From hardware to homes

Five of the nine buildings will be available to sophomore students by fall 2009. Students can apply now through Housing and Residential Life.

Cary Conrady
MUSTANG DAILY

Amid the buzz about the addition of Starbucks to the University Union, the possible Recreation Center expansion and various construction projects around campus, Poly Canyon Village quietly awaits in the corner, slowly taking the form of what will be a significant on-campus housing complex in a matter of months.

The complex, which can house 2,700 students in its nine high-rise buildings, is now accepting applications for fall 2008.

The project started in March 2005 and will cost the university an estimated $300 million by the time it is finished.

Five of the nine buildings, which can hold approximately 1,500 residents, will be available for move-in by fall, as well as part of the new parking structure.

“We're hoping to have all nine buildings open by summer of 2009," said Preston Allen, the director of Housing and Residential Life.

Poly Canyon Village is set up much like the Century Vista Apartments, with 80 percent of the apartments containing four private bedrooms with two bathrooms. All apartments come furnished with a weekly custodial service and will cost about $600 per month.

“It's an absolutely beautiful complex with views of the sunset and the hills. The hardest part is trying to convince you to actually go to class," Allen said.

Poly Canyon Village will feature hiking trails, a pool, study facilities, a post office, a market, a recreation center and conference rooms. Cal Poly is also introducing Peet's Coffee, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Jamba Juice in the complex as well as a central plaza for entertainment.

"We'll work with (Associated Students Inc.) to bring events to Poly Canyon Village," Allen said. "We really want students to have an enhanced living experience. We want to fully integrate students into campus life and get them involved. Hopefully we can create a positive environment that is a win-win for the students, campus and the community."

Students living off campus are hoping to benefit from the grand opening of Poly Canyon Village as well. The addition of 618 on-campus apartment promises to reduce the competition for housing in San Luis Obispo, as well as alleviate the worst of the storm was moving thunderstorms brought by new waves of rain on Sunday to California, following days of drenching weather and heavy mountain snowfall and raising fears of mudslides and flooding.

The worst of the storm was over, and Monday promised to bring a spell of clear weather, forecasters said.

"Things will start to die down as the night goes on," said National Weather Service forecaster Ryan Kittrell.

Up to 3 inches of rain had fallen by early afternoon in San Bernardino and coastal areas since overnight Saturday, with about 4 inches in the mountains, forecasters said.

Wind gusts of 30 to 50 mph were reported in some areas.

Officials said the rain brought a threat of serious slides on hillsides stripped of vegetation by last year's wildfires. Mud and mire rock slides prompted authorities to shut a highway through a burned area near San Diego. Voluntary evacuations were in effect in heavily burned Modjeska Canyon in Orange County.

The Los Angeles County and Orange County fire departments were on standby for possible flash floods and slides. Flash flood watches remained in effect through Sunday night for Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

To avoid overflow, the flood gates at the Big Tujunga Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains were raised to 276 feet, allowing the water level to go up to 1,500 feet, forecasters said.

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Freelance religion journalist discusses role of media

What freelance religion journalist Shona Colborne will speak about the role journalism plays in shaping religious dialogue in America. The speech is sponsored by the religious studies program and the Cal Poly Theist club.

When: Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.
Where: Bioresource and agricultural engineering building 8, room 213
Questions: Call Stephen Lloyd-Moffett at 756-2475.

Mathematician discusses fair-division

What: Cal Poly research scholar in residence Greg Giraldo is coming to Cal Poly for a night of political humor.

When: Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Chumash Auditorium

Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

LGBT and women's self-defense workshop

What: The Pride Center and SPEC'TRUM are presenting a self-defense workshop with the SARP Center that is intended for a LGBT and female ally student audience.

When: Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m.
Where: University Union room 208
Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-7153.

Voting

What: By-mail application to be received by the county in which they are registered by no more than seven days before an election. For the upcoming presidential primaries that day has passed, but ballots can still be issued in person up to the time of the election.

Where: While students can register at any ballot box, many have registered at the campus by mail.

Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

Housing

What: The Polycampus Village is open to all Cal Poly students, but sophomores are given priority in the registration process as part of Cal Poly's Sophomore Success Program, a resource to sophomores living on campus meant to assist their transition to junior year.

Where: Polycampus Village.

 Beginning March 14, all continuing students will have the opportunity to place these names on the Poly Campus Village Apartment Interest List.

 The Santa Anita race track in Arcadia, meanwhile, canceled horse races for the sixth day this month because of wet conditions on the synthetic track. The storms system also sank parts of Northern California and Washburn's weather service posted winter storm warnings for parts of the Sierra Nevada.

A highway was closed in the mountains south of San Francisco, and Pacific Gas and Electric said about 2,700 homes and businesses were still blacked out because of downed power lines.

A series of fierce storms has caused deadly avalanches, flooded streets and set off mud and rock slides in recent days. Some areas have received more moisture in a week than during the entire rainy season.

Strengthening the Political Will to Invest in Climate Change Solutions

Focus the Nation

Where: San Luis Obispo County, many open to all with proper identification.

Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-7153.

While studying. Forget studying

What: Comedy Central Live On Campus "The Indecision 2008 Tour" is coming to Cal Poly for a night of political humor.

When: Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Where: Grey gym in the Rec Center

Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

What: What: ASI Events is hosting the third annual no-limit Texas Hold 'em tournament. The $5 admission fee includes food, music and a spot in the tournament. Reservation at connect.asi.calpoly.edu is necessary to get in and spots are limited.

When: Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Grey gym in the Rec Center
Questions: Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

Storms

continued from page 1

opened Sunday, releasing 500 cubic feet of water a second.

Department of Public Works spokesman Gary Boze said the controlled flooding was routine during heavy storms.

In downtown Los Angeles, Sunday's basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Cleveland Cavaliers was delayed 12 minutes after a small leak in the Staples Center roof allowed a steady flow of water to fall on the court.

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Three skiers were killed Friday by a trio of avalanches that swept through cabins outside the trails of Mountain High ski resort at Wrightwood, northeast of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains. A fourth man escaped the avalanches.

Avalanches are unusual in the San Gabriel Mountains, but the pack had been up 3 feet or more of new snow this past week, drawing thousands of skiers and snowboarders.

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Voting

continued from page 1

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Housing

continued from page 1

at traffic on campus.

Police say the Village residence is open to all Cal Poly students, but sophomores are given priority in the registration process as part of Cal Poly's Sophomore Success Program, a resource to sophomores living on campus meant to assist their transition to junior year.

Freshmen currently living on campus have the first opportunity to apply for housing online between Feb. 5 and Feb. 18. Students living off campus can also apply after attending one of the mandatory information sessions, which are being held Jan. 23 to Jan. 29.

Six hundred students have already signed up for the meetings, Allen said.
State Briefs

RICHMOND (AP) — A man is in critical condition after gunfire erupted from a sedan that pulled up alongside his car on a Richmond freeway.

Police said the victim was shot three or four times Sunday afternoon while driving east on Interstate 80. Richmond police Lt. Michael Hooker said a woman and a toddler also in the victim’s car suffered no injuries.

The vehicle came to a stop in the middle of the freeway after the shooting. The victim was airlifted to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

BARSTOW (AP) — The Air Force plans to destroy an abandoned military bunker in the Mojave Desert, where a teen couple were killed execution-style earlier this month.

Linda Geissinger, a spokeswoman for the Air Force’s Real Property Agency, said it’s awaiting clearance from the San Bernardino County district attorney’s office to demolish the bunker by the fall.

The bunker sits on the former Hawes Auxiliary Army Airfield. It has been abandoned since the mid-1980s and has become a graffiti-scarred hangout for youths.

Eighteen-year-old Christopher Cody Thompson and his 16-year-old girlfriend Bodhisattva Sheriff-Potter were shot at the bunker on Jan. 5.

ANTIOCH (AP) — An Antioch man burned in a fire that started when a suspected drunken driver crashed into his house has been released from the hospital.

Police said they arrested Terry Franklin on suspicion of driving under the influence after he tried to flee the scene just before 5 p.m. Saturday.

The crash snapped a gas meter and started a fire in the car that spread to the house.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “No Country for Old Men” emerged as the Oscar favorite Sunday by taking top honors for overall cast along with Javier Bardem’s supporting-actor prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the lone gathering of A-list stars in an awards season hobbled by the writers’ strike.

Daniel Day-Lewis of “There Will Be Blood” and Julie Christie of “Away From Her” won the lead-acting honors, also giving them a boost to win the same trophies at the Oscars on Feb. 24.

WORLD ON THE STREET

“What’s the one thing in SLO you’ve always wanted to do but haven’t yet?”

Compiled and photographed by Brittnay Clyde

“Sea kayaking. I was just thinking about that this morning.”
— Nicole Balvanza, biology junior

“I haven’t gone line dancing yet.”
— James Perryman, general engineering freshman

“I’d like to go surfing.”
— Stephen Marshall, kinesiology freshman

“It’d like to have a Mardi Gras block party this year.”
— Dave Moller, materials engineering junior

Despite what you may have heard

The Party Is Still Over

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO END MARDI GRAS VIOLENCE IN SLO. LET’S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

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- Up to $1,000 fines for excessive noise
- Special fines in effect for flashing and nudity
- Strict enforcement of laws

Help keep San Luis Obispo a safe place for everyone.

www.MardiGrasSLO.com
Obama says landslide win in South Carolina marks a turn in party history

Charles Babington

Associated Press

Democratic Barack Obama said Sunday that his landslide win in South Carolina's presidential primary marks a turn in political history, showing that a black candidate can appeal to voters of all colors and in all regions.

The Illinois senator told a raucous South Carolina crowd of more than 9,000 that his big victory Saturday disproved the old notion "that if you get black votes, you can't get white votes," and vice versa.

"We're going to write a new chapter in the South, we're going to write a new chapter in American history," he said during his 64-minute speech to a capacity crowd at the University of Alabama at Birmingham basketball arena. The crowd was roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

Earlier Sunday he made a similar argument, responding to comments by former President Clinton that some interpreted as an effort to diminish Obama's win Saturday over Hillary Rodham Clinton. Bill Clinto

n noted that Jesse Jackson won the arena. The crowd was roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

"We're going to write a new chapter in American history," he said, with implications "all across the country I think people want change. I think they want to get beyond some of the racial politics that, you know, has been so dominant in the past."

Obama resisted being drawn into a spat with the Clintons, even though he suggests they are part of a politi
cal part the country is ready to leave behind.

"I think that Bill Clinton did im
portant work back in the 1990's," he said. "The question is, now we're in 2008, and how do we move it forward to the next phase?"

"I think that in the '90s, we got caught up in a slashed-and-burn politics that the American people are weary of," Obama said.

"Now that is not the Clinton's fault," he said on ABC's "The Week."

"It is all of our faults, in the sense that we've gotten into these bad habits and we can't seem to have disagreements without being disagreeable."

Later, Obama said, "I think the country wants to look forward, and that has always been the central thesis of our campaign."

He said Hillary Clinton will have an advantage in the swiping race on Feb. 5, when Democrats vote in 22 states, because of her nearly uni
eral name recognition. "It presents more of a challenge for us," he said, because he needs time for voters to get to know him.

Obama declared to directly con
demn Clinton for urging that the Democratic Party officially recognize delegates awarded to the winner of Tuesday's largely ignored Democratic primary in Florida. Clinton said she will travel to Florida on Tuesday.

"All the candidates made a pledge that we would campaign in the early states and we would not campaign in Florida and Michigan," Obama said.

"I will abide by the promises I made."

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama crosses the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama with civil rights pioneer Dr. Joseph Lowery.

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The son of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is peddling a board game titled "Don't Drop the Soap," a prison

-themed game he created as part of a class project at the Rhode Island School of Design.

John Sebelius, 23, has the back

ning of his father and mother, U.S. Magistrate Judge Gary Sebelius. The governor's spokesman, Nicole Corcoran, said both parents are "very proud of their son John's creativity and talent."

"Every time I got to school, I was always searching for the soap. I'd have to go find it and if you didn't get it, you didn't wash," Sebelius said. "It's all part of the process of being a prisoner and I think it is funny."

He said he recently heard that it is an Eastern tradition for a prisoner to eat the soap after a bath and that it is an attempt to create a new identity.

"Now, that is not the Clintons'

New York (AP) — A man who calls himself a tantric master broke his own world record by standing engulfed in ice for 72 minutes.

Winfrey, 48, stood on a Man

hattan street in a clear container filled with ice for an hour and 12 minutes Saturday.

Hof said he survives by con
rolling his body temperature through tantric meditation. Tantra is an Eastern tradition of ritual and meditations said to bring followers closer to their chosen deities.

CHESTERFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Two fourth-grade boys mim
icking a scene from the movie "A Christmas Story" wound up with their tongues stuck to a frozen flagpole.

Gage Dempsey and James Al

exander were serving on flag duty at Jackson Elementary School Friday morning, with the job of raising and lowering the school's flags. They decided to see if their tongues really would stick to the cold metal.

"I decided to try it because I thought all of the TV shows were lies, but turns out I was wrong," Gage said.

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Briefs

National

RAFAH, Egypt (AP) — A lin

ning of Hamas security forces, many of them bearded

ed and dressed in blue camouflage uniforms, fanned out on both sides of the breached Gaza-Egypt border Sunday to jointly police the cross

ing with Egyptian guards.

Though only about a dozen Hamas forces took up positions, it was their first significant action on the Egyptian side of the border in the few days since Palestinian militants blasted through the parti

tion. Since then, tens of thousands of Gazans have flooded into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other goods, made scarce by an Israeli closure of the territory.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Former Indonesian President Suharto, a Cold War ally of the United States whose brutal military regime killed hundreds of thou

ands of left-wing political oppo

tionists, died Sunday. He was 86.

Although he overview some of the worst bloodshed of the 20th century, Suharto is credited with developing the country and will be buried with the highest state honors Monday at the family maus

oleum.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Gunmen kidnapped a burglar-guard from an American aid worker and her driver in southern Afghan

istan's largest city early Saturday, the latest in a series of kidnappings of foreigners in the troubled country.

Cyd Miett, who worked in Kandahar for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation, was snatched from a residential neigh

borhood as she was on her way to work. Jeff Palme, the aid group's international director, said the group had not been contacted by the kidnappers and that he did not know their identity or demands.

Aasulallah Khalid, the provincial governor, blamed the kidnappings on the "enemy of Islam and the en

emy of Afghanistan."
What does ‘epic’ even mean anymore, Hollywood?

To epic flicks, people herd like cattle, so bring out the beats, it’s time to battle.

Hollywood is out of control right now. Ever since the era of computer-driven special effects began, we’ve been seeing epic mov-  
ie after epic movie. But you gotta wonder, how will this escalation of epic-ness end?

We saw epic war movies like “Troy” come out and dazzle us by showing thousands of ships carrying men with stupidly long hair to  
battle. Then “Lord of the Rings” and “300” changed the game to the  
point where no movie is truly epic unless 14,000 gorillas, 2,000  
giraffes and 9,000 thin humans fight side-by-side with humans. Basically,  
the escalation of epics-ness has reached the point of inter-species  
combat, and Hollywood is going ape-shit with it.

We’ve got “Chronicles of Narnia,” “The Golden Compass” and now “10,000 B.C.”, the tale of a caveman who fights against ele- 
phants, dinosaurs and armies of thousands in civilizations that prob-  
ably never existed. Hollywood, please, you want me to believe it’s  
Hollywood, you, please, you want me to believe it’s  
10,000 B.C. and this dude is speaking fluent English and fighting  
dinosaurs!

“Epic” used to mean Will Smith saving the world from aliens  
(in “Independence Day”) ... who thought I was talking about “Men  
In Black”? It also used to mean a lamp, a vacuum, a radio, an elec- 
tric blanket and a toaster embarking on a journey to reunite with  
their owner. Have we forgotten about the epic qualities of “The  
Brave Little Toaster”?

Hollywood needs to be stopped for our safety. Escalating the  
epic-ness we’re currently experiencing might be harmless to the hu- 
mant heart. Can a person survive witnessing humans and animals  
joining forces to fight off extraterrestrial invaders who have brought  
animals from their planet to fight earth’s greatest warriors in an all- 
out bloodbath until one man, alien, animal or alienimal is left? Oh,  
did I mention it’s also Armand Assante and a mad scientist has cloned  
dinosaurs and set them free?

A hero will rise from our ranks and, of course, at some point in  
the film, call out to the rival leader, saying something like “Before  
this day is over, you will be dead!” or “I will see you on the battle- 
field,” only this time he says it to a 40-foot-tall tiger-lizard that has  
18,000 tentacles made out of pure energy. And lava.

And then halfway through the movie, when the love story is get- 
ting played out, the zombie invasion hits. But these aren’t your ordi- 
inary zombies. Well, they were until the vampires and werewolves  
came and bit them all. Now they’re zombie-wolves.

At this point in the film, at least two audience members’ hearts have exploded, but that’s not enough for Hollywood. Just when you  
think the movie is over and all the aliens, alienimals and zombie- 
wolves are dead, a time warp opens up and robots from the year  
7010 appear, ready to lay waste to our survivors. Can our hero de- 

derive an epic speech to rally what’s left of the malial team to de-  
feat this new futuristic menace? Will audience members be alive to  
see the rest of the trilogy?

Start exercising and eating healthy now so that you can pass  
the necessary physical examination to see the most epic movie ever — the  
TRENDASAURUS spontaneously combusted just reading the script.  
And don’t believe that a movie is epic just because it says it is. “Epic”  
should mean “superior in quality and scale,” not just “really long with  
huge battles involving man and beast and cheesy dialogue.”

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.
Hey Perez, Where’s My Celebrity Juice!

Jessica Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

When celebrity blogger Perez Hilton visited Cal Poly Thursday, I expected a night filled with juicy gossip and nonstop laughs. Instead, I was left with Perez’s life story and endless promotional plugs for his upcoming projects.

Now don’t get me wrong, the entire event wasn’t a bust. Things picked up when Perez played an exclusive clip of his unreleased song, “My Penis” and proceeded to dance around the Chumash stage. (Yes, he’s also an aspiring musician and his song really is called “My Penis.”) His pop/dance/techno song was quite catchy and how could you not like a song with lyrics like, “My penis is scandalous.”

Perez’s other unreleased song, “Hot Mess,” should be just as amusing. (I think it’s safe to say “Hot Mess” is a probably a tribute to the recent unraveling Britney Spears.)

I believe Britney pays Perez’s bills, and I’m pretty sure he would have to agree. Perez said he “lives for the Spears family” and believes Britney is “in a category all her own.” When asked if he preferred Britney or Lindsay Lohan by an audience member, Perez replied, “I like Britney Spears more. She’s good for business.” (Good for business! She’s your business.)

The only celebrity gossip Perez really discussed during the night was Avril Lavigne’s hatred for him, John Mayer’s apparent porn fetish, Madonna’s new style preference, an encounter with Tara Reid when she was supposedly “drunk and on blow,” and Zac Efron’s makeup collection.

I do have to admit that this blogger/actor/musician/comedian/motivational speaker/record label owner/pop culture enthusiast/teen idol is now supporting himself by bagging celebrities and scooping the tabloids. Although throughout the event Perez claimed he didn’t exaggerate things to get a rise out of people, which is exactly what he is actually like, but that having this alter ego allows him to be more outrageous. Perez revealed he exaggerates things to get a rise out of people, which is exactly what has made him famous.

The highlight of the night (second to the “My Penis” song, of course) was the video Perez made from onstage showing all of his Cal Poly fans screaming and doing the wave. He actually posted the video on his Web site shortly after his Cal Poly visit. If you desire to further see the fame of the self-proclaimed “media whore,” check out the minute-long video (http://perzhilton.com/2008-01-25-sex-de­grees-of-zacquisha), pay to see his upcoming movie (coming out later this year), or buy his songs when they are finally released on iTunes.

Above, students line up to see notorious blogger Perez Hilton take stabs at celebs in Chumash Auditorium Thursday night. Instead, Hilton (top left) kept the topic on himself.

KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Little Love Notes

Your message will run in the classified section of the Mustang Daily on Thursday, February 14.

Name
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City State
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message (Max of 20 characters)

Avoid Burnout

We’ve got plenty of distractions.

www.mustangdaily.net

Mustang Daily
ARTS

Monday, January 28, 2008

www.mustangdaily.net
It may be unclear to viewers why NBC is trying to resurrect a show about spandex-wearing goliaths, as some call it through its门户's garage. Nevertheless, the network is attempting to recreate a glorious past that we were sure was all but lost — an era when men were men, women were women, and silver spandex was the last word in haute couture — with a new version of "American Gladiators" that began this month.

Most of the action in "American Gladiators" boils down to a fight between the average Joe and a group of muscle-bound freaks. Director J. Rupert Thompson and Executive Producer David Huwertz have set up the show around the idea of a David and Goliath battle set in a number of futuristic-looking obstacle courses. The average-looking contestants must complete a series of courses in which the obstacles are the gladiators themselves.

The four courses — the Joust, the Wall, Hang Tough and the Eliminator — are designed to test the strength and patience of the contestant while Hella, Siren and Titan, a few of the show's aptly named gladiators, literally weigh the competitors down and prevent them from moving on to the next level. These gladiators may at first seem only to be brainless, steroid-inhaling jocks, but their relentless drive to prevent ordinary people from succeeding and their triumphant victory shouts set these super-humans apart as true warriors.

One of the more impressive combatants is Hella, a 205-pound mistress of death who, according to the NBC Web page, celebrates her Viking heritage by hitting opponents with "the force of Thor's hammer," sending them "straight to Valhalla." Yet anyone who chooses to oppose such a valiant fighter is clearly insignificant because too much happens too quickly. In other words, the show tests its audience's patience, not to mention their intellect. "American Gladiators" seems to be part of a media frenzy to glorify the fight, the individual struggle and the battlefield. Viewers can't help but feel that, if they were also equipped with shiny, skin-tight spandex and set in a futuristic land of gym mats and techno, they too could overcome any odds.

In the end, the show is not madness; it is simply, like it or not, "American Gladiators."
I work hard for my grades. I always have. If anything, my studying and efforts in the classroom have taught me the values of applying oneself and the success that can follow.

However, it seems I am a dying breed. A recent educational program has caught the attention of the media, students and myself. The Atlanta-based pilot program called "Learn by Earn" is paying students to study. For an 8 hour day, selected eighth-graders and eleventh-graders will spend two days a week in a special tutoring program. Those chosen for the program are students with high potential but low academic performance.

The invention of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the "Learn by Earn" program hopes to create a positive learning environment and improve the studying habits of poorly performing students. Those in support of it argue that the United States is falling behind in education (true), that other countries such as China and India are producing students with higher skills in math and science in particular (true) and that school systems doing nothing about it are a disservice to the young population (true). But I don't think a check every two weeks is the right answer.

By paying students to learn, they are, in essence, being bribed for success. What kind of message does this send to those students not asked to participate in the program because they already are hard workers in their studies? People constantly label our generation and the generations younger than us as egocentric youth. We have grown up thinking we are "special," receiving trophies for tournaments we didn't win, ribbons for 10th place, extravagant "Super Sweet Sixteen" parties and parties on the back for saying "please" and "thank you." Does working hard to simply work hard even matter anymore or must everything come with a prize?

I am interested in seeing what happens in Atlanta. I do think "Learn by Earn" will be effective to a certain extent. Students being paid to study will study and in turn will receive higher grades, but their perceptions of education as well as their own power and intellect will be tested even more. If the students being paid to learn are not working hard, what kind of message is that sending to those who are not?

Robert Vinson
Business sophomore

What the hell? This paper resembles several bad English 101 papers. Grow up, see the world and, I fear, changed for the worse.

Taylor Moore is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily current events columnist.

Taylor Moore to a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily current events columnist.
"If you can't spot the sucker in the first half-hour at the table, then you are the sucker."

Now, I have probably watched "Rounders" one too many times because I take that quote to heart, even when it comes to fantasy basketball. It always hurts when a first-round pick gets hurt or a fantasy sleeper doesn't pan out (*cough* Bargnani *cough*).

All of these problems can add up and make you look like the sucker in front of your friends, but there is no need to panic. It is only the midway point in the season and a lot can be done through trades.

Here are six simple rules to trading that will help you avoid looking like Tracy McCrady with yet another early first-round exit:

1) Find the person who is desperate to make a trade.
   Don't bother wasting your time with the team that has won 73 percent of its games — there is little chance that the owner will break it apart. You will find the desperate ones a few spots back from playoff contention.

2) Huge contracts and media attention mean absolutely nothing in fantasy basketball.
   Just because Tony Parker is an NBA Finals MVP and is making $10.5 million this year doesn't make him better than José Calderón when it comes purely to statistics. In fact, Calderón beats Parker in every statistical category except points (which shouldn't be your main concern from a point guard, anyway).

3) Fantasy basketball is a multiple-category statistical game.
   Remember that points, rebounds and assists are worth just as much as turnovers and shooting percentages. So try to find the person in your league that only looks at the "appealing" categories like points per game and offer guys that are only good at those few stats, and can hurt in other places such as percentages and turnovers — guys like Carmelo Anthony, Ben Gordon, Shaquille O'Neal and Zach Randolph.

4) Do not live in the past.
   Find the person who drafted Vince Carter, Tracy McGrady or Jermaine O'Neal in the second round (or even the person that drafted Steve Francis and Shaquille O'Neal with one of their tenth-round picks) and offer them another fading superstar for an up-and-coming player that has already more than proved himself this year (for example, guys like Brandon Roy, Rudy Gay and Deron Williams).

5) Don't low-ball the other person.
   This is one of the most important rules, and most of us know how it feels getting excited about a trade offer, only to open it up and see that you were offered Grant Hill and Raymond Felton for Deron Williams and Paul Pierce.

   If you propose trades like this it sends a message that you think the other person is an idiot, and the only response you will get is an even worse counter-offer.

6) Think ahead.
   I agree that Tim Duncan and Steve Nash are some of the best, but when it comes down to playoff time and their real teams are locked up at the top of the Western Conference, they aren't nearly as valuable. The Spurs bench their players toward the end, and older guys with nagging injuries like Nash play fewer minutes so that they can be ready after the regular season.

   Hopefully these rules can help you reach the top of your league, so that you can feel "so proud and good, strong enough to beat the world." Nevermind what I said before — there is no way "Rounders" can be overwatched.

Dmitry Bisk is an animal science senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.
Basketball
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As a team, Pacific leads the conference in field-goal percentage, shooting 49.2 percent, and is No. 2 in field-goal percentage defense, holding opponents to 42.3-percent shooting.

"Pacific is terrific," Bromley said. "We have to prepare for it being the most physical game we've played this year. ... We've always had a tough time shooting the ball there — in the past they've just locked us down. We've got to get them loosened up.

The Tigers also have hit the glass better than anyone else in the conference, out-rebounding opponents by 5.4 boards per game.

Meanwhile, the Mustangs (7-11, 2-4 West) are coming off a 79-67 home win over UC Davis on Thursday.

Senior forward DrewShawn Vance led Cal Poly with a career-high 19 points, while three others added at least 10 points in the win.

One of those contributors, sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler, started for just the third time this season. Keeler is Cal Poly's second-leading scorer, behind junior guard Tras Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

Bromley said Keeler would probably start again, with the only change in the Mustangs lineup possibly being the absence of freshman wing Shawn Lewis, who is a game-time decision due to a knee injury.

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Coral Snyder  
MUSTANG DAILY

S
ince she was in third grade, Megan Harrison has played basketball. "Basketball is my life and I don't know what I'm going to do without it when I graduate," she says.
Before moving to Dripping Springs, Texas, Harrison lived in Cambodia with her family and played soccer because girls were not allowed to play on a basketball team until fifth grade.
She would join her first basketball team, which was coached by her father, after moving.
In Texas, Harrison says, she knew she loved basketball as soon as she began playing, and continued through high school until she was recruited to play for Cal Poly.
"I had a feeling when I came here that it just fit for me," Harrison says of her first experience at Cal Poly.
She felt right. Today, the junior forward leads the Mustangs in scoring and rebounding, with averages of 13.9 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.
While ranking third in the Big West Conference in scoring, and also in top 10 in rebounding and free-throw percentage, Harrison helped Cal Poly (6-12, 5-2 Big West) to its best Big West start ever, and its best conference beginning in 28 years.
On Nov. 29, 2007, against San Diego State, she scored 24 points, the most ever in one game, and also in its top 10 in rebounding and free throw percentage.
As part of "Big Monday," ESPN2 will nationally televise the Mus­

tangs head to Stockton looking to build on second Big West win
Donovan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Mustangs turned time off into win
Mendes stays unbeaten, Pami also wins
Brittney Clyde  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly wrestling team returned to action against UC Davis at Mott Gym on Friday night after a 12-day break. Ultimately, the Mus­
tangs came away with a 28-15 win in the Pac-10 dual.
They won seven of the 10 matches which included two for­
torn by UC Davis.
"It's always good to get a win," said Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo. "I think we met most of the expectations. There were a couple of them we thought we'd win that we didn't. It was good overall."
UC Davis was able to get an early win by fall at 125 pounds, but lost the subsequent seven matches.
The Aggies were also able to earn another fall at 197 and a deci­sion at heavyweight.
Azevedo's style of wrestling is comparable to that of Boise State, which defeated the Mustangs (5-4, 5-2 Pac-10) Jan. 13, 26-5.
"UC Davis is similar to Boise (State); they like to get heavy on the head and get really physical," Azevedo said.
Though Azevedo said the Mus­tangs were "a little sluggish" during the match, he made it clear that it was due to how intensely they had been training during the period that no matches were scheduled.
"We trained really hard and I think their bodies are a little worn out, but we've been training for the future, for not this match," he said.
Cal Poly's Chase Pami bounced back from his last match to earn a 6-1 decision over UC Davis' Drew Maragila at 157. Pami, ranked No. 13 in the nation, improved to 19-4 on the season.
"I'm satisfied with where I'm at, but I still have a little way to go before the end of the year, but it's going to come," Pami said. He added he wants to improve his consistency for the rest of the year.
At 141, Chad Mendes, the first Mustang to hold a No. 1 ranking in the nation since Scott Heaton and Rick Word both did in 1980, defended his position against Nenki Delgado.
Mendes earned a 10-2 major decision to improve to 19-0 on the season. He's held down the top spot for two consecutive weeks in the InterMatWrestle.com poll.
The Mustangs will host Stanford in their penultimate Pac-10 match, at 7 p.m. Feb. 8.