Ron Paul pulls from grassroots, aims for main stage in upcoming election

Dean Trefitz

In a presidential campaign where even the front-runners break convention, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, and his supporters are deep in uncharted territory.

Paul's independent streak has helped garner him exceptionally strong support among young voters who have been largely responsible for boosting him out of obscurity and onto the heels of the mainstream Republican contenders. He recently came in second in Nevada's caucuses — albeit in a highly-contested and watched race — and nearly earned a second-place finish among voters younger than 30 in Iowa, according to CNN exit polls.

"It's always the young people who come up and are so enthusiastic," Paul said in a U-WIRE conference call with college newspaper reporters Tuesday. He credited some of his 30 and younger support to his stance against the war in Iraq.

"The burden of war falls on young people, not only financially but for those individuals that have to go over and fight," Paul said.

Part of Paul's appeal may also be that, despite his affiliation with the Republican Party, he espouses much of the GOP's current orientation and discusses less publicized issues. His emphasis on non-talking point issues like reducing the Federal Reserve and returning to the gold standard shows that he determines his own political priorities.

Paul is one of the few Republicans against the Iraq war, he doesn't support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and sides firmly with advocates of civil liberties.

"History tells us that there's a segment of the youth population that's attracted to more independent-minded political figures," said Jane Eisner, author of "Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in Our Democracy." Younger voters are better able to find out about Paul's less-than-mainstream views thanks to "the ability to bypass the party by speaking on TV or online," Eisner said.

In fact, his strong youth support can most easily be witnessed on the Internet, where Paul's supporters far outpace his rivals in presence, organization and fundraising. Matching the other candidates at the polls is another matter. The next major battle for Paul and the remaining candidates is Super Tuesday on Feb. 5.

That is by design — the campaign informs, but does not compete, said Jense Bentzen.

"We don't try to organize (online supporters), and that's very consistent with Dr. Paul's message of individual freedom," he said. "Central economic planning doesn't work and I think that's an analogy for central Internet planning." Impassioned pitches for Paul are seen Paul, page 2
Paul

continued from page 1

a common sight in the comments of online campaign-oriented news stories. Paul supporters are very effective in fund-raising and organizing online for their candidate, Germany said, but so far they lack the political organizing experience necessary to effectively convert that into votes.

“The Internet can get out votes if it can effectively organize voters” to go to their polling places, Germany said. But “organizing get-out-the-vote activities is more than just pinging one site at the same time.”

Online supporters for Paul have sometimes gained a reputation for being over-eager, even rabid online. Some places, like the conservative online news site Red State and left-leaning Washington gossip blog Wonkette, have even restricted Paul pitches because they became too numerous and sometimes too inflammatory. Paul insists he has always tried to avoid appearing polarized himself.

“Some people might not understand that completely,” he said. “Occasionally [supporters] discover the principles of liberty and what our Constitution says and what the traditions of America say...they get really excited.”

Paul said he will climb in polls when he’s able to present himself to more analog audiences. “The next step is for us to make sure that our message gets spread more broadly,” he said. “Believing that once our message gets out and they know what I stand for, we have a very, very strong percentage that will support me.”

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U.S. concerned over Palestinians pouring into Egypt from Gaza

Anne Geeran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States expressed concern Wednesday about tens of thousands of Palestinians pouring into Egypt from the Gaza Strip across a broken security barrier at the border of the small territory run by Hamas militants.

“We are concerned about that situation and frankly I know the Egyptians are as well,” State Department deputy spokesman Tora Casey said.

David Welch, the assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, and American diplomats in Cairo have talked to Egyptian authorities about the situation, Casey said, but he didn’t offer details.

He said the Egyptians take border security seriously and that he has no indication the situation has affected Israeli-Palestinian relations for now.

“I’m not going to try and speak for Egypt, give public recommendations to the Egyptian government on how to control their sovereign border,” Casey said, adding that the United States is available to offer advice or support.

The Palestinian exodus was a protest against the closure of the impoverished Palestinian territory imposed last week by Israel; Israel controls most of Gaza’s land borders, while Egypt shares a smaller border with the territory around the market town of Rafah, Egypt generally keeps its border with Gaza under tight control, although it allows a small number of Egyptians to cross.

The border crossings put Israel and the United States in an awkward spot as President Bush pushes new Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Egypt is one of only two Arab states to make peace with Israel, and holds a historic role as Arab host and broker for peace talks.

Israel has come under international criticism for sealing off Gaza as a pressure tactic against Hamas militants who took over the strip in June, but is reluctant to criticize Egypt for allowing Palestinian free passage.

The United States does not want to publicly criticize either Israel or Egypt. It aimed instead at Hamas, the militant political and military organization pledged to Israel’s destruction. Israel and the United States are backing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, of the rival Fatah Party, in a bitter fight between the Palestinian factions.

“The Palestinian living in Gaza are living under chaos because of Hamas. The blame has to be placed at their feet.”

— Dana Perino

White House press secretary

Dana Perino said Wednesday. Jubilant men and women crossed unhindered over the toppled corrugated metal along sections of the barrier in Rafah, carrying goats, chickens and crates of Coca-Cola. Some brought back televisions, car tires and cigarettes and one man even bought a motorcycle. Vendors sold soft drinks and baked goods to the crowds.

They were stocking up on goods made scarce by Israeli blockade and within hours, shops on the Egyptian side of Rafah had run out of stock.

Earlier Wednesday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered a muted response, saying in Switzerland that the United States wants to see stability in the region, but that “most importantly both the security concerns of Israel and the humanitarian concerns of Gazans be met.”

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While their peers are slathering on coconut oil and soaking up the sun, some Cal Poly students would rather be laying on the elbow grease and rolling up their sleeves come spring break. Sixteen members of PolyHabitat — the campus chapter of the international organization Habitat for Humanity — will be traveling to Tacoma, Wash., this spring break to get down and dirty as they help build homes for households in need of decent shelter. Operating under the umbrella of Habitat for Humanity International and the supervision of the San Luis Obispo affiliate, PolyHabitat volunteers are Cal Poly students who choose to donate their time and manpower at Habitat build sites. Volunteers spend most of their time in San Luis Obispo County, where they work alongside a local family and contractors to build a house for that particular family. PolyHabitat currently has about 25 active members, with about half going out at any given time to swing hammers and flick paintbrushes. "I guess you could say we provide the labor pool for SLO Habitat for Humanity," explained Amy Lake, architectural engineering senior and PolyHabitat president. "They rely on us to provide an army of volunteers." Since the club's beginnings in 2000, PolyHabitat has worked with the county Habitat organization to build three homes in Paso Robles and one in Cambria. "PolyHabitat is just about making the community a better place," said Ashley Russell, club president and biomedical engineering senior. Lake said she started volunteering with PolyHabitat because she was interested in helping people who wanted to help themselves. "Part of the draw to Habitat for Humanity is that you're right alongside the people whose houses are going to be," she said. "Usually when you volunteer it's a faceless kind of thing. With this, you get to see them — the family — and actually work with them to build their own home." The average San Luis Obispo Habitat house costs about $96,000 to build, plus any land costs. Houses are designed to be affordable for those families selected to receive one because they are sold with no profit margin and tied to a no-interest mortgage. Families are chosen to receive a house based on their level of need, ability to repay the loan, and their desire to work with Habitat to build their own home. "These are not just people on the street, they're also people just having a hard time getting a decent roof to put over their families' heads," Russell said. "I think Habitat for Humanity gives people something to look forward to and something to work for." San Luis Obispo currently has no active build sites, but Habitat is in the planning stages for a four-unit complex in Atascadero, with hopes to begin construction in November. Come spring break, some students choose to travel and build as part of Habitat's Collegiate Challenge, which is marketed as a positive alternative to the stereotypical diversions of a college spring break trip. Last year more than 9,000 students from across the nation spent their spring break putting up siding, laying bricks, sawing and hammering. While past trips have taken students to Oregon, Hawaii, Colorado and Montana, this year's trip will be to Washington state, where PolyHabitat volunteers will spend four days building alongside local families and students from other universities. "The fact that you can stand back at the end of the week and see what you've accomplished opens your eyes to the possibilities of hope," Russell said. "It's a chance to travel and to meet new people and at the same time get to do something worthwhile with your time," Lake agreed. The chapter minimizes trip costs by staying inside a local church during the break, and hopes to raise about $8,000 to cover the other travel expenses for the 16 volunteers going on this year's trip. Throughout the year, volunteers also help out at the organization's ReStore locations in San Luis Obispo and Emptiness, dubbed as "urban recycling centers," the ReStores are second-hand and surplus building collection centers that Habitat operates as a fundraising tool. Building materials, including cabinets, hardware and doors, are donated to the centers and then sold for profit or kept for use in Habitat homes. "PolyHabitat is for down-to-earth students who like to have a good time and build something worthwhile with their bare hands," Russell said. "The fact that they're willing to give up their spring break to help build communities says something about their character." PolyHabitat meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month in building 3, room 206.

For more good neighbor tips visit www.respectsloboro.com
POLICE BLOTTER

Jan. 20, 01:15 - Officers provided first-responder medical aid to a victim of alcohol overdose at a North Mountain Hall. Fire and paramedics responded, taking the victim to the hospital for treatment.

Jan. 19, 16:54 - Officers assisted San Luis Obispo Police Department with a disturbance party call at the Delta Chi fraternity house off Foothill Blvd.

Jan. 19, 10:14 - Officers investigated a report of a missing person. The subject was located in good health approximately 15 minutes later.

Jan. 18, 22:32 - Officer contacted several subjects on investigating a complaint of possible narcotics use at Sierra Madre. One subject was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Jan. 16, 11:36 - Officers investigated complaints of bias-motivated messages left on a resident's door in one of the Sierra Madre towers.

Jan. 16, 06:49 - Officers investigated reports of a subject removing campaign signs in the Inner Perimeter area.

Jan. 16, 06:00 - Officers investigated an incident involving the streetsweeper causing damage to traffic survey instruments in use on campus.

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National Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) - A house fire killed four children, their mother and grandmother early Wednesday, officials said, and authorities arrested a 15-year-old man in the blaze hours later.

Michael Davis, of Youngstown, was charged with six counts of aggravated murder and six counts of aggravated arson, city police said. It wasn’t immediately clear whether Davis had an attorney or whether he knew the victims.

The fire killed 6-year-old Carol Crawford, her 23-year-old daughter, Jennifer and Jennifer Crawford’s daughters Tiajera, 2; Jeannine, 5; Alezha, 3; and 2-year-old son Brandon, said Rick Jannerik, an investigator with the Mahoning County Coroner’s office.

The blaze started near the front of the house, either on the porch or just inside the front door, and quickly consumed the home. Fire Chief John O’Neill said.

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. (AP) — Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

Utility officials say such shutdowns probably wouldn’t result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region’s utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

Already there has been one brief, drought-related shutdown, at a reactor in Alabama over the summer.

AKRON, Mich. (AP) — Kristen DeCroat just wanted to sell her horse to another animal lover, but her ad ended up under “Good Things to Eat” in the classified sections of two newspapers.

About a third of the 60 or so calls she received were from people interested in buying horse meat.

“It’s been enough to turn your stomach,” said DeCroat, who eventually sold her 3-year-old mare, Foxy, to a man who wanted a live horse for his grandchildren.

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International Briefs

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A California man who adopted the name of a fictional vampire has been sentenced to 30 years in prison without parole for killing two people in hotel bombings, the government news agency and an attorney who attended the sentencing said Wednesday.

Triston Jay Amen, 20, was convicted Tuesday of killing two people by setting off dynamite in two low-rent hotels in the Bolivian capital in 2006, according to the state’s All news agency and Javier Albarracin, an attorney for the victim and owner of one of the bombed hotels.

Also convicted was Amen’s former girlfriend, Alda Ribento-Costa, 47, of Uruguay.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The number of students and teachers killed in Taliban attacks has tripled in the past year in a campaign to close schools and force teenage boys to join the Islamic militia, Afghanistan’s education minister says.

While the overall state of Afghan education shows improvement, Education Ministry numbers point to a sharp decline in security for students, teachers and schools in the south, where the Taliban thrive.

The number of students out of classes because of security concerns has hit 300,000 since March 2007, compared with 200,000 in the previous 12 months, while the number of schools closing has risen from 250 to 500.

The Taliban strategy is deliberate: “to close these schools down so that the children and primarily the teenagers that are going to the schools — the boys — have no other option but to join the Taliban,” Education Minister Mohammad Haif Alami told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

PARIS (AP) — Celebrities, socialites and fashion editors prepared to bid adieu to Italian designer Valentino, the king of the red carpet, who will show his final collection Wednesday after 45 years in business.

Hollywood stars including Uma Thurman and Gwyneth Paltrow were expected to attend the display, being held in a tent at the Rodin Museum at the close of the Paris spring-summer haute couture shows.

“I don’t want to be ridiculous, and I don’t want to be emotional,” he told the International Herald Tribune in an interview this week. “I must be happy. I have had a fantastic career, and I don’t regret one moment of it.”

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Hu Jintao has told officials to breathe new life into propaganda efforts, putting renewed emphasis on a key pillar of Communist rule ahead of this summer’s Beijing Olympic Games.

Hu’s remarks at a major party gathering reflected the government’s traditional focus on controlling information and guiding public opinion, yet also indicated concern that those efforts were losing their edge in the face of the Internet and other independent sources of information and entertainment.
Many would never expect a documentary about the Holocaust to embody any sort of positive feeling, but “As Seen Through These Eyes” is an exception.

Sandra Brown and Diana Heller, members of the congregation at Congregation Beth David who are helping with the event, believe in the film and the need for all to see it.

“As Seen Through These Eyes” is different, (because) most Holocaust movies are dark movies,” Brown said. “The documentary, which took writer-director Hilary Helstein a decade to accumulate all of the interviews, tells the stories of 12 Holocaust survivors who used art to help themselves get through the terrors that they saw and experienced.

Cayucos resident Michael Rosendale produced the film.

“This film is important because, historically, it documents with archival footage in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust,” Brown said.

“Even though it is set against the Holocaust, the strength of the film is in the artwork because that’s what the film is really about. It shows how art inspired the survivors to overcome and transcend all of the horrors that happened to them.”

Narrated by author Maya Angelou, “As Seen Through These Eyes” gives viewers a glimpse into what really went on within the camps’ walls. Some of the Jews and non-Jews who were placed inside the camps tell powerful stories of how playing music, painting and drawing helped save their lives.

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Filmmaker Hilary Helstein, who is known for her award-winning work, has traveled more than 150,000 miles for the film. It is narrated by Maya Angelou. “As Seen Through These Eyes” is the first film to focus exclusively on the first-hand accounts of survivors of the Holocaust.

The documentary is being shown at Congregation Beth David on Sunday, which is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The screening will be followed by a discussion with survivors and other experts.

Sandra Brown and Diana Heller, members of the congregation at Congregation Beth David who are helping with the event, believe in the film and the need for all to see it.

“We believe in the film and the need for all to see it,” Brown said. “It’s a powerful film that shows the courage and strength of the survivors.”

The screening is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.asseenthroughtheseeyes.org.

Thursday SHOWTIMES

Downtown Centre Cinema
27 Dresses 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
The Hangover 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
The Bucket List 1:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30
Atonement 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
Cassandra’s Dream 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
The Great Debaters 4:40, 10:00
Sweeney Todd 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
No Country For Old Men 2:00, 7:25

Sunset Drive-In
Cleaverfield 7:00
Sweeney Todd 8:45
Moon
continued from page 7

named "some of the catchiest, most compelling (ones) of the year."

The band just signed with the independent music label The Militia Group and will be releasing their debut LP, "Fear and Love," in spring 2008.

Microbiology junior Julie Anderson said, "I'll go check them out (Thursday). I really like Sherwood, so the fact that some of the guys from that band helped to create We Shot The Moon's music makes me curious as to what their sound will be like."

We Shot The Moon will also be playing at Downtown Brewing Co. Feb. 1 with Sherwood and The Matches.

Blogger Perez Hilton, known for his unremitting criticism of celebrity news, will give a pop culture talk at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

COURTESY PHOTO

Have you ever wanted to hear personally from one of those celebrity bloggers whose Web sites many of us often spend countless hours browsing to catch up on the most current gossip? Well, tonight is your chance.

Associated Students Inc. will be hosting celebrity blogger Perez Hilton at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

"Perez is a great opportunity to bring something fun for students that will be purely for entertainment," said Kristin Savage, ASI's events outreach student supervisor and an art and design junior.

Hilton will be presenting comedy-themed commentary on pop culture. Savage said he will also present a slide show, discuss celebrities and be available to meet students and give autographs after the presentation.

"I think it's going to be fun because college students like that kind of thing because it's a good way to relax," Savage said. "These events are cool because students can see this person came to my school."

Hilton has become famous because of his Web site, www.perez Hilton.com, which receives millions of hits per day. He has made appearances on television networks such as VH1 and E!

He also recently appeared on a television program called "What Perez Sez." The program's genre is classified as reality television, and it gave Hilton an opportunity to discuss up-to-date celebrity gossip.

Perez's Web site uses the slogan "Celebrity Juice, Not from Concentrate." It features several blogs focusing on events celebrities are involved in, such as updates on the untimely death of Heath Ledger. The Heath Ledger blog contains information that has been published by news sources as well as speculation about the circumstances surrounding the actor's death. Perez also provided video clips of Ledger speaking to various organizations.

Students with a Cal Poly ID will be admitted to the event for free, and the general public can attend for $10. People are encouraged to arrive early because seating is limited and entry into the auditorium will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"Heck yes, I'm going," general engineering senior Garrett Plante said. "I think it's going to be funny and entertaining, and he's a celebrity. Also, it's the cheap and coke."
This column is so cool! (I know, right?)

After reading all 60 responses to James Koman’s “Who I Hate White People” column from a while back (only a few people still talking about it), it occurred to me that I might be in danger of the very same scrutiny if I proceed to print my column as planned. This week, I do feel an acute loathing for something, and before reaching the following:

A) I would be lucky to have 60 readers at all, let alone 60 people who feel strongly enough to respond in writing (which is a big deal since we’re a poly-technic school)

B) Most of my readers probably don’t look past my columns into the abyss of Op-Ed (my “readers” being my parents, who read online anyway).

C) I’m not bold enough to insult a particular majority president at Cal Poly (rather, I insult indiscriminately).

So, Cal Poly, I unapologetically bring you the very first “feather it” of the year: a trendy catchphrase. I know it may be a bit antichristian after all of that “free speech” hallucinosis, but I hear someone utter the term “I know, right?” one more time, I might “accidentally” forget where the trash can is when I decide I’m done with my hot drink.

There are hundreds of equal, but irritating, items I could pick on, so why this particular expression? I’ll tell you why. It’s because it’s a non sequitur padding as a coherent response to a statement. I see it as an empty problem. It would be tolerable if the guilty parties were stretchy keeping their contingent of logicians to themselves. But not this: the non-convert everyone wins who is not their am-onely catch the bugs. You know how it goes. You see something, maybe from a movie, or maybe from a roommate or her your suffering, and upon hearing it, you know that it’s the dumbest thing you’ve ever heard since Alicia Silverstone articulated “Whatever!” in 1995 (which we still can’t even reach the end of). But somehow, in a moment of weakness, your tongue betrays you and you hear the words rebelliously leave your lips “I know, right? “Oh, the horror!”

Here is how it is often used in ordinary conversation:

Person A: Allison Baker is the best columnist in the Mustang Daily. It’s my example, is it not?

Person B: I know, right? (Now it might help if you visualize Person B cringing in a piece of pain between words while simultaneously staring at his/her watch.)

Person A: I’m pleased that we agree on that this, but I wish you wouldn’t concord with me in the form of a question. It’s confusing. Also, your abrupt response doesn’t allow the conversion to more forward and makes you a selfish communicator.

Person B: I know, right?

Person A: (defiant 60s)

Though not entirely realistic (substitute “Mustang Daily” with “the whole world”), I hope this sample dialogue illustrates the importance of being aware of what messages we send people through our spoken and written words.

I use a petty (but still vexing) example, but I think we could all use a little reminder that the things we say resonate with the people around us (and unfortunately for most of you, your mental meanderings won’t be immortalized by a weakly column). Whether it’s a dumb expression or a fact it cannot stretch directed tow ard a specific group of people, what we tell others about our being or what we decide on both cases, it makes you look like a moron.

May be you don’t agree with me. Maybe you think I am an arrogant jerk who is singling out a group of people to hate on (you know who you are), and maybe I am. But it’s my freaking column, and I’ll say moronic anyway. Make your day and send me some hate mail, it would be an absolute honor to check any sort of response, albeit negative (“I’m not picky!”

Perhaps I ought to step down from my ill-made soapbox, and follow my own advice. After all, if you can’t make fun of yourself, what business do others have taking you seriously?

(“I know, right!”)

Allison Baker is an English senior Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast.

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Student art exhibit 'focuses the nation'

For those who constantly wonder how they can do more for the environment and the global warming crisis, one exhibit has the answer.

The Sustainability Art Exhibit, put on by the environmentally-conscious Focus the Nation (FTN) event, allows artists and FTN members to show off how they help the environment. The exhibit, on display in the University Union until Jan. 31, presents work by four students who drew inspiration from different aspects of the theme in order to promote sustainability.

"Sustainability encompasses a variety of different issues," said industrial engineering senior Erica Janoff, whose sunflower painting reflects the need to return to nature.

Business junior Ben Eckold, who contributed a painting of the FTN logo, said his work shows that people have a choice.

"Our generation — we’re at a crucial crossroads. We can choose to do the status quo, or we can choose to make an impact," he said.

Graphic design senior Sara LeGrady explained that doing little things like recycling and carpooling add up.

"I just wanted to represent the fact that I practice environment sustainability anyway," she said. The Wheelchair Foundation asked LeGrady to donate artwork to the exhibit. She drew her own interpretation of Mother Nature, the second in a series of three.

"The way I define sustainability is being able to meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of the future," said industrial engineering senior Chad Worth, chair of the FTN organization committee and president of Empower Poly Coalition, which sponsors FTN events.

On Jan. 31, Cal Poly (and over 1,400 other colleges and universities) will participate in FTN: Global Warming Solutions for America, a day-long event that aims to make climate change a "make or break issue" for presidential candidates in the 2008 election, Worth explained.

The exhibit opened Jan. 9, and artists and FTN members handed out organic cotton T-shirts with FTN logos to students in an attempt to launch the national organization at the Cal Poly level.

"We ended up having a lot of people come," LeGrady said. "We ran out of shirts; we ran out of food."

The artists like Eckold hope students learn more about the environment from the art exhibit and ask questions.

"I think that’s a very important thing to do, to question society and their own mindsets," he said.
write a letter

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanity, or length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number (which will be published if asked), and school affiliation. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: mustangdaily@gmail.com

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26 Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

Corrections

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

notices

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A guide to Cal Poly's architecture

Congratulations on your recent admission to the Cal Poly School of Architecture, and thereby the most grueling years of your life! Don't worry, many architecture students lead productive social lives within the heavily monitored cag.es of their workshops! But don't let fear of impending insomnia worry you out of slumber; keep in mind that you'll be learning the trade from some of the most structurally sound folks from the industry! Get it? I made an architecture pun! Ha ha ha!

Here at Cal Poly, our motto is "Learn By Reading Textbooks, dah, I mean, Doing," and as any architecture student can see, simply walking through our lovely campus is an opportunity to expand the foundations of one's mind! OK, I'll begrudgingly dispose of the architecture puns. The incredible yet mind-boggling architecture of our university is a wonderful contradiction of ideas and limited funding, an inspiring mix of if I may say so myself. Permit me to draw out a blueprint of some of Cal Poly's finest architecture marvels:

Bldg. 47 - Faculty Offices North

Called "The Maze" by the few who have survived its perils, this building serves as both offices for College of Liberal Arts faculty and a high security prison, for those who enter may simply never return.

According to the original building proposal, the original idea was "M.C. Escher On Slightly More Acid Than He Was Back In The '50s." The architecture certainly met this goal, with hallways that lead to dead ends and stairwells that lead to the level you were previously on, and I'm pretty sure there's a portal to Narnia tucked in a corner somewhere.

Some faculty members have the misfortune of occupying an office in "The Maze" have resorted to tying their minds together in order to get up every morning. Others rent to a large bottle of Scotch hidden behind their waste bins.

Ultimately the building defies all logic, which may explain why the College of Liberal Arts takes up shop there; for only they have minds creative enough to find pathways in and out of this black hole. Nevertheless, this building is a treasure to Cal Poly, in that it is a miracle that such a building ever was constructed in the first place.

Bldg. 35 - Robert E. Kennedy Library

The second stop on our tour is the Cal Poly Library ("Voted No. 1 Place To Study By Default Because We're The Only Library On Campus"), a bulging monolith of concrete that will never be out of reach.

Webster's Dictionary defines concrete as "the ugliest building material on the face of the planet." However, back in the '70s, deposits had been popularized by M.C. Escher, and people were too high to object to the concrete horrors being raised in place of, well, edifices that look nice.

The building has a claim to fame as being the tallest in San Luis Obispo, but most city representatives will tell you "don't bother going to see it, just enjoy that tidbit of trivia." The library does see the fortunate existence of outdated books — very well, and in cold exterior and jagged edges promote a feeling of Renaissance intellectuation, just minus the Renaissance part.

Bldg. 52 - Science

Our third display is the "Spider Building," a crawling web of interconnected corridors that plays host to many of the school's chemistry, physics, and computer science laboratories, lower division physics laboratories, and whatever English class needed a lecture room.

While not quite the maze as "The Maze," the Spider Building is the home to many a new student, as simply deciphering the location of the individual wings within the building will result in the student arriving several days later, exhausted, and bag-eyed to their first lecture of the quarter.

The building is also ridiculously old, having been built by the same people who erected Stonehenge. As a result, the building will be torn down to be replaced by a newer structure filled with all sorts of technological gimmicks, labs and toilets with bidets.

Construction is estimated to be completed within the next 56 years.

There are many more wonderfully mind-bending structures on the Cal Poly campus, but I encourage you, recently-admitted architecture student, to discover them yourself. One of the reasons Cal Poly is such a fantastic school is not because of our innovations in building design, but our numerous examples of what an architect should never even think of creating.

So when you're starving for inspiration, locked within your architecture workshop at the end of the quarter with only crappy bread left to eat and an excruciating bucket tucked in the corner of the room, don't count on getting any from this campus. I sincerely hope you enjoyed these schematics of Cal Poly's architecture! (Sorry, I just enjoy a good pun.)

James Koman is a biology junior and a Mustang Daily humor columnist.
cloning that reads "food products obtained from healthy cattle and pig clones and their offspring" are similar to products from "conventionally bred animals" and can be marketed to consumers.

Livestock owners who applaud this move likely cloning to just a different sort of selective breeding. Instead of breeding an animal with desirable qualities and hoping you can keep the bloodstream going and thus flocks of birds of plum, fast-growing, disease-resistant flesh, you can simply make exact genetic copies of the best breeding stock, using somatic cell nuclei transfer, and be almost guaranteed copious high-quality results.

What this means for your shopping basket is that you will be able to buy cheese, milk, steaks and processed meaty treats that are of the highest quality and best value because the consumption-bound animals are the "natural" offspring of a multitude of blue-blood clone breeders who have passed on their finest traits.

But this FDA decision will also certainly re-invoke conspiracy theorists' claims that somewhere some companies already have Matrix-like factories of chicken brains growing in vats of synthetic amniotic fluid, plucked off when they reach 14 ounces and packaged for sale.

While that may seem unrealistic, the theory probably has roots in the 1959 feet of University of Massachusetts' Dr. Charles Vacanti. The Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine published a tribute to Dr. Vacanti in 2006, recalling the groundbreaking experiment when he manipulated cells to "produce tissue-engineered cartilage in the shape of a human ear on the arm of a mouse". So sure, terrible and terrific things are possible.

And if we have or do develop processes to the point that we can grow cloned parts without the help of the non-scientific public — a whole animal — we'll have a new consumer base. On the one hand, there will logically no longer be the issue of animal cruelty in growing meat for food and skin as a piece of flesh with no central nervous system to process stimuli can't be considered a conscious being. But on the other hand, we will also have dismembered the system of what we understand to be the "natural" order for living creatures, whether you keep chickens as pets or like to munch on their tender flesh.

However, cloned meat in any fashion should not be allowed into our marketplaces because it is a move that helps shift the center-mass of our social and consumer inhibitions further away from a world in which the realities of death as part of life and killing as part of eating are visible and understood. Not only does it disrupt the utopian idea of the "golden age" of how we imagine life used to be, it also sets the stage for some new socio-political crossbreeding that could produce some strange offspring.

It just happens that also last week, here on campus, animal rights activist group PETA had some representatives go near nacked as front of the EMU in protest of fur, and by extension, meat products and the supposed exploitation of animals. So, if we could grow just the finest cloned fur, would people still be able to protest that it is unethical treatment of an animal — no brainer. But that PETA would protest cloned parts, or cloning at all, as a cruel disruption of "natural" animal lives, then they may have an ally in environmentalists or local-fodish-foods who advocate against genetic modification, cloning and other developments that may threaten more "natural" species or "traditional" relationships with food.

However, PETA President Ingrid Newkirk's plans, which, according to her will, include her own body dismembered and parts of it cooked or sent to those with whom she particularly disagrees, may be too extreme for "local food" people.

So while such a nexus may be unrealistic or unsustainable, other developments may create collaborations that are more long lasting. One of these, which have been gaining momentum in our area, is the work among forestry conservation advocates and climate change activists. As a product of the focus on climate issues, this cooperation seems to have staying power that a PETA-local food collaborator may not.

Josh Grenzesund
Chargers
continued from page 16

The writer referred to me being a 49ers fan, which is true, and how he didn’t want to kick Niners fans when they’re down. He also wrote that my assertion of the Chargers beating a top-20 program last weekend.

His column really made me ponder, and forced me to do some serious research. During my time of reflection I came up with a number five, also known as the number of Super Bowl rings the #49ers own. Better yet, there’s another couple numbers of importance: 49-26, the score of Super Bowl XXIX.

In San Diego’s lone trip in franchise history to the Super Bowl, while the total number of Super Bowl victories means something important in the NFL world, charging fans may have become accustomed to beating John Elway, Dan Marino, Brett Favre and Troy Aikman in their primes. Beating someone like Sean Hutchinson is just another day at the office.

At the Chargers’ current pace, they’ll make the Super Bowl every 29 years, which could warrant taking some pride in beating up a banged-up Vince Young. Of course, he did throw for nine touchdowns — all season.

But the most ludicrous statement of the entire piece was to say I don’t watch the NFL. Network. I’ve had DirecTV since it was invented. As for being better about losing Norv Turner, I have two words for you: Mike Martz.

But in all seriousness, at what point did the Chargers earn this right to feel so disrespected? When have they truly earned that respect?

They were supposed to be a Super Bowl team this year! They went 14-2 and were a disappointment last year. Chargers fans are typical, delusional, unrealistic West Coast fans — and that’s coming from a West Coast fan.

If the Chargers want to gain some respect, they should win the game that matters — the Super Bowl. It sure seemed to work up in San Francisco.

John Middlekauff is an outdoors writer and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

Tough tests continue for Mustangs

Agnes-Dei Farrant

Last weekend was not favorable for the Cal Poly women’s tennis team, putting it at 2-2 overall. The Mustangs suffered their first loss of the season on Sunday at No. 18 Pepperdine, 5-2. A day later, No. 3 UCLA defeated the Mustangs, 7-0.

"Pepperdine was a very close match," said Cal Poly head coach Hugh Bream. "They got the doubles point by winning two of the doubles games. In the singles we won rough matches in four and five."

At those spots, Shannon Brady and Whitney Peterson won, while the tandem of Maria Malec and Diane Filip captured the Mustangs’ lone doubles victory. Malec and Filip topped Pepperdine’s Jill Braverman and Alex Liles 6-2.

"(Malec and I) had great energy from the beginning," Filip said. "We had great focus, we knew just what we wanted to do. We performed really well against Pepperdine. Against UCLA there were just a few points that made the difference."

The Bruins, who boast four top-50 players nationally, swept the Mustangs despite some close calls in doubles action.

"UCLA’s Yasmin Schmack and Riza Zalameda edged Brit-
Davis continued from page 16

5.4 rebounds per game. "Our shot selection hasn’t been the best; we’ve been shooting with a hand in the face. Now we’ve been focusing on wearing down a defense, and waiting for the time to take the shot most likely to go in." If there were ever an opponent that could lend itself toward a more involved performance by Cal Poly’s post players, it could be UC Davis.

The Aggies (8-10, 2-3 Big West) set foot in San Luis Obispo last in the Big West in both offensive and defensive rebounding, and in rebounding differential, surrendering 6.1 more rebounds per contest than they pull down. "(Bromley) expects us to dominate on the glass," said the 6-foot-7, 220-pound Hanson. "That could get us points we haven’t been getting in the past couple games."

On the perimeter for UC Davis will be 6-foot-3 guard Vince Oliver, who leads the Aggies with 13.6 points per game. "He has the potential to break away from the (set) offense and get points," Bromley said.

Three Aggies starters are at least 6-foot-7, including 230-pound forward Shane Hanson, but their unusual lineup doesn’t depend on conventional organizers and finishers, Matt Hans said. "They are an interesting team," he said. "They don’t really have a true point guard or a true center. All of them can shoot — they don’t really specialize in one area, all of them can do good things so you can’t ignore any of them."

UC Davis, which doesn’t have a senior on its entire roster and plays just one player off the bench for at least 13 minutes per game, faces defense to be patrolled because of an intricate Princeton-style offense, Bromley emphasized. "You can’t pressure them out of it — you’ve got to defend it and be disciplined," he said. "Throughout the shot clock you can’t break down, and the later and later it gets you’ve got to tighten up."

While the Mustangs are only a third into their conference schedule, they may need to right their ship in a hurry. "This team is growing and maturing," Bromley said. "We’re not last year’s team, when we made it look simple."

Hanson conceded that on their own merit this season, the Mustangs still have time to make amends to their early-season shortcomings. "Last year we dug ourselves out of a hole," he said. "(This year) we got off to a slow start, but you’ve got to keep your head up."

Tennis continued from page 14

said. "You’re talking about nine (Bruais) that have played extensive professional tennis and have been ranked top-40 in the world for juniors. Getting to play against that level was the best. It allows our athletes to grow and improve consistently seeing top-level competition."

The Mustangs will travel to Eugene, Ore. to take on Utah on Saturday and Oregon on Sunday. "We work on the rain coming down," Beam said. "(Oregon)’s mainly an international team — they’re very solid. We’re really excited for the opportunity to play them and play other tough teams on the road."

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Tennis

Continued from page 14

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Pacific continued from page 16

The Tigers currently average 70 points and 39.8 rebounds per outing, while Cal Poly heads to Stockton posting similar marks of 67 points and 39.9 rebounds per game.

"We need to work on consistency," Minnauha said. "There are times that we focus too much on one aspect of our defense but what we want to do is carry over what we’ve been working on and move forward."

Cal Poly’s current 4-1 conference record ties the program’s best in 12 years as a member of the Big West.

“I think this weekend will be a challenge for us,” Minnauha said. “Both opponents are really tough and it will take sizable effort and concentration to pull off a victory.”

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Horseshoe rivalry hits hard wood

Cal Poly men's basketball team tweaks its offense midway through Big West Conference play to correct shooting struggles from perimeter

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Patience may be a virtue, but it could also be the saving grace for the Cal Poly men's basketball team's frustrating season. "This team has to grind it out a bit more on offense, and be a little more selective," Mustangs head coach Kevin Bromley says.

The Mustangs may have to be more offensively judicious in order to get back in the Big West Conference race, which they resume by hosting UC Davis at Mott Gym at 7 p.m. tonight.

In light of Cal Poly's sixth loss in seven games, a 75-60 defeat Saturday at the hands of UC Santa Barbara, in which the Mustangs made just 2 of 19 attempts from 3-point range, wiseful shot selection was emphasized more than ever, Bromley explained.

"It's not necessarily how many 3s we take," he said. "It's more about when we take 3s."

While the Mustangs (6-11, 1-4 Big West) have vowed to find a better offensive balance, Bromley said, they still have to rely at times on their long-range game, which isn't as overused as some observers may think, especially for a team that belongs to a conference in which eight of nine teams average 18 or more 3-point tries per game.

Even in the trigger-happy conference, though, the Mustangs rank last in both field-goal percentage (39.8) and 3-point percentage (28.8).

"Without a doubt this team is struggling from 3-point range," Bromley said. "People know that and will pack it in inside so you still have to shoot a few of them.... If you're a basketball team you can't just bust every time. You've got to get some hits."

An attack that bides more of its time could cure much of the Mustangs' recent shooting frustrations, Cal Poly forward Matt Hanson said.

"It's something we've been working on in practice," said the senior, who leads the Mustangs with both 8.9 points and 1.4 rebounds per game against a conference in which eight of nine teams average 15.8 or more 3-point tries per game.

The amount of Mustangs who score at least six points per game

• 2.8 Cal Poly's 3-point shooting percentage this season, worst in the Big West Conference

39.8 The Mustangs' overall shooting percentage, also worst in the conference

Women's basketball

Mustangs try to rebound from Saturday's Santa Barbara setback

Shannon Boren
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's basketball team will attempt to build on its best Big West Conference start ever when it visits Pacific at 7 p.m. tonight at Mott Gym.

Despite the past successes, the Mustangs are in no way overconfident about tonight's contest.

"They're very athletic and probably the best 3-point (shooting) team we've faced all year," said Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh. "It will be a major challenge to cover their whole team, especially their 3-point shooters."

Leading the Mustangs should be forward Megan Harrison, who has scored in double figures in 19 of her past 23 games. She is now the third-leading scorer in the conference this season with 14.1 points per game.

A balanced Tigers offense features four players averaging at least 10 points per game. Forward Janae Young leads the quarter with 11.9 points a game.

"They're going to be a really good team," Harrison said. "They're better than they've been in past years and we can't overlook them. If we can focus after our loss on Saturday and get back the good team chemistry we had in the first four games, I think we have a shot."

Also among the conference's statistical leaders on behalf of Cal Poly is guard Ashlee Stewart, who is currently fourth with 3.3 assists per game. She will probably be matched up with Amy VanHollebeke, who leads the Big West with 3.56 assists per game.

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