Shift in strategy will send more Marines to Afghanistan

Lolita C. Baldor
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is preparing to send at least 3,000 Marines to Afghanistan in April to bolster efforts to hold off another expected Taliban offensive in the spring, military officials said Wednesday.

The move represents a shift in Pentagon thinking that has been slowly developing after months of repeated insistence that the U.S. was not inclined to fill the need for as many as 7,500 more troops that commanders have asked for there.

Instead, Defense Secretary Robert Gates pressed NATO allies to contribute the extra forces. Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said Wednesday that a proposal will go before Gates on Friday that would send a ground and air Marine contingent as well totaling more than 3,000 forces — to southern Afghanistan for a "one-time, seven-month deployment."

Gates, he said, will want to review the request and is not likely to make a final decision on Friday.

"He will take it and consider it thoroughly before approving it," said Morrell. "I just want to get people away from the idea that this is going to be immemorially approved by the secretary."

He said Gates "has some more thinking to do on this matter because it's a serious allocation of forces."

Morrell added that Gates' thinking on the issue has "progressed a bit" over time as it became clear that it was politically untenable for many of the NATO nations to contribute more combat troops to the fight.

"The commanders need more forces there. Our allies are not in the position to provide them. So we are now looking at perhaps carrying a bit of that additional load," the spokesman said.

Morrell said the move, first reported Wednesday by ABC News, was aimed at beating back "another Taliban offensive" that is expected this spring — as has occurred in previous years.

When Gates was in Afghanistan last month, commanders made it clear they needed the additional forces. Last year was the most violent since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

see Marines, page 2

Bush watching economy closely to see if short-term boost needed

Jennifer Loven
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday that he is watching the economy very carefully to see if the struggling U.S. economy needs a short-term boost from the federal government.

"We're listening to different ideas about what may or may not need to happen," he said. "We'll work through this. We'll work through this period of time."

He wouldn't comment on any specific ideas he is considering, such as tax cuts aimed at lessening the chance of a recession. "We'll look at all different options."

On Monday, Bush talked about recent indicators that have been "increasingly mixed," a new recognition of the challenges now facing the economy, primarily resulting from a severe housing crisis. Previous Bush statements have paid attention to the financial fears of many American families and the effects of the housing slump, but focused on what he calls the strong fundamentals underpinning the economy.

"It's going to take awhile to work through the downturn," he said Tuesday of the housing crisis. He spoke in response to a question, during a Rose Garden event on Iraq.

Bush regards his State of the Union address to Congress at the end of the month and the release of his new budget proposal shortly after as a sort of deadline for making the call about whether to propose a stimulus package. aides say he wants to analyze more economic data before making a final decision.

On Friday, the government reported that hiring practically stalled in December, driving the nation's unemployment rate up to a two-year high of 5 percent. With such reports fanning fears of a recession and more Americans growing anxious, Bush has taken to talking about the economy often.

As before, he spoke on Tuesday of his confidence in the American economic system and the ability of it — and his administration — to weather the storm.

see Economy, page 2

UU draws crowds

The Cal Poly campus was packed full of people on Wednesday as students geared up for winter quarter. The University Union bustled with activity as students turned out in force to buy school supplies at the bookstore (top) and posters near The Avenue (right).
Economy

continued from page 1

even severe shocks.

"I'm optimistic, as I've seen this economy, you know, go through periods of uncertainty," the president said. "I like the fundamentals, they look strong, but there are new signals that should cause concern. And one of the signals is the fact that the housing market is soft."

On Capitol Hill, Democrats promised action on the economy.

"Congress is committed to early action to stabilize and strengthen the economy on behalf of the majority of Americans who know the economy is headed in the wrong direction," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. "We will work to make sure this effort is bipartisan and urge the president to join us."

No decisions have been made on the size and shape of any congressional economic package, though speculation mounted that it could include a tax rebate similar to the $300-$600 rebate checks sent out in 2001 as part of Bush's big tax bill.

At the time, Democrats were more enthusiastic about the idea than many Republicans.

Earlier Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said the administration was exploring what would be a significant expansion of the program to help at-risk mortgage holders.

In an interview on CNBC, Paulson said the administration was involved in discussions with the mortgage industry to expand a current program to freeze adjustable rate mortgages for five years to include borrowers of loans at prime rates. Currently, the rate freeze only covers a much smaller segment of adjustable rate loans made to subprime borrowers. Those are borrowers with weak credit histories.

Paulson did not provide any details on when this expansion might go forward.

On Monday, Paulson had said in a speech in New York that the current housing correction was "inevitable and necessary" following five years of an unsustainable boom which saw sales and home prices hit record levels.

I'm optimistic, as I've seen this economy, you know, go through periods of uncertainty.

— President Bush

Emory

continued from page 1

The number of attacks has surged, including roadside bombings and suicide assaults.

Currently there are about 27,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, including 14,000 with the NATO-led coalition.

The other 13,000 U.S. troops are training the Afghan forces and hunting al Qaeda terrorists.

Morrell said that while the Marine ground and air contingent would be put in place to prevent a spring Taliban offensive, the Marine battalion likely would be used to train Afghan forces.

The shift in U.S. thinking on sending more combat forces to Afghanistan has appeared inevitable during recent weeks, based on the political realities in many of the NATO nations.

In meeting after meeting during his Afghanistan visit in early December, Gates heard pleas from both Afghan and U.S. military leaders for up to 7,500 more forces, with about half needed for training.

About a week later, Gates was asked by a reporter after a NATO meeting in Scotland whether the Bush administration was considering sending more troops to Afghanistan, in the event that the shortfalls are not bridged by NATO allies.

Gates replied, "Not in the short term."

But by Dec. 21, Gates acknowledged during a press briefing that the Pentagon would "be looking at the requirement ourselves."

Bush administration officials pressed NATO allies for months to fill gaps in troops levels in Afghanistan, but many allied governments face public opposition to deeper involvement there.

Gates said at the Scotland meeting that the administration had decided to tone down its appeals to allies, taking into account "political realities" faced by some European governments whose citizens may see less reason to intervene in Afghanistan.

The Bush administration has launched a wide-ranging review of its policy in Afghanistan to ensure that gains made since the radical Islamist Taliban regime was ousted in 2001 are not lost and to bolster Afghan President Hamid Karzai's nascent government.

Nipomo stabbing
under investigation

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department deputies and Gang Task Force officers are still investigating a beating and stabbing that occurred the morning of Jan. 5 in Nipomo.

Deputies responded to a private birthday party on the 200 block of Puebla Street after uninvited guests arrived and a fight ensued outside the house. 19-year-old Jacob Long of Arroyo Grande was beaten and stabbed but the suspects apparently fled the party before deputies arrived. Long was taken to Arroyo Grande Community Hospital with multiple lacerations and stab wounds to the back.

The suspects allegedly identified themselves as members of the Nipomo 13 street gang and "jumped" Long after an argument inside the house. William Travis Kearny was taken into custody around 8 p.m. on Jan. 5 and was booked into the San Luis Obispo County jail with bail set for $500,000.

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For those who have ever stared inquisitively into the frothy bottoms of a polished-off glass of beer and pondered, "How exactly do you make a fine tasting brew," the Cal Poly Brew Crew may have all the answers you seek and so much more.

More than a club for power drinkers (in fact, not even close), the Cal Poly Brew Crew is tailored to students who are interested in learning about home brewing, the culture and history of brewing and the infinite varieties of mkdir unique brews.

"The Brew Crew exists to further the understanding and appreciation of good beer while abolishing the idea of American beer as watery crap," Brew Crew president and biochemistry senior Andy Hooper said.

"We seek to provide a forum that educates students who are interested in anything related — the ingredients, the science, the effects — of beer making — anything and everything, we’re a club for beer connoisseurs."

Now in its second year, the Brew Crew originated as a small group of student home brewers who wanted to share recipes for beer, brewing techniques and their unique creations with other students passionate about home brewing. Former Brew Crew president and Cal Poly graduate Jeff Freitas was able to successfully charter the Brew Crew through Associated Students Inc. in 2006, Hooper said.

Today the club has more than 150 members and is continually accepting all students and is open to students under 21.

"The Brew Crew started out as a small group of Cal Poly students interested in home brewing in 2006," Brew Crew president and biology junior Tyson Davis, offers similar and extensive courses in brewing.

"The Brew Crew started out as a small group of Cal Poly students interested in home brewing in 2006," the Brew Crew president and biochemistry senior Andy Hooper said.

The Brew Crew started out as a small group of Cal Poly students interested in home brewing in 2006.

"From those who have absolutely no knowledge to those who have a whole slew of knowledge about brewing, our club provides access to brewing hobbyists, historians and others who get together to share and discuss technical aspects, science, engineering, brewing chemistry and anything beer-related one can imagine," Hooper said.

One of many popular topics discussed at Brew Crew meetings are the various types of beer that can easily be brewed on the Central Coast. Given the warm local climate, Hooper recommends ales and said the club gives advice and directions to anyone interested in brewing their own beer.

An important aspect of the Brew Crew is helping members find ingredients and supplies such as home brewing kits and bottles. Doc’s Cellar, a retailer for home brewers and wine makers located at 855 Capitola Way in San Luis Obispo, has been "indispensable" in aiding the Brew Crew with all of their supply needs, Hooper said.

"It really amazes me — the level of intelligence and creativity the members of the Brew Crew have," Doc’s Cellar owner George McClinton said.

"They’re not your stereotypical frat boys or alcoholics but smart students — ag science or biochemistry majors, for example — and I’ve been really impressed with their level of interest and ingenuity."

From cinnamon and cherry-flavored stouts to mango and chili ales, Hooper said that one of the first things a newcomer to the Brew Crew will find is that anyone can home brew beer out of just about anything. Whether it’s honey, wheat, heather, juniper or more obscure ingredients, you can make just about any type of beer with a unique combination of ingredients and expect profound and tasty results, Hooper said.

"Or in some cases, profound but not so pleasing to the palate."

"My roommate once home brewed a veggie beer, it was made with actual vegetables, cinna­mon, ground black pepper and God knows what else," Hooper said. "It was aptly named ‘Goat Scrotum’ and, well, you had to be a true champion to take a sip of it."

In addition to educating members on various types of beer, the Brew Crew also offers insight and expertise about different brews that are not easily found commercially available, such as mead.

"Mead is anywhere from 6 to 15 percent alcohol and has a taste anywhere from white wine for the lighter meads to liquid honey for the stronger batches," Hooper said. "It’s one of the oldest fermented beverages on Earth and because of its lack of commercial availability, it makes it appealing."

"The Brew Crew has fought long and arduously to have a club for beer connoisseurs to share their brewing knowledge on campus. It has certainly been challenging convincing Cal Poly administration that the club is strictly designed to educate, not advocate, Hooper said. It was even more challenging considering the club is open to students under 21.

"In order to get a club charter through ASI we had to ensure that there would be no drinking at our on-campus meetings," Hooper said. "But drinking isn’t the point. The club is designed to educate students on what exactly it is they are consuming, its effect and, if they’re curious, everything about beer and how it is made and its proper, legal enjoyment."

However, that does not mean that members over 21 can’t enjoy the product of their brewing endeavors in the company of fellow Brew Crew members. The Brew Crew hosts the annual Cal Poly Cup — a competition amongst Brew Crew members and non-members that awards home brews in several different categories — in addition to the weekly meetings at Spike’s Bar and Grill.

Aside from weekly meetings and the Cup poly (which Hooper suspects will be held in May), the Brew Crew is also hoping to convince the administration to host courses on brewing.

"Cal Poly allowed us, as a sort of experiment, to create a course called ‘Brewing 101’ which the Brew Crew hosted all of last year," Hooper said. "We had many faculty and professional brewers lecture for the course and overall had a hugely positive student response, so we hope that the administration will eventually make it a permanent course."

A fitting proposal considering Cal Poly’s biggest rival, UC Davis, offers similar and extensive courses in brewing.

The Brew Crew will host their first meeting of the year at Spike’s Bar and Grill at 5 p.m. on Jan. 13.
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International Briefs

BEIJING (AP) — Declaring
that controlling "terrorist violence" includ­
ing acts of arson and vandalism, China is banning tree plastic-shrik­
ing bags and calling for a contest at the cloth bags of old — steps largely welcomed by merchants and shop­
ners on Wednesday.
The measure eliminates the flimsiest bags and forces stores to charge for others, making China the latest nation to target plastic bags in a bid to cut waste and conserve re­
ources.
Beijing residents appeared to take the ban in stride, reflecting ris­
ing environmental consciousness and concern over skyrocketing oil
prices.
"How can reduce waste and save resources, then it's good both for us
and the whole world," said college
student Xu Lixian, who was buying
ginger out of cardboard boxes at a sidewalk stall.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Presi­
dent Bush said he came to the Mid­
dle East to nudge the stalled peace process — not to "butt in and ac­
tually dictate the end result of the
agreement." But that sure didn't
stop him from telling people what he
do.
He told Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to stop unauthorized
settlement activity.
He told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to halt rocket at­
tacks on Israel from Islamic militant
bases in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, even though Abbas doesn't control
the tiny coastal territory.
He told Iran that "serious con­
sequences" will follow if it meddles
in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

BEIJING (AP) — A cloned pig
whose genes were altered to make it
glow fluorescent green has passed on
the trait to its young, a development
that could lead to the future breeding
of pigs for human transplant organs,
a Chinese university reported.
The glowing piglets' birth proves
transgenic pigs are fertile and able
to pass on their engineered traits
to their offspring, according to Liu
Zhaohui, a professor overseeing
the breeding program at Northeast
Agricultural University.
"Continued development of this
technology can be applied to ... the
production of special pigs for the
production of human organs for
transplant," Liu said in a news releas­
ped Tuesday on the university's Web site.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A
12-year-old Mexican boy dreaded
returning to school after Christmas
break so much that he glued his
hand to his bed.
Sandra Palacios spent nearly two
hours Monday morning trying to
free her son Diego's hand with wa­
ter, oil and nail polish remover before
calling authorities, police chief Jorge
Carnaño told The Associated Pres­
dents outside the northern city of
Monterrey.
"I didn't want to go to school
because I was scared of so much fun,"
Reforma newspaper quoted the boy
as saying.
Palacios said Diego sneaked into
the kitchen in the early morning
to get the industrial glue, which he
then slapped on his right hand.
"I don't know why he did it," she
said Reforma. "He's a good boy, but
mischievous like all kids."

TRIALS TO BEGIN FOR CLONE CREEK

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Cristina Albers
MUSTANG DAILY

Ever seen fishermen take out instruments and just start rocking out? Well, fishing for long periods in places like Alaska is just one of the many things Port O’Brien, a four-piece band from the Bay Area, takes part in — that and touring the country.

Port O’Brien first started playing together in 2005. Initially the band consisted of just Cambria Goodwin (vocals and banjo) and Cambria native Van Pierszalowski (vocals and guitar) doing a type of folk duo. During their first year, they would have others join them and play different instruments, depending on who was around.

A year and a half ago the pair decided to team with Caleb Nichols (bass) and Josh Barnhart (drums), and the duo became a four-piece band.

Their sound is a little tired and a little rough but brings a feeling of home and the promise of a new day. All of this is relayed in their latest album, “The Wind and the Swell,” is now out on American Dust Records.

Its opening track, “I Woke Up Today,” says. There’s no real leader or serious one to the group because as the guitarist-singer said, “they’re all too silly and sometimes even have way too much fun.”

“We know absolutely everything about each other,” Pierszalowski said.

Although the touring has been a great way to get to know each other, it’s been tiring and stressful on the band as well. There are a lot of intense ups and downs, but it can also be really addicting.

“When we’re not touring, the little gaps in-between just make you itch to get back to it,” Pierszalowski said.

They will definitely be coming back to California soon as the state is one of their favorite places to perform. San Francisco has always proved to be a good crowd and San Luis Obispo is also near the top of the list.

In every tour there’s always that one song that is fun to perform no matter what, and each band member may have a different one. For Nichols, it has been “Close the Lid.”

“We haven’t been playing it much lately, but I get to rock out the most to it. It’s really fun to play (the song) as the bassist,” Nichols said.

Each member seems to already live two lives and work two jobs. If they hadn’t succeeded in music, Pierszalowski said he would probably still be fishing in Alaska and focusing on that.

The others seem to feel the same. The band often goes on excursions together and for the eight months that they’re out on the sea, it’s hard for them to think of anything but fishing. And it’s out on the boat where some of their best music is created.

For a band like this, there really isn’t much downtime between all the touring and the fishing. But everyone has to have hobbies, right? Goodwin loves to collect things from garage sales, and baking is always a favorite.

Barnhart lives in Santa Cruz, so the beach is a common hang out for him. But if they had some time to go on a real vacation?

“It would be great to go somewhere hot; we get enough cold weather, or maybe some place tropical, like Fiji. Or Disneyland,” Pierszalowski said.

As far as any upcoming musical changes for Port O’Brien, it doesn’t seem likely that much will be different in the next year or two. The band is focused on their current work and would love to add some piano to the mix.

“We think we’re going to stay in this world for a while,” Pierszalowski said.

Port O’Brien is prowling, one song at a time, that they are more than just a fisherman and his mates.
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Grimm  
continued from page 8

PC: The biggest difference to me is that for an album, you're working on music; you really, really love writing lyrics to it, and if you have to tell about yourself, so be it, but you're doing it in a real lyrical way, using different rhymes and putting different styles in it. Setting down and writing a graphic novel seemed like it was the most boring thing in the world. I was like, "Oh God, I gotta sit here and write about myself," I really wanna work on a story for Superman, use my imagination. But I had to bring a lot of things from my past and start writing it out.

As far as musical writing, the structure is just totally different, and I guess that's what makes my book different. My wording and my bad grammar is what makes me, and it came out in my book. Right now I have a chance to work on both of those mediums. I can make an album that's a comic book and a comic book that's musical or music-related. I learned how to apply both of those and I think that the music I come out with will have more, entertainment-wise, than me just rhyming.

"Oh! The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man," certain people were upset about that album, they were like, "Oh man, he ain't kicked his old street stuff!" You know, I'm an old man now, I have family that relies on me, children that rely on me, and my mentality is just elevated. I think there's more than just streets and guns and selling drugs. Not everybody likes "The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man," and they wanna see me get back to my old stuff. But you know, you're living in the past, man, I don't wanna do that no more. I want to show my creativity. "The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man," that's got a whole animation, that's what I'm working on right now. And I just want the opportunity to go and have my supporters to allow me to move out of a box where I'm just supposed to be tough and talking about violent situations.

TT: What will the new albums explore thematically? Will they handle the same sort of violence as "The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man?"

PC: They're imaginative. As violent as that album was, or however much it talked about drugs, it's also about sugar, it's about cake, and it is what it is. But what I wanna talk about is that today you can walk to work and find somebody put a noose on your door. That's real topics that I can pick up and a lot of people probably don't wanna hear, but it affects me because I'm a black man in America, so I'm there for that.

And like I said, I would like to show my creativity. Creating characters, whether they're violent characters or not... I'd rather do that than write about my personal life. Everybody wants to know about my personal life and sometimes that's not for everybody to hear. The things that I would prefer to do are create. But people say, "Oh no, we really wanna hear that. We wanna hear about you in this situation, or what you gonna do next." Sometimes it's not about that. Now I'm happy with what I'm doing. And I think that's important.

I'm a black man writing comics. And I'm a hip-hop artist writing comics. That's historical.

---

Victoria Beckham, aka Posh Spice, played a maid of honor with a diva attitude on ABC's "Ugly Betty" Tuesday night.

We typically do not watch ABC's "Ugly Betty," but when we heard that Posh Spice was a guest star, we knew it was a major event we absolutely could not miss. Here are the highlights:

Annoyed at her father, Betty chose to move in with her boyfriend, Henry. Because of their fight, she decided not to attend her father's naturalization ceremony. However, she knew she had to be with her family, so she slipped in just in time to catch the end.

Meanwhile, Wilhelmina was choosing on her fiancé with her bodyguard — played by her ex-husband Rick Fox. Don't anyone else think that's creepy?

The episode ended with Daniel firing Betty because he felt betrayed that she hadn't revealed Wilhelmina's affair earlier. And Daniel's father, Bradford, had a heart attack at the altar.

Although the episode was jam-packed with drama, there simply wasn't enough Posh. The fact that she was Wilhelmina's maid of honor led us to believe she was more involved.

However, she did try to force Posh to wear flat shoes at the wedding. Fact: Posh does not wear flat shoes. How do we know this? During Victoria's NBC special over the summer, the police pulled her over and she scrambled to find her stilettos because she feared she would be photographed in flat shoes. And she would die before she would let that happen.
Confessions of a pop culture junkie

A whole new year, a totally loathsome column.

Like most of you, I have a love/hate relationship with the holidays. Yes, the pop culture season is upon us, but as it turns out, Cal Poly really (and thankfully) is relevant to pop culture because of the creative, intelligent and diverse people (and their friends and families, and more than a few others) attending it. You're welcome. Just from the almost eerie amount of unso­lo­licited smiles I get in the University Union today, I have a feeling that if we weren't for the fact that people are here to attend actual classes, what a wonderful event it would resemble something of an Enzyne commercial (way too much talking). Even Lewis Black said San Luis Obispo was a "California Disneyland".

I didn't always appreciate the anti-corporate America and small-town sentiments that San Luis Obispo prides itself on. The road trip to a Northern California (within 50 miles made me feel like I was stuck in some kind of Gothschauls purgatory. My suburbanized love for Denny's, London and subsequently a quarter in Los Angeles, only to come back to Cal Poly with an acute­ly similar passion for the fact that I am actually breathing and it doesn't take hours to travel a few blocks' distance. What I used to view as an inconvenience, I now fiercely defend as sacred ground not to be tainted by drive­-dinars or even Northernstrom. I think I'm growing.

Anyway, keep up the good work and don't go changing, because Cal Poly, I still love you (at least for this week).

Lovingly and Loathingly Yours,

Allison Baker

1960s It Girl recalls adventures in 'Spirit'

Lara Streyle

INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (INDIANA U.)

A runaway at age 14, Catherine James experienced a life not even the toughest of souls could imagine. She was not raised with a silver spoon in her mouth, nor with the loving embrace of a "Normal Rockwell painting. Catherine James was a girl of the '60s whose complex and emotional past would not be easily spoon in her mouth, nor with the man Rockwell painting. Catherine

adventures in 'Spirit'

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

HARRIS, THE KEY
TO MEET GIRLS AT YOGA IS MAKING GOOD EYE CONTACT.

I'M GETTING GREAT EYE CONTACT OVER HERE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'VE AN OBSTRUCTED VIEW.

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Across
1 Paris of churches appropriate to this puzzle
2 Parts of churches
36 Sounds of ambivalence
36 Consequence
36 Roast TV P's
42 Old Testament book: Abba
43 Winter Olympics event
47 "Midnight Cowboy" role
49 Thumb locale: Abbr.
51 Rice-A-Ricea
52 Computer once with an egg-shaped design
53 City south of Delray Beach, for short
54 Carpenter's pin
55 It's found with something found four times in this puzzle
57 Sales rep's assignment: Abbr.
59 Month before June
60 Winter Rundes
61 Graphic in a business report
63 Rare play
64 Bach
65 Factor in a hotel rating
66 Egyptian royal
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Down
1 "You sure said it!"
2 "Be brave!"
3 Best
4 Alphabet trio
5 It meant nothing to Nero
6 Fall place
7 Like favorite books, often
8 Reno-to-L.A. dir.
9 Wood box: for holding an object steady
10 Primo
11 Roomy dress
12 Perfume
13 Type in, as lost data
14 Adds to or subtracts from
21 Smidgens
22 Alphabet trio
23 First name in mysteries
25 Imitative
27 C.I.A. forever
29 Matthew's "Gas Lied von der ..."
30 Holder
32 Prefix with spore

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1129

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Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords ($39.95 a year).

POP CULTURE SHOCK THERAPY
by Doug Bratton

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

HARRIS, THE KEY TO MEET GIRLS AT YOGA IS MAKING GOOD EYE CONTACT.

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It appears he choked to death on a chicken bone, but mark my words, this was no accident."
While working over winter break, I started my morning off on a negative note when I arrived at the strip mall one morning to find myself dealing with a Hammerhead with a Jesus fish glued to the bumper of its oversized gas-pissing tank station. After parking on top of a few stray baby penguins and various other infantile and endangered animals, a white man emerged (or as I call them, "whiteys") parting the crowds with a stomach that seemed the perfect physique for the reestablishment of his ego. It took an immeasurable amount of restraint the rest of the day to convey my ever-growing hatred of the white man after that incident.

Now, I don't want you to think that my hatred for white people is something I picked up second-hand from listening to Kanye West albums, feel-good films about racially diverse sports teams trying to triumph over racist all-white teams during the Civil Rights Movement, or exposure to the horrendous acting of white people. I must step in to protect peace and order. In the film "No Country for Old Men" with a background in corn. Just corn. You might be intrigued by the telling truth: they are white people. Not me though. I'm Irish-Polish-Czech. I hope this column forces you and your people to look inward and recognize that your egotistic nature, fast-food diet and overall smaller brain size are a drain on this great nation and the dreams of our white Founding Fathers. Thank you for your time.

James Rokan is a biology junior and a Mustang Daily human columnist.
Technology that makes animal testing obsolete is good for everyone

Staff Editorial

Puppies. Cute, fuzzy puppies. Why would any­one — anyone with a soul, that is — ever want to hurt them?

Although the primary cause for this has never been pure malice, animals have long been used in medical teaching laboratories to give students a hands-on opportunity to learn the ins and outs of mammalian anatomy without having to reach their not-yet-practiced hands into a human body. The norm at most med schools used to be that canines were operated on to help students understand the cardiac system, and after students had examined the dogs’ hearts, they would dispose of their subjects. Because this time-honored tradition has been so widely used in the past, it is OK to use animals as test subjects and then dispose of them afterward? Does the potential of saving human lives justify turning dogs into guinea pigs, so to speak?

As much as we have to think that anyone has to be used and, as in the case of the canine cardiac subjects, be discarded in order to train future medical practitioners, if animal experimentation can further medical practices and no alternative technology is available, it might have the potential to end the suffering of innumerable humans. While we by no means condone animal cruelty, if small-scale, scientifically based testing has the potential to prevent the deaths of someone’s grandparents, parents or siblings, it is very difficult to argue against it.

Animal experimentation has, in the past, been used to develop such crucial medical breakthroughs as the polio vaccine. When the polio epidemic was at its worst in 1952, nearly 60,000 Americans were infected and 3,000 people died, but when the vacc­ine had been widely administered, it was viru­lently eradicated from the United States.

Think about the rampant mismanagement of animals in today’s world. Puppy farms and shel­ters continue to provide subpar living conditions for them, and everyone from pet owners who fail to adequately care for their animals or NFL stars (cough, hack) who exploit them for their own entertainment and financial gain are guilty of all use of “man’s best friend.”

While millions of animals are literally wasting away in shelters or starving on the streets, it is really time to single out medical exper­i­mentation, which has a visible purpose be­hind it, as one of the chief concerns for animal rights crusaders.

Dog lovers everywhere should celebrate, how­ever, because by the end of February, all American medical schools will have phased out the use of dogs for surgical training in favor of echocardio­gram technology that allows students to view the functioning of a human heart within live volun­teers — no blood and guts required.

Of course, if alternatives like this are available, we’ll certainly throw our puppy-loving hearts and souls into them. As technology improves on a daily basis, we’re confident that researchers will be able to develop other reliable, innovative options. So relax, Fluffy, the overall trend seems to imply that you’ll be all right as we strive to make animal rights and scientific progress go hand-in-hand.

Avoid Burnout

What, no news of the surge? Is that because it was a success or because it’s still too soon to tell (common defeat)? It’s weird because you’ve always had a fondness for talking about Iraq and here you are wrap­ping up the big stories of 2007 and no mention of it. How about Europe turning our way? France giving a conservative that friendly wave to us, Germany doing the same, and even Britain’s new prime minister saying, “No more cuts.” Well, that’s not strange! And here I thought Bush had ruined our standing abroad. Oh well, you have your list. I have mine.

— Taylor

Response to “From triumphs to tragedy and everything in between.”

Winter break: Outlandish!

Lee: 204… 205… 206. Yup, got ya’ll all!)
Seant: Hey Lee, doing the daily bone count by the pool?
Lee: Nah, just lie down right here and sit-dry. That’s an interesting story, but nothing like this. I had grass seats at the John Mayer concert and he definitely made eye contact with me, I swooned. Sunscreen?
Seant: Oh, smart move. Just squirt a glob on my back and rub it in, will you? John Mayer? You are such a softy! Back from Arizona, I spent New Years in Laguna Beach; The Real O.C., posing as a valet employee and made it with two Ferraris and a Dodge Neon. I’ve parked it in the driveway for you buddy, Merry Christmas. My shoulders are covered, thanks. Why don’t you get your lower back? Cable guy: Excuse me, bro. I’m trying to locate the cable box, but I just can’t seem to find it. Could you point me in the right direction?
Lee: Sure, it’s over there on the side of the house, by the dabbling daffodils. It’s pretty low to the ground, so you may need to crawl in there to get to it.
Seant: Where’s that music coming from?
Lee: Where’s that music coming from?
Cable guy: Thanks fellas, boy it sure is a beautiful day. I wish I didn’t have to work so I could lounge by the pool with you two.
Lee: Well, I wish I could grow a mustache that thick. Tell you what: after you fix our cable, I’ll make you a momosa.
Seant: So tell me, cable man, how was your winter break?
Cable guy: Great, I spent all of Christmas day with my wife and kids, playing touch football, eating steak and putting up drywall. Well, your cable’s all fixed. I think I’ll pass on that momosa. I’m a beer man.
Lee: You guys later?
Cable guy: Goodbye! I love the flannel! So anyway, Sean, I have to say my break was a bit better than yours. Illegally crossing borders and stealing cars sounds dangerous. I had a moment with John Mayer. Who’s the dreamiest person you made eye contact with?
Seant: Well I met and briefly chatted with Halle Berry at a club in Los Angeles.
Lee: Oh, she’s such a fox. I’d hit that any time. That makes your break much better than mine, bro. Have you seen Monster’s Ball? DAMN.

Lee Barnett is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barnett and Michetti are The Mustang Daily’s banner columnists and can be contacted at FistfulTar@gmail.com.
Falcons want another old college try, this time with Carroll

Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons are interested in Southern California coach Pete Carroll for their head coaching job.

A person familiar with the team's coaching situation told the Associated Press on Wednesday that the Falcons want to speak with Carroll, who is on vacation in Hawaii.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Falcons have not officially met with Carroll.

Carroll spoke with USC sports information director Tim Tesaloune on Wednesday and told Tesaloune there were no developments worthy of comment.

"He reiterated that to me this morning on the phone," Tesaloune said.

Last week, Carroll told reporters his name would be mentioned in speculation for NFL jobs. Carroll said he wouldn't fuel speculation by making comments.

"There's nothing going on, no reason to even talk about it," Carroll said last week.

Carroll did not return a message left on his cell phone Wednesday.

The Falcons finished 4-12, including a 1-2 mark with interim coach Jim Caldwell, following an 11-2 record and No. 3 ranking this season. The Trojans capped their season with a 49-17 rout of Illinois in the Rose Bowl.

Carroll has experience in the NFL as a head coach and as an assistant coach. He is 76-14 with two national championships in seven seasons at USC.

"We've seen him achieve something that I think all coaches strive to achieve, winning a championship," said John Smith and Tennessee defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

Smith did not return a message left on his cell phone Wednesday that the Trojans want to speak with Carroll, who is on vacation in Hawaii.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Trojans have not officially met with Carroll.

"I reiterated that to him this morning on the phone," Tessalone said.

The Falcons plan to interview Jaguars defensive coordinator Mike Smith, who is up for the job, and could talk with Blank or other team officials.

Former general manager Rich McKay was offered a two-year extension to remain as president through 2010.

Philadelphia general manager Tom Heckert interviewed with team officials Monday.

The Falcons have interviewed at least three coaching candidates: Dallas offensive coordinator Jason Garrett and two assistant head coaches, Jim Caldwell and Tony Sparano of the Cowboys.

The Falcons plan to interview Jaguars defensive coordinator Mike Smith and Tennessee defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

Carroll has experience in the NFL as a head coach and as an assistant in addition to his tremendous success at USC.

Carroll, 56, was 6-11 as coach of the New York Jets in 1994. He was fired by the New England Patriots from 1997-99.

"There's nothing going on, no reason to even talk about it," Carroll said last week.

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The Falcons made 54.9 percent of their shots, hitting nine 3-pointers, while outscoring New Orleans 52-39 inside. Los Angeles (23-11) scored on its first eight possessions and led by double digits for most of the game.

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Associated Press

Falcons 109, Hornets 80

NEW ORLEANS — Kobe Bryant scored 19 points, Andrew Bynum added 17 and the Los Angeles Lakers won their fourth straight game.

The Lakers made 54.9 percent of their shots, hitting nine 3-pointers, while outscoring New Orleans 52-39 inside. Los Angeles (23-11) scored on its first eight possessions and led by double digits for most of the game.

NBA Briefs

Bobcats 95, Celtics 83

BOSTON — Jason Richardson scored 34 points and grabbed nine rebounds, Gerald Wallace had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Charlotte handed Boston just its fourth loss of the season. The loss snapped a nine-game winning streak for Boston (29-4) and spoiled its bid for the fastest start in team history to 31 wins. The 1959-60 Celtics started 30-4 before going on to win the NBA title.

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Thursday, January 10, 2008

Chargers continued from page 16

tors this game has ever won, but being the lead man is a different story.

He looks lost, and still has a look in his eye like he could be fired at any minute. My advice: Bring Mark back.

The reality is that San Diego won its first playoff game in more than a decade, played in arguably the worst division in all of football, the AFC West, and fired its previous coach because he couldn't win in the postseason — for a coach who can't win in the regular season.

Now don't get me wrong, the Chargers are an immensely talented football team.

On an individual-talent basis, besides New England, San Diego may be the most talented team in the entire league.

But for all that being said, they go about everything the wrong way. Talent alone doesn't win you a Super Bowl ring.

Trust me, this will be very obvious when you watch the game this weekend.

Tony Dungy and the Indianapolis Colts are considered one of the classiest teams in the entire NFL, completely opposite of the Chargers.

When you watch this game on Sunday, it will be evident from the start.

Troy Moon simply does what they get paid to do: win football games.

I challenge the Chargers to take notes this weekend, because they are young and their future could be potentially bright.

If they don't change their ways quickly, they'll be one-and-done in the playoffs for the next five years.

So while the Colts outplay, outthink, and most of all, outclass the Chargers, remember that cliché, "act like you've been there before," because it will be obvious from the outset which team has.

Because right now, the Chargers are summed up best by a line from the Robert De Niro movie "A Bronx Tale," which preaches "the saddest thing in life is wasted talent."

Whiten, who has taken more shots than any other Mustang during the season, yet has connected on just 27.1 percent, last on the team.

"We want to get the ball in his hands more," Bromley said. "He can't be a seven-point scorer for us to be successful."

Whiten, though, is well positioned to regain his form based on his

"I think Dawin's in a good place right now," Bromley said. "He's trying to share the basketball, trying not to be a hug, complementing his teammates and doing a good job of defending."

The veteran has dished out the second-most assists on the team, but Bromley would like to see him reclaim his role as a go-to, leading scorer.

"We want to get the ball in his hands more," Bromley said. "He can't be a seven-point scorer for us to be successful."

Fullerton

continued from page 16

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Men's basketball tries to stop 3-point barrage

Donovan Aird

It's often said in basketball, "Live with the die, because when you kiss multiplied off the demise that war​ping promises, the Cal State Fullerton men's basketball team is living it up, and doing it quite well.

The Titans, who host Cal Poly at 7 p.m., are the only team in the Big West Conference to take more 3-pointers per game than the Mustangs, and it's been to their advantage so far this season.

In taking 22.9 shots from deep per outing, Cal State Fullerton (9-4, 2-0 BWC), which is coming off a 77-47 rout of UC Riverside on Monday, has 43 percent to rack up a conference-leading 14.2 points per game from beyond the arc. The Mustangs (5-9, 2-0 BWC), who average 14.9 points and 6.8 rebounds per game, in the best team basketball

Cal Poly sophomore guard Ashlee Stewart looks for an open player during the Mustangs' 62-53 loss to San Diego on Dec. 1.

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

During the second half of the game, Stewart scored 14 points and added 3.4 assists per game, holding on for the win. Stewart also scored a team-high of 14 points and 3.4 assists per game.

The Mustangs' guards key their offensive attack, but the team will need to account for the talent of the Titans' perimeter players. Stewart said the Titans' guards are the best in the conference.