Veium said.

The tractor will be used for oil collection around campus. The group’s goal is to compel the university to use biodiesel and to show them that it is possible but also economical.

Next quarter the group will host a seminar in conjunction with the Cal Poly Hydrogen Club and Electric Vehicle Club during the Change the Status Quo conference. The seminar will be called “Getting Transportation for an Oil-Free Future” and is about biodiesel’s role in the future, along with the benefits of hydrogen and electric vehicles, oil-free transportation and mass transit.

They will also be part of an alternative vehicle show as part of Focus the Nation, a global warming awareness event held Jan. 31 at Cal Poly along with 1,000 different campuses across the United States.

As members of the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club, three mechanical engineering students are designing a solar thermal heating unit in which the sun heats up the fluid as part of the Cal Poly biodiesel. They presented their design last night at an open event in the Bonderson building.

The Cal Poly Biodiesel Club meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in the Bonderson building and encourages other students and community members to participate in the quest to use more biofuel.

COURTESY PHOTO
Ian Woertz, Environmental Engineering Sustainable Environments grad student and biodiesel club technical adviser, making biodiesel in the lab.
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While studying. Forget studying.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“What is your favorite form of transportation and why?”
Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

“A unicycle, because it’s challenging, fun and it has a low carbon footprint.”
— Nik Glazar, physics senior

“A razor scooter because it’s very fast and I can get around campus and take it into class with me.”
— Simon Jacob, aerospace engineering sophomore

“My car because it’s convenient and easy.”
— Brittany Kolbe, agriculture business sophomore

“I like to walk because it’s nice to be outside and it’s good exercise.”
— Lea Roltsch, psychology senior

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Produced by Otter Productions, Inc. www.otterproductionsinc.com
When in Rome: Photographs by Jamie Antonioli

Mollie Helmuth

Black-and-white photographs of various European locales — taken by business senior Jamie Antonioli, who spent summer 2006 studying in Florence and trekking throughout the continent — are now on display in the UU Gallery. The exhibit, titled “When in Rome,” will be featured through the end of the quarter.

Antonioli took up photography as a freshman in high school who “needed to take an art class and didn’t know how to draw.” She soon found that in spite of its obligatory beginnings, photography had become a passion and an escape. “After my first day in the darkroom, seeing the photo in the tray, I was hooked,” she recalled.

“When in Rome” is currently on display in the University Union gallery, located in the Epicenter. Look for the woman reading the newspaper in Riomaggiore — you will probably end up finding something no one else did.

Not going to be on campus tomorrow?
Read the Mustang Daily wherever you go. mustangdaily.net
Superhero costume-wearing, sarcastic rock 'n' roll band The Aquabats will be playing at Downtown Brewing Co. at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Whitney Diaz
MUSTANG DAILY

Rock 'n' roll superheroes wearing black and blue spandex uniforms, rubber helmets and black eye masks will take the stage at Downtown Brewing Co. tonight.

The Aquabats' quirky, new wave melodies and their signature punk rock sound will fill the air as they perform for the first time this year in San Luis Obispo.

"I like the venue at Downtown Brew because it's small, and bands like that seem to have a lot of fun," said Peter Oyler, a computer science senior. "People don't just go to listen to the music, they go for the experience."

The band's uniquely sarcastic, Saturday-morning humor will be on display at 6:30 p.m. tonight. Tickets are $17 in advance at DTB's box office, Boo Boo Records or at the door. Also performing at the show is Hunter Revenge of AFI.

The Aquabats will be performing songs from their first full-length album since their label, Goldenvoice Records, shut down in 2000. "Charge!" was released in 2005 after fans kept the band alive online.

It features songs such as "Nerd Alert!" and "Fashion Zombies!"

"They're really goofy," said long-time fan Lee Barats, a mechanical engineering senior. He has been listening to The Aquabats for nearly five years.

Barats first heard their music when a friend's brother played a CD of theirs in his home state of Idaho.

"They were underground where I was from," he said. "They all dress up in costumes and a lot of the audience members do also."

Songs, props and costumes resulted from random tangents and inside jokes among the band, according to The Aquabats' Web site.

"We have a song that's called 'This Band is a Nighttime Animal' on 'Charge!' and there are random bands playing in the background during the show," Barats said. "I really like their music and had a really good time at the last show," he said.

Each shingle is 6 inches by 3 feet, making it a very long, skinny piece of canvas to work with. Goodall chooses to paint with watercolor, but each artist is free to use whatever kind of style he or she wants.

"If it's really fun and everyone has their own interpretation and style," Goodall said. "But it's really fun and everyone has their own interpretation and style."

Goodall made contact with other artists in the area and persuaded them to work with her. There is a total of about 15, and all are members of the El Camino Art Association.

"It's very challenging to paint over the rough spots and the cracks," Goodall said. "But it's really fun and everyone has their own interpretation and style."

In an effort to help raise money for the restoration of the Octagon Barn, Joan Goodall, a San Luis Obispo County artist, came up with the idea to use the old roof shingles as canvas and sell the finished pieces for about $20 each.

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A rather unique historical landmark of San Luis Obispo, the Octagon Barn, is in the midst of being restored while local artists help raise money for this effort by painting and selling old roof shingles.

The Octagon Barn is a historically and culturally important structure, built around 1900, on Higuera Street. The barn is accompanied by a smaller building, The Creamery, on a parcel with a long-term lease held by the Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy's effort to restore habitats in San Luis Obispo Creek created the "accidental" effort to restore the barn, which literally happened from the bottom up.

Throughout nine years of volunteer work, the foundation has been replaced, the walls have been straightened or replaced, huge telephone poles have been inserted to support the roof while it was reframed and braced, and the entire barn and creamery have been painted. The cupola was placed on the roof in December 2005 and the first layer of decomposed granite was laid for the flooring.

Section-by-section the weathered and worn shingles continue to be replaced with custom-made redwood shingles. However, all of this reconstruction has not proved very easy to afford.

In an effort to help raise money for the restoration of the Octagon Barn, Joan Goodall, a San Luis Obispo County artist, came up with the idea to use the old roof shingles as canvas and sell the finished pieces for about $20 each.

"Right now we're getting the funds to do the re-shingling of the roof, but we're hoping to finish it by the spring of 2007," Stark said.

Once the barn is finished, Stark said small-scale events will take place there. A trail is also going to be put into place, connecting to the one that already exists by San Luis Obispo Creek.

The restoration of the Octagon Barn has been a community project made possible by volunteers. All of the raised money has come from local donors and now the selling of shingles hopes to be another success.

So help save a historical landmark by picking up a painted shingle. With the holidays coming they're perfect for Christmas gifts and they will have a story and historical significance behind them.

The artists will continue to make paintings until all the pieces are sold.
If one were to embark on what could potentially be a very long-winded and shamelessly pretentious conversation about the history of international folk dance in America, names like Michael and Mary Ann Hermann, Dick Crum and Vytautas Beliajus would perhaps come to the forefront of national consciousness. Enter the proverbial yawn. Sad to say that, for me, these names would draw an ill-fated blank, as I haven’t a clue as to who these people are. Whoops. Wasn’t paying attention during that bit of cultural education day.

For me, there are only two people who matter when it comes to international folk dance in America today, and that is because they are the two who introduced it to me via the best class in the world. Those of you in Dance 135 say it with me now. What, What! Meet Norm and Anne Tiber, basically the John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the Ginger Rogers/Fred Astaire combo, the dynamic duo of folk dance, Cal Poly’s own treasure trove of fun for two hours, two days a week. And now a disclaimer. I personally thank the Tiber and folk, dancing because they were the only things keeping me from committing the fine and noble act of ritual hara kiri ... my stress meter has been in the perpetual red zone and through-the-roof status this quarter. You feel me? Anyone else doing a senior project?

Volunteer dance instructors at Cal Poly since 2004, Norm and Anne have embraced the university’s “learn by doing” ethos, and together have challenged their eager students to travel down pathways that lead to exotic locations spanning from Scotland to Hungary, Greece to Macedonia through motion and festive ethnic dance.

Emphasizing both social and cultural aspects of folk song and dance, the Tiber take traditional national and international dances, colliding them with our own hectic collegiate lifestyles and oftentimes uncultured condition to bring forth a repertoire of music that students find incredibly fascinating and yet fun to take part in. Dances varying from folk to early-ving the Greek hasapiko to the Russian troika, students of international folk dance are forced to embrace the culture from which each particular dance comes and are taught to perform a melange of international delights. From flamboyant physical maneuvers to more subtle, syncopated stylistic techniques, folk dance allows for dramatic change in movement for the dancer, performer or choreographer. All of these are in fact possibilities when you are dealing with such a dynamic and truly fantastic line of work.

So with my last breath here at Cal Poly, I raise my glass to you. Norm and Anne, as well as the rest of the Dance 135 class may we all be merry and never forget the charming ways of good folk song and dance; I hope to see many a Cal Poly student on my travels to different folk festivals around the world. May we all find comfort in the fact that we all come from different villages, with different styles of dancing to very many, many types of songs.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for me to take my leave. I bid you all find comfort in the fact that we all come from different villages, with different styles of dancing to very many, many types of songs. Dancers vary from folk to early-ving the Greek hasapiko to the Russian troika, students of international folk dance are forced to embrace the culture from which each particular dance comes and are taught to perform a melange of international delights.

Alexandra Beczakis is a Journalism senior with a knack for critiquing pop culture trends.
‘Margot’ explores marriage's dark side

In “Margot at the Wedding,” Nicole Kidman plays the title character, a writer who has fallen out of touch with her family. (Zane Pan), to an island off the coast of New England, where her sister Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh) plans her own wedding. Margot, already dubious of the marriage, is horrified when the news reaches Malcolm (Jack Black). He’s not only fat and unemployed, but also sports a ridiculous mustache that he claims is “supposed to be funny.” The long-awaited reunion quickly turns into a bitter conflict that gradually tears the family apart. Margot’s spiteful nature interacts so well with Pauline and her overbearing motherliness toward Claude that the family gathering from hell.

In “Margot at the Wedding,” there are no real protagonists or antagonists, because none of the characters are very likable. Margot is a spiteful woman who puts down all her relatives to feel better about herself. Pauline is weak and desperate. Malcolm lacks ambition and self-confidence. Yet, their flaws are the source of the audience’s entertainment. Their insecurities, helplessness and misconceived personalities spark the tension that culminates in the crisis at the end of every scene.

Baumbach finds a fine line between comedy and drama as he invites the viewer to laugh about fundamentally serious matters. The tone of the movie switches from uncomfortable to extremely humorous within minutes and Black’s comic relief perfectly complements Kidman’s cold performance. Laughing at other people’s miseries, however, can only carry a movie so far. Baumbach recycles many of the formulas he used in his last movie. Margot is a female version of Bernard Bertolucci’s Haunting figure of “The Squid and the Whale.” They not only share the same profession, but have strikingly similar character traits. Both are proud, snobbish and competitive.

Meanwhile, the director employs the exact same tricks to highlight his characters’ bad faith. In his previous film, the tennis court is a battleground that destroys the Berkun family into two distinct camps. “Margot at the Wedding,” Baumbach exchanges rackets for real-let, as the whole family engages in a nasty game of croquet that brings out the worst in everyone. It works, but the fact that it’s been done before — by the same director, no less — makes it considerably less impressive.

The screenplay is riddled with well-written dialogues, but the overall structure is muddled. The film’s structure is like the tree in the backyard as an important symbol. Pauline and Malcolm plan on getting married under it and Margot used to climb it when she was a young girl. When the neighbors tell the family they want to chop the tree down, the soon-to-be-married couple vows to fight them off. When the-bodied tree is chopped down, Margot takes the tree down herself with a chainsaw, without explanation.

When it comes down to it, “Margot at the Wedding” is a poor imitation of “The Squid and the Whale.” Still, Baumbach turns the disintegration of a typically Northeastern family into an enjoyable, if not particularly moving, film.

The lines are blurred gray on The Hives' new release, “The Black and White Album.” Their newest attempt at improving and expanding upon their punk rock sound after a three-year absence almost hits the nail on the head. Almqvist’s signature “Ayeee!” only makes things worse as it tends to odebrokethrough. “The Black and White Album,” which sounds as if the amount of music’s confusion even The Hives themselves as to what their true vibe is, finds the band attempting something while still retaining traces of the old. With the addition of producers Pharrell Williams and Garret “Jacknife" Lee, The Hives have separated from their mostly indie roots and, instead, have embraced a more mainstream punk-pop sound. Despite the album’s flaws, the “Black And White Album” is saved by the dozen ideas that create an undeniable toe-tapping rhythm. On “Square One Here I Come,” drummer ChrishDangerous adds to the feel of intensity with his percussion skills, sending the unmistakable reminder of The Hives old.

“THE HIVE-SEX” produced by Williams, is by far one of the best tracks on the album. Taking back to a Prince-like opening, William’s presence is extremely apparent pushing The Hives in a completely different direction. However, he succeeds at making the track a potential party anthem and creating a fresh sound. The lead-off single of “Black and White” is “Tick Tick Boom,” and it rocks. The track is sure to satisfy fans new and old with its explosiveness — no pun intended — and catchy sing-along hooks. “Tick Tick Boom” sets the vibe for any party, and with enough listeners, will transform the room around you into one of those silhouette-dulled Times commercial.

Listeners may be confused as to what concert style the band is settling down with “A Smell Through Hrere" Corrigan’s, an instrumental attempt to break up the floor of their garage band style. However, standing down on the track is both awkward and unnecessary, and will likely lose listeners baffled.

Ultimately, The Hives have mastered versatility, whether you’re in the mood to go for a run, listen to a few tracks between classes or sit quietly and enjoy the new season of Project Runway, even this inside the place will sound that.

Listen to Hives Daily podcasts.

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Lee: Hey Sean, where have you been all day? You look sick Old Yeller.
Sean: I wish I were Old Yeller. He had the sweet release of death. I started pacing this morning. I should have done this in Los Osos. It's just that I get so stressed out this time of the year. You know what I'm talking about, bud.
Lee: Oh yeah, finals are coming up. Everyone always worries too much and freaks themselves out. You just gotta calm down, you'll do fine.
Sean: Finals! I'm a liberal arts major, Lee Barats, you silly bastard. My typical final is 15 minutes long and everyone brings a dessert. It's a cakewalk. I mean, seriously, I'm stressin' about going home over Christmas break to my entire family and trying to explain to them what I could possibly do with a liberal arts degree.
Lee: Oh come on, Sean. You're overreacting. There's no way any final exam is that easy and your family can't be that bad. Aren't they proud that you're graduating college soon?
Sean: Yes and no, except not yes. Unless my name preceded by a "Dr.," "Lord," or "The Honorable," I've disgraced the proud name of the McLintock family. Did you know my great uncle invented sex?
Lee: There's no way that's true.
Sean: Well to me, he did. And damn it, I'm proud.
Lee: Sean, it's just that a family reunion is such a tense environment. Twenty-two people sitting around while I try to answer all these impossible questions for which I'm not prepared. All the while, I keep getting distracted by the hot chick across the room. I start sweating so much that I have to excuse myself to go to the bathroom and I spend the rest of the night hugging out with the boys on the loud side of the hall. They don't ask questions.
Lee: Following in your great uncle's footsteps, eh? Sean, you've just described a normal final exam. It's really nothing to worry about. Your situation is actually less stressful than a final because even if anyone's disappointed in you, they still have to love you, right?
Sean: I wish. While your slip-ups may cause you to get a bad grade, my wrong answers have gotten me doused twice, set on fire, and put into a room with my great uncle. You can always retake a class, but you only have one opportunity at making an A to B roll. It's a few hundred bucks back to retake a class, but a will can contain up to 20 cats. Those things are priceless.

Lee: That sounds terrible, but it sounds like you just have a bad family life. Most people look forward to going home and seeing their parents. It's a break from the all-nighters and Adderall abuse. You really need to stop fretting about your family so you can approach them in a calm, composed way. You'll be prepared for any awkward question they may ask.
Sean: That's it! I need to prepare! Like a CIA agent being trained to walk into a room and overwhelm information.
Lee: No, Sean, that's the complete opposite.
Sean: Quick, ask me a personal question while threatening me with that big face.
Lee: This is weird, but all right. Um, what's your favorite color?
Sean: Um, oh God, green — no, grey. Blue, blue-grey. Yes. That's no. No, I forget about yellow. No, not the poker, oh God!
Lee: Sean, I'm not gonna hit you. It's just a color, man. What if someone asks you a really personal question? How's your love life, Sean?
Sean: It's going great, it's a wonderful — shit. She's a homely — damnit. It's an anonymity — crap. I just can't do it, Lee. I'm gonna get cleavage.
Lee: Wow, Sean. This is really messing with your head. My finals don't stress me out nearly as much as you are right now. I'd rather take fifteen finals than deal with what you do.
Sean: Fifteen finals? That's a lot of raspberry scones!
Death, depression and dealing:
How to survive a loss while in college

Laura Reeve

Disney movies have succeeded in causing every little girl to dream of the same things: charming princes, enchanted castles, ponies, documentaries on officer of Fortune, S(K) companies.

every little girl to dream of the same things: weddings. The wedding dress is a cultural landmark. The photographer in the CNN story comments on the way to the altar. They are even an ambiguous term.

Long white dresses are worn almost exclusively at one's wedding, never at a prom, for a formal event, or, God forbid, someone else's wedding. Entire magazines are devoted to the selection of the wedding dress. It eclipses every other aspect of the ceremony, including the cake, the ring, the groom and the ceremony itself. Practically all you need to get married is a dress, a priest and a Walgreens.

That's why it is so strange, in a world where TLC runs 24-hour marathons of "A Wedding Story" (it might as well be called "A Wedding Dress Story" because the dress gets 46 percent more screen time than anything else) to see the latest trend in wedding dresses: destroying them. Starting with a New York Times report early in the summer, the media has recognized the current craze of brides having pictures taken of themselves as they roll around in forests and other unlikely places, effectively trashing their gorgeous, squirrel-made gowns. A recent CNN.com report featured an Idaho resident who, three years after her wedding, was regretting her decision not to hire a photographer for her wedding day. She hired a photographer to take pictures of her "rolling around in the leaves, climbing trees, getting in the mud... whatever." All while wearing her wedding dress.

"This is my perfect opportunity," said the photographer. "To have the pictures I've always wanted." Shortly after, the photographer's wedding dress-dressed self into the rushing Boise River, emitting guttural noises that clearly meant, "this is also my second thought, in a society where the applicable term.

The photos end up looking very artistic, and occasionally very creepy. One featured in the New York Times gives the eerie impression that the bride is drowning in a murky lake. After all, the pictures they take don't feature the bride and groom glowing in matrimonial bliss. They don't feature grimy in-law, insane drunken bridesmaids. They are not pictures of the cake, or the ring or any other part of the marriage. They are pictures of destruction.

And if Disney can rework some of its old classics (Snow White bulking in a swamp?), maybe little girls everywhere will have something new to dream about.
Jo h n n y
continued from page 16

I'm thankful for Barry Bonds. Say what you want about the man — I'm sure you could say a lot — but there has never been anyone like him. We may never see a player more dialed in at the plate. He was an absolute joy to watch hit, and I am going to miss No. 25 in the middle of the Giants lineup.

I am thankful for coaches, teachers, firefights, doctors and everyone else who makes a positive impact on a daily basis. I'm thankful for great books, and the work of Rick Reilly, Jim Rome and Bill Simmons. I'm thankful for the truly talented members of the media.

I'm thankful for Cal Poly, the weather, the girls and Firestone Grill three — make that four — nights a week. I'm thankful for everyone who is playing in the NFL, who went to Cal Poly. I take great pride when I watch them play on Sundays.

I'm thankful for Pat Tillman, someone I find myself thinking about on a daily basis. Tillman is my hero, and a true inspiration for all. Times seem meaningless; their importance to this country, our service men and women, who don't get enough respect.

I'm thankful for athletics. Sports have on a community, a city, a state, a country. "Most of all I am thankful for athletics. Sports are my life, my profession and my passion. The impact sports have on a community, a city, a state, a country, is unlike anything. The passion people have in this country for youth through professional sports is uniquely special. I am thankful for those who share my passion — be it a player, coach or a fan."

So whether you sit courtside, or listen on the radio, take the final shot or just simply run the scout team, I am thankful for you.

Thank you for reading the back page of the Mustang Daily every Thursday, and Happy Holidays from Kansas City.

Daniel Seguin
SPORTS SPECIAL

Throughout the 1980s and ranging into the late '90s, the Cal Poly Rowing Club was a strong and vibrant entity existing harmoniously within the campus community.

Unfortunately, the former board and its members experienced a series of inescapable setbacks during the mid-to-late 1990s, such as alleged misappropriation of funds, as well as an outstanding ASI loan of thousands of dollars.

For the recently re-established Rowing Club’s executive board, starting off the year with a clean slate rates pretty important on their to-do list.

In the process of overcoming obstacles leftover from the past, the club needed some new members. One way to do so is by creating a new and effective board.

“Enter into the picture club president and physics junior, Florian Mettetal and vice president, team captain and history freshman Michelle Oga,” Mettetal said.

Mettetal said that between himself, Oga and the other board members, there are about a dozen people actively working to build a new and better club.

“Our Facebook group contains about 25 people, and the mailing list has about 50 people that we're in contact with,” Mettetal said. “We have a pretty big pool of people to draw from that are really interested in the club.”

Mettetal said that choosing the right school largely depended on the right materials involved, one of which revolved around the issue of campus clubs.

“I wouldn't even be at Cal Poly if it wasn't for the clubs here,” he stated.

When weighing his decision as to which university he thought he should attend, after noticing that Cal Poly had no rowing club, Mettetal envisioned starting one of his own where he could become a Mustang.

Oga recalled that she became active in rowing following a five-year involvement in the sport of gymnastics.

“I needed something that was low impact,” she said. “My body just couldn’t take the pounding of the gymnastics anymore.”

After discovering rowing, Oga said that her heart was captivated, there was no turning back.

“I absolutely fell in love with it that first day,” Oga said. “It just been a really nice transition.”

Oga said that even though her high school did not have a rowing club, as a sophomore she always found a way to stay involved in her beloved sport.

“We had to row on the Petaluma River with the small clubs,” Oga reminisced. “It was really nice because we had a great sense of family and community out there.”

As he arrived at Cal Poly, Mettetal did some research on the history and problematic situation that plagued the early club.

When scrounging through archives at the Kennedy Library, he found that the once thriving club essentially became defunct due to the fact of trying to repay the large loan amount.

“Most of their earned money went into the repayment of that loan,” Mettetal said. “So there just wasn't much left over for the club to do anything else.”

Two of the final requirements left for the Rowing Club to become officially chartered is finding an advisor and creating a Web site.

Mettetal said that as for the advisor spot, they have a strong candidate in mind.

And as for the site name, he said it will probably be calledrowing.com. It is just a matter of time now before they are up and running.

A fresh beginning for Cal Poly’s Rowing Club

MUSTANG WOMEN’S HOOPS

Thursday Night VS. San Diego State - 7 p.m.
Saturday Afternoon vs. San Diego - 2 p.m.

MUSTANG MEN’S HOOPS

Sunday Afternoon VS. Menlo College - 2 p.m.

MOTT GYM

CAL POLY BASKETBALL

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students


Thursday, November 29, 2007

www.mustangdaily.net

Greed

continued from page 16

when the league decided to keep eight games
out of its television negotiations and air them
on either Thursday or Saturday nights. The ante
was raised this year when the league included the
Cowboys-Packers matchup and the final
game of the regular season for the Patriots.
Take those games away, and there's not much

there. Wednesday's NFL Network schedule, for
example, featured a replay of the San Fran-
co–Arizona game for some reason, among four
game replays from the week before, along with
a highlights show and something called "Put
Up Your Dukes," where former offensive line-
mate Jimmie Dukes talks about football.

There is a solution in all this, but you'll
never hear it from the cable companies or the
NFL because it scares them both. Free enter-
prise usually does.

Must be enrolled at either California
S. N. A. P . The City of San Luis Obispo is currently
accepting applications for the position of Student
Neighborhood Assistance Program coordinator and
Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP) workers in the
neighborhood-parking districts. In addition, teams and solo
those time periods, or may be held over to enforce
the incident. This position is part-time temporary with no
benefits. There are currently two (2) vacancies. Work
Schedule: Members will generally work predominately,
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:30 p.m. -
2:30 a.m. Rotating shifts are available on weekdays. Employees in
this category work Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. One
or more teams of two members each will be on duty during
those time periods, or may be held over to enforce
neighborhood-parking districts. In addition, teams and solo
members may be assigned to two four hour or more blocks
during various days of the week to issue notices to correct
for various code violations, parking tickets and provide
statistical, data entry and clerical support. EMPLOYMENT
STANDARDS Must be enrolled at either California
Polytechnic State University or Cuesta College and be
carrying a class load of nine or more units. Must have an
overall GPA of 2.0 at the time of application. Must be at
least 18 years of age. Must be free of misdemeanor or felony
convictions. Misdemeanor citations may be excepted on a
case-by-case basis. Possession of a: valid California Class
"C" driver's license. Salary, $11.95 - $13.45/ hr.

Apply at www.slocity.org

Classifieds

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SHOUTOUTS

Happy 18th birthday
Brandon! You're awesome!
-Your CSA family

SHOUT OUTS! Free every Thursday!
Submit by Tuesday

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Place your ad today!

Mustang Daily
SPORTS

It's called a la carte pricing, an idea that has
been floated from time to time by the FCC,
and it works like this: Customers pick and
choose the channels they want to watch and
pay just for those channels. If you can't stand
the thought of being without Rachael Ray,
you buy the Food Channel if you want Jamie
Dukes you buy the NFL Network. You
get what you pay for. They get paid for
delivering what you want.
And for once greed doesn't triumph.

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And for once greed doesn't triumph.
Greed gets in the way of sense ...and 70 million households are the losers

Tim Dahlberg
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It's hard to take a side in this one, especially after spending the last few days locked in a battle with my cable company over a new HD receiver. And anyone who has ever tried to decipher the various charges on their cable bill knows there's nothing warm and fuzzy about the folks who bring you television service.

That said, nobody likes a bully. Either. And that's basically what the NFL has been in a dispute that will surely escalate Thursday night when the Dallas Cowboys play the Green Bay Packers.

Tony Romo versus Brett Favre. Two historic franchises in a likely preview of the NFC championship game. One of the best two or three games of the year.

And 70 million households unable to watch it.

The sad thing is, it never had to come to this. The bad thing is, it gets worse — those same households also won't be able to watch Dec. 29 when the undefeated New England Patriot just might be making history in their final game of the season against the New York Giants.

Who's to blame? Depends on who you ask.

Greed, though, seems to be the common denominator.

"It's definitely a power struggle between two very strong forces," said Dave Solomon, a former ABC executive who runs a television consulting business. "The question is, do eight games at the end of the day justify distribution at the amount of money that they're asking for to the much larger cable universe?"

The issue is complex, so complex that Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is asking Congress to get involved. I sign Shotwell to the NFL Network until last year.

There was a time, not so long ago, when anyone with a television set and an antenna could watch pretty much everything the NFL had to offer. But little by little the games are being shifted to spots where you have to pay in some way to watch them, part of a trend in all sports to squeeze even more money out of the average fan.

Ever wonder where ESPN got all that money to get the Monday Night Football package? You may not know it, but you're paying three or four bucks a month for the right to watch the sports network.

No one paid much attention to the NFL Network until last year.

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There are currently four former Mustangs in the NFL — Shortwell, Gocong, linebacker Jordan Beck (Denver) and safety Courtney Brown (Dallas).

It's official: Eagles sign Shotwell to practice squad

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles signed linebacker Kyle Shortwell to the practice squad Wednesday.

The 6-foot-1, 240-pound Shortwell replaces linebacker William Kershaw, who was signed by the Houston Texans.

Shortwell was a teammate of Eagles linebacker Chris Gocong at Cal Poly, where he ranked second in career tackles with 392 and eighth with 17 sacks.

The Buck Buchanan Award winner as the top defensive player in Division I-AA in 2006, Shortwell was signed as a rookie free agent by the Oakland Raiders after this year's draft.

Shortwell is currently the only linebacker on the Eagles' practice squad. Since the regular season began, four players from the team's practice squad have made one active NFL roster or another.

In a very close match in Titan Gym Wednesday night, the Cal Poly wrestling team topped Cal State Fullerton, 18-17. This puts Poly at 1-0 in dual meets overall this season and 1-0 in Pac-10 duals. Chad Mendes (above) is shown in the 2005 nationals.

WRESTLING

Johnny in the Box

John Middelkauff

So much to be thankful for!

Not being with my family and friends for the holidays has really helped me reflect on all aspects of life. These times have helped me really put things into perspective and let me realize the people who are important in my life. It's helped me put things into focus, where I am and helped me stay focused on where I am going.

The annual Thanksgiving column, where I list off the many things I am thankful for. During times of deep reflection, I reflect on truly lucky I am, and how much I actually have to be thankful for.

First and foremost I have to talk about my parents. I'm so thankful for my dad and mom. They have given me everything that I have, taught me about life and put me in a position to succeed from day one. I would be nothing without them.

I'm thankful for coach Edwards, his staff and the Kansas City Chiefs for taking a chance on a kid from California. The passion this coach has for his players, the organization and everyone else he comes across is unmatched. The lessons I have learned from these men have been invaluable.

I am thankful for our offensive coordinator, Mike Solari, who is in charge of the worst statistically offensive team in the NFL, yet works harder than any man I know. The media is calling for his head and people within the building question his ability, yet he still shows up with a smile on his face. He goes out of his way to show me respect, when he doesn't even need to acknowledge my presence. I'm thankful for Chase Daniel and Todd Reesing for making two pro-type quarterbacks in our primary and two backups who have that "it" factor.

I'm thankful for witnessing the rivalry that is Kansas and Missouri, hatred and bitterness that has been around since the Civil War. This rivalry is something Californians can't comprehend, a passion that doesn't exist on the West Coast. I'm thankful for Chase Daniel and Todd Reesing for making two pro-type quarterbacks in our primary and two backups who have that "it" factor.

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