University implements new emergency text message system

Jennifer Hall
MUSTANG DAILY

Students can rest easier now that a new emergency text messaging system is up and running at Cal Poly. The Cal Poly Emergency Notification System is a service that allows the University Police Department to send text messages to students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency posing an imminent physical threat to the campus community.

"If there was an earthquake or a shooting, then we could get information to people right away and let them know what to do," said Vicki Stover, associate vice president of Administration.

The university began testing the system, provided by the notification company AlertMedia, during the last two weeks of fall quarter in 2007. It became available to people still on campus at the end of the quarter.

The service is an opt-in system that students, faculty and staff can sign up for through the Cal Poly portal at my.calpoly.edu. As of Tuesday, 938 people had signed up for the system.

"We're constantly looking at what we need to do with emergency communication," Stover said. "One of the areas we saw we could improve on was this system.

The recent Virginia Tech shooting prompted the university to look into this service, which is used by several other universities across the United States, she said.

An announcement will be placed on the homepage of the Cal Poly portal at the beginning of each quarter to allow students to sign up for the system. The link is available through the personal information tab at all times.

The service allows the University Police Department to send alerts to students via SMS text messaging, RSS, PDA, e-mail, and Google, AOL or My Yahoo Web pages.

"Some people don't use texting," Stover said. "So we're going to use multiple ways of notifying people.

All that is needed to sign up is a cell phone number; the subscriber can add e-mail addresses, RSS feeds or additional Web pages after the account is created. The service is free to sub-scribers, although some individual cell-carriers may charge messaging rates.

"I think it's a great idea," general engineering freshman Brian Kane said. "It provides peace of mind for students.

Subscribers can join two separate groups: on-campus students or off-campus students, faculty and staff. This allows police to send messages exclusively to on-campus students, off-campus subscribers see Notifications, page 2.

Students who register for the Emergency Notification System can expect to receive a text message like this one.

LAUREN RAINADO MUSTANG DAILY

Governor wants constitutional amendment to expand budget power

Laura Kurtzman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Saying "the wolf is back" at the door, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger plans to propose a constitutional amendment in his State of the State address Tuesday that would give him more power to cut the state budget.

Aides say the governor wants to be able to reduce spending in the middle of the year when revenues are falling and bank surpluses in years when tax receipts come in higher than expected to avoid large deficits like the one he is now facing.

"We cannot continue to put people through the binge and purge of our budget process," Schwarzenegger said in part of his prepared speech, which were released by his office. "It is not fair. It is not reasonable. It is not in the best interest of anyone."

Revenues have tailed off with the slowing economy, and Schwarzenegger is grappling with a projected $14 billion budget gap over the next 18 months.

The governor plans to declare a fiscal state of emergency to force lawmakers to deal with the shortfall in the current year's budget. The constitutional amendment, which must get to a popular vote, is aimed at controlling budget shortfalls in future years.

On Thursday, he will propose a budget for the next fiscal year that will close the deficit with spending cuts instead of tax increases.

"To address next year's $14 billion deficit, in two days I will submit a budget that is difficult," he said in his prepared remarks. "It does not raise taxes. It cuts the increase in spending. And it cuts that spending across the board."

Democrats said the cuts would imperil critical state services, such as education and public health programs, and they want tax increases to be part of the mix.

They have floated a variety of ideas, including raising the vehicle license fee, which Schwarzenegger scaled back when he first took office. That reduced state revenue by about $6 billion a year in today's terms.

"We are challenging Governor Schwarzenegger and our Republican colleagues to join us in reining the conversation," Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said in a statement.

The governor's strategy: hope the Democrats' alliance with Schwarzenegger late last year over a plan to expand health coverage to millions of uninsured Californians will prevent them from launching an all-out war over his proposed cuts.

But even the Democratic interest groups with a big stake in health reform aren't sounding the alarm.

They say they will not abandon their defense of current programs, including Medicare.

see Governor, page 2

Hearing set for homicide

Raiza Canelon
MUSTANG DAILY

The preliminary hearing for the homicide of Joshua Justin Davis Houlgate, 36, of San Luis Obispo, will take place Thursday, Jan. 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo County Court-house. The preliminary hearing will preview the case against alleged sus­pects Patrick Wollert, 18, and Chad Westbrook, 35. The judge will decide if there is evidence sufficient for trial.

Police said Houlgate was found lying face-down in the driveway of resi­dence No. 40 in the Occoamine Mo­bile Home Park at 1121 Orcutt Rd. on Dec. 6, 2007 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

When officers arrived on the scene, Houlgate was already dead from an apparent gunshot wound, according to detectives from the San Luis Obispo Police Department and the Sheriff's Department.

Wollert and Westbrook were arrest­ed Dec. 7 and charged with Houlgate's murder as well as additional charges of assault with a deadly weapon. Both suspects were apparently seen prior to the shooting, attacking Houlgate and another unidentified person and beat­ing them with clubbing devices.

The cause of Houlgate's death from the autopsy report was determined to be from a single shot from a 12-gauge shotgun to the chest.

Anyone with any information about the crime is asked to call the San Luis Obispo Police Department Homicide Tip Line at 783-7800.
Clinton, McCain win New Hampshire primaries, trailed by Obama, Romney

Mike Mokrzycki
ASSOCIATED PRESS

She also ran about even with John Edwards among voters who emphasized that a candidate "cares about people like me" while Obama trailed on that score. Few voters acknowledged electability as a top factor.

Registered independents, who could choose between the two parties' primaries, had been seen as a key to victory in both races in New Hampshire but proved to be more of a factor on the Republican side.

The exit polls found six in 10 independents opted for the Democratic contest and Obama led among them, but voters who usually consider themselves Democrats went for Clinton over Obama by 10 points after splitting evenly between the two in Iowa.

A third of Republican primary voters called themselves independent, and McCain easily outpaced Romney among them.

Romney beat McCain 38 percent to 30 percent among the more than half of Republican primary voters who called themselves conservative, but McCain won nearly 2-to-1 among moderates and the 11 percent who were self-described liberals.

In 10 Republican primaries it was said it was most important to them that a candidate "says what he believes" and a quarter picked "has the right experience." McCain won about half the votes of both groups.

More than a third of Republican voters said the top quality was that the candidate "shares my values," while Romney led among that group with 38 percent. About 20 percent of these values voters favored Mike Huckabee.

Huckabee could not repeat his success last week in the Iowa caucuses because there were far fewer voters in New Hampshire as in Iowa among the youngest voters, winning 60 percent of those age 18-24. But Clinton ran about even with Obama among 25-to-29-year-olds in New Hampshire, in Iowa more than half of that age group backed Obama. And Clinton prevailed Tuesday among the largest age group, 40-49, and seniors.

Clinton also won sufficient backing as a candidate of change — blasting Obama's advantage on a central thrust of his campaign — and combined it with support for her experience and empathy to give her a great deal that a candidate shares their religious beliefs. Romney also beat Huckabee 2-to-1 in New Hampshire among very conservative voters, who had favored Huckabee in Iowa.

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celebritynews

Fashion Police

A decade after singing out the Spice Girls' fashion antics, Mr. Blackwell put just one of them — Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham — at the top of his 49th annual worst-dressed list.

The acid-tongued critic, who designed dresses for the rich and famous when he originated the list in 1969, skewered entertainment's biggest stars in the latest compilation of fashion follies, including Fergie, Kelly Clarkson, Lindsay Lohan and Jessica Simpson.

Insisting it's all fun to encourage fashion consciousness, Blackwell hung up reasons on Beckham, his No. 1 choice on the list released Tuesday.

The top 10 hill-call of fashion disohners also included:

• No. 2. Amy Winehouse — "Exploding beehives above, tacky polka-dot below, she's part 50's carhop horne."

• No. 3. Mary Kate Olsen — "She resembles a tattered toothpick-trapped in a hurricane."

• No. 4. Fergie — "Yes, when it comes to couture, guess it's all in a name!"

The rest of the top 10 list included Kelly Clarkson, Eva Green, Audra Lavigne, Jessica Simpson, Lindsay Lohan and Alison Argrim.

Baby Hunt?

Madonna visited a crowded Mumbai slum Tuesday, where impoverished residents showered her with rose and marigold petals.

Madonna didn't speak to journalists, and a New York-based spokeswoman for the 49-year-old singer wasn't immediately available for comment.

Millions of people live in makeshift huts in slums along railway lines and roads in Mumbai, India's financial capital, including Fergie, Kelly Clarkson, Lindsay Lohan and Jessica Simpson.

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Irresponsible driving.

Actor Dennis Dennehy, said Tuesday. "He has since been released and is doing well recovering at home."

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Friends mourn woman who was slain and mutilated

Paul J. Webber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friends and family of a 21-year-old who police say was killed and mutilated by her boyfriend tried to put aside the grisly details of her death.

"You can't sleep. You can't think straight anymore," said Amy Gage, a friend and neighbor of the victim, Jani Skeen. "Then you just keep finding out more and more. It's the most difficult thing anyone can go through."

Skeen's boyfriend, Christopher Lee McCuin, 25, was charged with capital murder after police said they found her body, an ear boating in a pot on a stove top, and a hunk of flesh with a fork in it on a plate at the crime scene.

McCuin, wearing a jail-issue red jumpsuit, was not asked to enter a plea as he appeared before state District Judge Jack Skeen Jr. on Monday.

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You know what it's like when a
new television show that you've
ever actually looked at is canceled
early on. It sucks. It's disappointing
and anticlimactic.

"Greg the Banny" is the stan-
dard example: I hear people jump
to when discussing good shows that
were canceled. It was quirky to the
point of being ridiculous — and
definitely not politically correct.
People loved it, but after 13 epi-
sodes, it was canceled.

However, this week I would like
to discuss another show, a show
people may have overlooked (or
perhaps it went over their heads).
Either way, it is a show that my en-
tire family fell madly in love with
last summer, only to be devastated
by its cancellation after only one
season. I am speaking of "John
From Cincinnati."

For those of you who didn't
watch it, do you have any
idea what things I don't.
It is hard for me to understand
exactly why it did not catch on
and satisfy the majority of HBO
audiences; I can not help but as-
sume that the nature of the show
was just a little more "out there"
that the average American viewer
could handle. "John From Cincin-
nati" is not a show to have on in
the background as noise and filler.
It is theater. It is mind-expanding.
It is meant to be watched repeat-
edly, contemplated and discussed.
"John From Cincinnati" is filled
with mystery and with spiritual
ideas that remain unsolved, never
to be touched on again now that
the show has been canceled, and
that is frustrating to a devoted fan.
Luckily the first season will be re-
leased on DVD later this year.

DVD releases seem to be the
only comfort available to fans of
canceled television shows. For fans
that just can't let go of a beloved
television show once it's been
put to rest, DVDs are the answer.
I know I'll be in for a copy of
"John From Cincinnati" once it is
released. Then my family can sit
and watch together while remi-
niscing about that carefree time
last summer, before HBO can-
celled our favorite show, crushing
all our hopes and dreams.

Thursday, January 10
Resume Clinic
Bring your resume to have it reviewed.
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/117

Tuesday, January 15
Interview Skills Workshop
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/224

Tuesday, January 15
Wi-Hire Workshop
Leverage technology, brand yourself online, and get that job.
11 - noon, Business Silo, 03/213

Wednesday, January 16
Careers in Sales
5 - 6, Bishop's Lounge, University Union 208

Wednesday & Thursday, January 16 & 17

Winter Job Fair
Networking 9:30 - 2, Interviews 2 - 5:30
Chumash Auditorium

Wednesday, January 23

Working Lunches - Workplace
Etiquette: Email to Emotions
noon -1, Career Services, 124/224

Thursday, January 24
Engineering Careers in Sustainability
11 - 1:30, Advanced Technology Lab, 007/ATL

Tuesday, January 29
Summer Internship Panel, Orfalea
College of Business Students
Learn tips and strategies for landing a summer internship!
4 - 5:30, University Union 220

Career Services
Division of Student Affairs
Cal Poly, Building 124
805-756-2501
www.careerservices.calpoly.edu

Thursday, February 13
Interview Skills Workshop
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/224

Tuesday, February 19
Resume Clinic
Bring your resume to have it reviewed.
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/117

Thursday, February 21
Biotech Industry Career Day
Panel 1 - 2, Networking 2 - 3:30, PAC Lobby

Wednesday, February 27

Working Lunches - Gen Y: Navigating
a Multigenerational Workplace
noon -1, Career Services, 124/224

Thursday, February 28
Architecture & Env. Design Job Fair
Networking 10 - 1, Interviews 2 - 4:30
Chumash Auditorium

Wednesday, March 5
Working Lunches - Job Offer Ethics:
Accepting & Reneging Offers
noon -1, Career Services, 124/224

All Quarter
Need a job? Logon to my.calpoly.edu & click on
Mustang Jobs to:
• Sign up for On-Campus Interviews for career, summer & co-op positions - Interviews begin January 28th
• Find out about Company Information Sessions, Information Sessions Begin January 28 and are open to all students!
• View the list of employers coming to the job fair, see the job descriptions and RSVP for the event!
• View job listings for career, co-op, summer, local part-time or on-campus jobs!
If director Joe Wright continues making films as good as "Atonement," the Academy will have to start engraving his name into an Oscar.

Although you may not recognize his name yet, you may remember his critically-acclaimed directorial debut, the 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." And now with his second film, "Atonement," Wright was honored to not only have the film open the Venice International Film Festival, but then, also get seven Golden Globe nominations including Best Picture and Best Director. Clearly he's done something right.

But "Atonement" isn't all about Wright. After all, it is, like his first film, an adaptation, this time of a novel by Ian McEwan. "Atonement" tells the 1940s story of a young girl named Briony who has an imagination a bit too large for her small brain. Briony has done, she begins seeking atonement for her actions.

And although Keira Knightley, who plays Briony's sister, is a big-name celebrity for Wright to use, there's no denying that she's an amazing actress who has been endlessly praised in British films like "Atonement" and continues to inch toward her first Oscar. Knightley and McAvoy, although not given much time together in the story, develop an immediate chemistry that the audience holds on to the rest of the film (as do the characters themselves once separated).

And as it's becoming a trademark for Wright — he teamed with Dario Marianelli to compose what is by far the best soundtrack — Wright steps in and adds his own flare that makes the story work better than the book ever could. But Wright didn't only have a grand story of love, forgiveness and separation in his arsenal. As he did in "Pride and Prejudice," Wright used a cast that he knew consisted of extraordinary actors, not extraordinary celebrities.

Although you may not know him yet, McAvoy is one of the most lovable young actors from Scotland who is more versatile than most young American actors. As always, he delivers a strong performance in "Atonement," but it sadly wasn't the kind of role to improve upon his prior brilliant performance in "The Last King of Scotland." And although Keira Knightley, who plays Briony's sister, is a big-name celebrity for Wright to use, there's no denying that she's an amazing actress who has been cast endlessly in British films like "Atonement" and continues to inch toward her first Oscar.

Although the crime? Raping her friend (not the kind of crime you want to mistakenly accuse someone of committing). The effect of Briony's oversized imagination? Her sister will never forgive herself, that makes the film so powerful and memorable, despite the depressing turns the story takes.

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And as it's becoming a trademark for Wright — he teamed with Dario Marianelli to compose what is by far the best soundtrack of the year (the Golden Globes agree as well). It not only sounds as beautiful and emotional as the cinematography that it's set to, but it actually enhances the storytelling by incorporating sound effects that coincide with the film. And who doesn't love intense strings playing alongside a delicate piano melody?

When all of this comes together — the cast, story and soundtrack — Wright steps in and adds his own flare that makes the story work better than the book ever could. Using his style of long, extended shots that require an unbelievable amount of preparation and vision, Wright invites the audience into scenes, allowing them to look around and simply explore the whole setting. When the film starts playing around with the timeline like a TiVo remove, it's obvious that each shot was envisioned, shot and edited with precision; otherwise it would have made no sense. Bravo.

But the flow from the first act to the second is a bit awkward, and it takes a running start to get into the second half of the film due to some editing issues. And although the script is daring in the way it plays with the timeline throughout the film, the audience is, for the most part, kept onboard.

As lovely as each Golden Globe nomination and subsequent Oscar nominations are and will be for Wright and his cast and crew, it's hard to say whether this young, ambitious director will come away with anything other than a great film. But it's that ambition, that ability to make fresh, innovative films that are powerful from all angles, that make him vulnerable to losing his touch. Take the young, ambitious directors M. Night Shyamalan, Darren Aronofsky, Kevin Smith, Chris Nolan and Paul Thomas Anderson. Is he to follow the same path, one in which his few breakout films will remain his best?

And even though "Atonement" was crafted with such care and attention to detail, the Magic 8 Ball still says, "Ask again later."

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**Buy your textbooks directly from other Cal Poly students... instead of getting bent over by the local bookstores... again.**

Screwthebookstore.com is a FREE online student-to-student textbook exchange for Cal Poly students. It was designed to put a stop to the local bookstores’ unfair, non-competitive buyback policies by giving Cal Poly students an effective way to sell their used books directly to fellow students. Sellers on average make 3x the amount of the bookstores’ buyback price while at the same time buyers pay 40% less than the bookstores charge. Buyer and seller can each save an average of $20 per book by selling directly to another student. We’ve had reports of some students saving up to $80 on one book! There is little or no risk. If you are unsuccessful selling to another student this quarter you can always sell to the bookstore later and get a few bucks.

**WWW.SCREWTHEBOOKSTORE.COM**
"Strings," the newest album from COH (aka Ivan Pavlov), shows the beauty of a well-crafted production.

The word "tectonic" is often used to describe items of high craft with attention to construction. The origins of this word come from many places, notably the Greek words toilet (builder) and tinos (roof and implying space). Tectonics, no doubt, raises attention where it is most needed, around architecture. The artists on Germany's Raster-Noton imprint are architects, and they, too, know the meaning and importance of this word. Their materials are instruments and recording technology — rather than steel and concrete — but the methodology is the same. Through their materials they create space that is experienced through audio and visual media, while at the same time communicating their methods of construction. The label's newest release, COH's "Strings," does just that.

COH is the recording name of Ivan Pavlov. Pavlov has released more than a dozen albums and "Strings" will be his 19th and perhaps strongest statement. The songs composed for specific instruments shine light on the sonic properties of the complex mechanisms themselves.

The two discs that make up "Strings" are housed in what at first appears to be a complex folded-paper casing. However, upon unfolding the object its simplicity is beautifully exposed: a single piece of cardboard with slits cut into it to hold each disc. This is then folded over twice to make a package that is not only artistic but also efficient to mass produce and distribute. Disc one is divided into three parts. Part one is composed for computers and piano parts two and guitar and part three for the oud. Part one begins slowly with minimal staccato keys, producing ripples in a thin air of computer ambiance. The tempo picks up as the album moves into the second part.

In the second track, "Andante Fácil," the guitar is introduced into the mix. The guitar is treated with tremolo and gradually crescendos along with the slightest piano accents to add more percussive quality to the pulse. As layers build, the song reaches a frantic pace, unable to support its own weight. The inevitable degradation of sound catches up and the song reaches its breaking point and the pounding thump that once pulled you in is gone, leaving you lost in a haze of digital detritus. As if recovering from a short circuit, the guitar picks up again — but in vain, only to be swept away again by an even stronger wave of bit reduction.

To some extent, the episode feels like a battle between the instrument and the medium. The instrument starts out strong, liberated by the freedoms and versatility offered by the electronics. We can hear and, more importantly, feel the guitar and piano think. As the track progresses, though, it collapses under its own weight, eroding from the memory of the hard drive.

While part three and the single track on disc two lack the conflicting climax of parts one and two, they are effective in that they render the textual qualities of the oud into the ambiance. The oud penetrates the same thin air as the piano did in part one, but this time creating a warmer and denser atmosphere. The rattle of the oud's hollow body is heard in every measure, its natural cycles ruled by its own internal logic. The structure of each song is deeply rooted in the organization of the instrument used to play it as well as the medium it is acted on in. When these things are out of sync, the piece's weaknesses are revealed, adding more richness and depth through error. The moments when the songs break apart are the places we can begin to look and try to understand in nature.

What makes "Strings" and other Raster-Noton releases so significant is not only the talented musicianship but their understanding of music and medium's importance and place in society.

Paul Campisi is an architecture junior and music director for KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM.
It could be a bad year for Republicans

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school. I hope you’ve all had a wonderful break. I know many of you are looking forward to this year, especially those graduating seniors. Of course, most of us wish we were back at home snacking on Grandma’s cookies and sleeping until noon, but alas, all good things must come to an end.

Unfortunately for my fellow Republicans and me, this year does not seem to bode well for our election hopes. While most Republicans seem to be relieved that Hillary Clinton lost in Iowa, a lot of us were actually slightly disappointed, although we won’t admit it. Don’t get me wrong, we love to see Clinton lose and we would never want her to be president. However, most of us were really rooting for a showdown with her this fall because Clinton is someone we know that we oppose. Most Republicans, myself included, naturally assumed that Clinton would automatically get the Democratic nomination. We were also counting on the fact that she would draw more Republican voters out, simply because they opposed her. The game plan was simple; in the fall, Republicans would launch a massive and effective anti-Clinton campaign that would propel a Republican into the presidency. It wouldn’t matter which candidate, just as long as it wasn’t Clinton.

Now this Obama guy is throwing a monkey wrench into the whole Republican plan. Yes, Obama definitely has his faults, but they’re harder to attack. To most voters, Barack Obama seems to be a nice young guy who seems weirdly charismatic. Never mind the fact that the guy always talks in generalities and never seems to give any specifics. He also doesn’t seem to have very much experience, something that most political analysts consider a negative, but which, ironically, many in the American public consider a positive. If Obama were to win the Democratic presidential nomination, it seems he would have a much greater chance of defeating a Republican contender than Clinton. For instance, in polling data collected by RealClearPolitics.com, which averages several national polls, Obama holds a much greater chance to defeat a Republican contender than Giuliani. Mike Huckabee, Fred Thompson, and Mitt Romney all trail Obama in an election match-up by more than 10 percent. After all, McCain (surprisingly) would be tied against Obama in a mock election.

On the Republican side of things, the situation seems to be a mess with no candidate having a clear advantage. Of course, this is Mike Huckabee, preacher and governor of Arkansas, who seems to be on a roll after winning Iowa. Mike seems to be a nice guy, a clever speaker and a media darling, making recent appearances on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” and “The Colbert Report.” However, he seems more equipped to be a high school football coach rather than a real presidential contender. Also, the community college debate’s win really concerns many mainstream Republicans who consider themselves part of the Reaganesque coalition, a coalition that combines the interests of both social conservatives and economic libertarians. While Mike Huckabee certainly makes legitimate appeals to social conservatives with a strong pro-life record, he completely ignores the interests of economic libertarians, who want smaller government and less taxes. If it weren’t for his positions on social issues, Mike Huckabee’s rhetoric on economics is nearly identical to John Edwards; they both complain about a shrinking middle class and corporate greed.

On a side note, it is true the middle class is shrinking — the percentage of Americans making between $30,000 to $100,000 a year is less now than it was in 1979 — but according to economist Stephen Rose and columnist George Will, the percentage of Americans earning more than $100,000 a year has doubled while the percentage of Americans making less than $30,000 remains unchanged.

Continuing on, Mike Huckabee has no foreign policy experience, something that most Republicans consider a vital prerequisite, and, on top of all of this, he freely admits that he doesn’t believe in human evolution.

Of course, it is unlikely that Mike Huckabee will win the Republican nomination, but his success so far bothers me and many other Republican leaders. While the real presidential election isn’t until November, which ever Republican candidate wins the nomination will have a difficult battle ahead of him, especially if it is against Barack Obama.

Brian Eller is a materials engineering senior and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.
From triumph to tragedy and everything in between

A lot has happened in politics over the past month, so rather than expounding about one political headline while ignoring all the others, I've compiled a list of what I think are the most notable political events, ranging from the most uplifting stories to the most tragic.

The most positive political news: Averting total war with Iran

While everyone was freaking out during finals week, a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) was released that revealed Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003 and can't develop weapons until 2013. —assuming they want to. Now, if it was possible to make the Bush administration think any smarter, then the NIE certainly did that, especially considering that in October, the President grudgingly brought up the possibility of "World War III" with Iran. Fortunately, the Bush administration's loss is a gain for the United States and its work in promoting peace since we now won't have to shell out billions of dollars to undertake another pointless war that will kill thousands of civilians and soldiers. I definitely consider Bush's "make-y-yola" credibility meltdown at the hands of the NIE the news for the country.

Another positive event that deserves mention is Barack Obama's resounding victory in Iowa. I say this because, even if your favorite candidate didn't win, Obama's victory is indicative of how far American society has progressed. I don't think many imagined that a Midwestern state like Iowa, which nearly elected Preacher Pat Robertson in 1988 and the United States because of their birthplace, would even consider voting for a Democrat for President. Obama's win demonstrates that we are a nation with hope and change.

The most disappointing political news: Ron Paul's political misconceptions

So far Ron Paul has been the only Republican presidential candidate that actually makes sense on many of the issues. Hell, listening to Paul oppose the Iraq War and the use of torture on Constitutional grounds almost makes me want to support him. Unfortunately, Paul's views on race are just as reprehensible as his views on warfare. Paul has some serious misconceptions about how to combat racism in the United States because of their birthplace. For example, Paul claims that the Civil Rights Act have all helped to lessen the amount of discrimination against African Americans, but the Act has done very little to help African Americans achieve the same level of economic and social status as whites. In addition, Paul has some serious misconceptions about how to combat racism in America. According to his Web site ronpaul2008.com, he states, "Government as an instrument is particularly ill-suited to combat bigotry." Here, Paul's view on limiting government intervention is just flat wrong, since events like the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education rulings in 1954 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act have all helped to lessen the amount of discrimination that minority groups face today.

The most tragic political news: The assassination of Benazir Bhutto

Horrifically, I really shouldn't call it the most tragic news, considering events like the death of Natalie Sartreys, a 17-year-old girl who died when her multibillion dollar health insurance company (Cigna) wouldn't pay for her liver transplant, have also occurred. Fortunately, when I think about Bhutto's death, it's hard to begin to express the immense loss the Pakistani people and international community have suffered. I guess my speechlessness is yet another testament to her powerful Democratic efforts, since it shows how much she meant to so many of people around the world.

The most absurd political news: The New York Times' recent choice of editorialists

Apparently The New York Times has lost its mind because of all the bright and insightful writers they could have recently hired, they instead chose neoconservative, chickenhawk Bill Kristol and Russian dictator. I mean, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. In case you are unaware, Bill Kristol was once a member of the ultra-conservative think tank PNAC (Project for the New American Century), where he worked with such "intellectuals" as Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz. Consequently, Kristol has been one of the biggest cheerleaders of the Bush administration over the past eight years and therefore nearly everything he's written about has been wrong. Looking at this choice, the Times must have figured, "The hell with journalistic integrity and accountability, let's get ourselves a fearmonger!"

However, as bad as Kristol is, the Putin selection is far worse considering how he has viciously silenced all dissent and limited the rights of the Russian people to speak out against him. According to The Independent, 20 journalists critical of the Russian government have been killed since Putin assumed control in 2000. Sadly, this fact isn't all that surprising considering Putin was once a KGB agent, nonetheless, the Times should be ashamed of itself for hiring this fascist who contradicts nearly everything the paper stands for.

Holiday drunkenness exposed online

Chiquetle Marrow

The most absurd political news: The New York Times' recent choice of editorialists

Thinking Cap

by Patrick Mohar

Holiday drunkenness exposed online

Chiquette Marrow

THE MUSTANG DAILY OPINION

After getting all dressed up, she heads over to the pre-party. There are 15,000 students who live on campus, so it's not hard to find a house, frat bar or night club because the same scenario unfold. It starts with a few beers, then some cocktails interposed with several rounds of shots with her friends. She is having an awesome time. But she should be, right? That's what all the pre-party liquor was for.

She begins slurring her words and stumbling, giggling at her own jokes. She is making her way to the bathroom. Yet another testament to her powerful Democratic efforts, since it shows how much she means to so many of people around the world.

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries. Send your commentaries of about 500 words (and an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Patrick Mohar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.
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**Goose continued from page 12**

his final time on the ballot. The last player elected in his final year on the ballot was Ralph Kiner in 1973. "I think Jim Rice does belong in the Hall of Fame," Gossage said. "No better cartered, but Jim Rice came the closest.

Andre Dawson was third with 358 votes (65.9 percent), followed by Bert Blyelevens at 336 (61.9 per cent), Lee Smith at 235 (43.3 percent) and Jack Morris at 233 (42.9 percent). "We are those players that are on the bubble can have opinions, and it does really no good to vent or get angry because it's out of our hands," said Blyelevens, whose percentage rose from 47.7 last year. "I know Goose vented a little bit last year, and Jim Rice will probably vent this year. I have four more years. For some reason they make some of these guys like Gossage and Bruce Sutter wait. Like Goose said, he's not going to save any more games."

Tim Raines topped the 11 newcomers on the ballot, receiving 132 votes (24.3 percent). All of the others appearing for the first time fell below the 5 percent necessary to remain on the ballot next year.

Gossage will be inducted July 27 in Cooperstown, joined by five men elected last month by the revamped Veterans Committee: former commissioner Bowie Kuhn, former Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, managers Dick Williams and Billy Southworth and ex-Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss.

Williams managed Gossage on the San Diego Padres, helping them win the 1984 NL pennant. "There isn't anybody I'd rather go in with than Dick Williams," said Gossage, who spoke with his former manager right after getting the news.

**Break continued from page 12**

Fullerton at 7 p.m. Thursday in their first home game since Dec. 12.

Mendes still unbeaten

Chad Mendes didn't lose over break. In fact, Cal Poly's highest-ranked wrestler hasn't lost at all this season.

Mendes (16-0), the third-ranked 141-pounder in the country, won by forfeit Friday as the Mustangs 3-3, 2-1 Pac-10 defeated undefeated Oregon 25-15 at Mott Gym. He wasn't fully healthy in his own right, though, as he is still recovering from a broken nose.

"We've basically granted him practices so he can get conditioning back up and keep his wrestling skills going without having to harm his nose," Cal Poly assistant coach Sammie Henson said Monday. "We also have a facemask for him but it hinders his breathing."

Overcoming the ailment shouldn't hinder the latter stages of Mendes' season, though, Henson added.

"He'll be there at the end," Henson said. "He's going to surprise a lot of people in the nation."

Cal Poly won six of 10 matches in its second conference victory of the season.

- At 197 pounds, Amurto Basulto claimed a 3-1 decision for the Mustangs over Shaun Dee. Chase Bami, the tenth-ranked 157-pound grappler in the nation, won a major decision 15-3 over Oregon's Elliot Trace.
- Prior to facing the Ducks, Cal Poly lost 24-12 to West Virginia on Thursday.

"West Virginia showed us our weaknesses," said Henson, who added that his team lost some of its focus over break.

The Mustangs will try to demonstrate that they've regained some of it when they hit the mat at 7 p.m. Friday, hosting Arizona State, before hosting No. 25 Boise State at 2 p.m. Sunday.

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MUSTANG DAILY

Although the Cal Poly men's basketball team has struggled shooting the ball from virtually everywhere on the floor, the Mustangs got their first Big West Conference win Saturday, topping Long Beach State 64-52 at Mott Gym.

"We definitely needed the win on Saturday," Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said Monday. "We were excited to have four guys in double figures scoring — we might be the only team in America that doesn't have a guy in double figures scoring (averages for the season)."

Sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler came off the bench to hit 6 of 10 shots from the floor to lead Cal Poly (6-8, 1-1 BWC) with 14 points. Fellow guards Dawn Whiten and Chaz Thomas added 11 points to the Mustangs' cause, and center Titus Shelton chipped in 10 points of his own, respectively.

Junior guard Trae Clark, who leads the Mustangs with 16.3 points per game, finished with five rebounds and five assists.

While Cal Poly was off the perimeter hitting just 3 of its 15 attempts from beyond the 3-point line, and was outrebounded 34-29, the Mustangs' win over the Mustangs, and connected on four fewer free throws in the loss.

"You have to eliminate bad shots without a doubt," Bromley said of his team's shot selection. "It's not a science — it's an art. This team has to be balanced with 3-point shot, double penetration and post play."

Long Beach State, which turned the ball over 22 times, fielded a starting lineup without a single senior.

The reserves squad, which Bromley said is "just a really good basketball team," was a vastly different one than the version that vanquished Cal Poly 94-83 March 10, 2007 in the Big West Tournament final in Anaheim.

All nine of that conference champion's leading scorers are no longer with the team, coached by first-year helmsman Kian Monson.

"They're going to struggle a bit because of losing nine guys," Bromley said.

Just the same, though, the Mustangs' win was a much-needed band-aid amidst a campaign in which they have encountered difficulty finding an identity offensively.

"We shared the basketball really well, and had a low turnover game," Bromley added. "There are some things to build on there."

Besides the Long Beach State win, the Mustangs only win over the break was a 16-56 home victory Dec. 15 over Cal State Bakersfield, a team still in transition from Division II.

They came up short in their first conference contest of the season, falling 80-59 Thursday to Cal State Northridge.

"In the Northridge game we shot ourselves in the foot," Bromley said, alluding to going just 19-of-28 from the free-throw line as Northridge's credit, they're as good as UMass, Arizona State and USC. They're as quick as any team we've played in converting a turnover into a layup."

The Mustangs will look for their second straight conference win when they tip off at Cal State Fullerton at 7 p.m. Thursday.

McBride named Big West Player of the Week, Harrison not far behind

A talented forward duo has led the Cal Poly women's basketball team to wins in its first two Big West Conference outings of the season.

Following a six-game losing skid stretching from Nov. 29 to Dec. 18, the Mustangs won 78-66 at Cal State Northridge on Thursday, before heading down the road to Long Beach State to win 76-69 Saturday.

"Those road wins were a big payoff for the players," Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh said Monday. She added her players had been practicing up to two or three times a day during the string of losses.

Lisa McBride led the Mustangs (5-9, 2-0 BWC) with 18 points and nine rebounds in the Cal State Northridge win, and forward Meagan Harrison added 17 points and six rebounds, respectively.

Ironically, Cal Poly distributed 21 assists while turning the ball over just 10 times, while the 49ers (3-11, 0-2 BWC) lost 21 possessions and mustered just 10 assists.

"That's a great combination," Mimnaugh said. "If we can continue in that line we're going to be a really good basketball team."

Cal Poly lead the conference in assists, with 14.6 per game.

Long Beach State was held to just 36-percent shooting from the floor in the loss.

Just two days earlier, McBride scored 20 points to lead five Mustangs scoring in double figures in the win over the Mustangs.

She was named Monday the Big West Player of the Week, making her the conference's first repeat winner this season.

Cal Poly's Titus Shelton (35) elevates for a shot against USC at the Galen Center in Los Angeles on Dec. 22. The Trojans won 78-55.

Gossage gets in, McGwire misses again

Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Goose Gossage became only the fifth relief pitcher elected to the Hall of Fame, earning baseball's highest honor on Tuesday in his ninth try on the ballot.

Known for his overpowering fastball, fiery temperament and bushy mustache, the Goose received 466 of 543 votes (85.8 percent) from 16-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"It was very emotional for me. I'll tell you, off the charts. I can't describe the feeling," Gossage said after learning the news. "I can't lie. There's been some frustration and some disappointment."

Jim Rice was passed over yet again in his next-to-last year on the ballot, getting 392 votes (72.2 percent), up from 346 (63.5 percent) last year but 16 short of the 75 percent needed.

"Today's results are obviously a disappointment," Rice said in a statement. "I believe my accomplishments speak for themselves, and a majority of the voters seem to agree. It is tough to come this close, but I remain hopeful for the 2009 results."

Mark McGwire, a casualty of the Steroids Era in some writers' minds, received just 128 votes, the exact total he had last year. His percentage increased slightly to 23.6 percent, up from 23.5 percent last year when he was on the ballot for the first time.

"I don't think this bittersweet thing is over by any means. I'm sure that most of you guys, the writers, don't really know how to approach this," Gossage during a BBWAA conference call.


Gossage was sitting in a recliner in his living room overlooking the Rocky Mountains in Colorado Springs, Colo., when he received the call. He turned to reporters in the room and said, "Oh my God, I've been elected."

A shock wave went through my body like an anvil just fell on my head," Gossage said. "I think having to wait makes it that much more special."

His mother died in 2006, Gossage said with tears welling up in his eyes, and he had hoped she would live long enough to see him inducted.

Gossage was a nine-time All-Star who pitched for nine major league teams from 1972-94 and had 310 saves, 52 of them when he got seven outs or more.

This first time he appeared on the Hall ballot in 2000, Gossage received only 33.3 percent of the vote.

Rice will appear on the writers' ballot for the 15th and final time next year, when career slugs leader Rickie Henderson will be among the newcomers. The highest percentage for a player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983.