Tibetan Buddhist protests cause growing problems as 2008 Beijing Olympics near.

Updated Polyratings still an asset to students, nuisance to faculty

Donovan Aird

One candidate makes sense, but appears to be hated by every­one else. An alternative choice would require personal compro­mises, but it is well liked by peers. The other option is a mystery — intriguing, yet far too polarizing by most accounts.

Like a renegade, underground voter information guide Polyratings.com lives on, purporting to help the electorate of a student body make informed decisions when selecting instruc­tors.

The Web site, technically Polyratings 2, through which Cal Poly students can publish critiques and praises of their professors, now features more accommodating search features while allow­ing students to add professors to the database.

“I live by it,” microbiology junior Julie Anderson said. A student-run endeavor created by Cal Poly students Doug Dahms and Forrest Lanning (not affiliated with Cal Poly admin­istration or Associated Students Inc.), Polyratings was activated Jan. 9, 1999 and launched as the updated, second incarnation by Cal Poly student J. Paul Reed on Aug. 19, 2001.

While Cal Poly students may peruse every word before regis­tration, professors themselves don’t seem to pay it much mind. “I don’t check it,” said Matt Carlson, a statistics professor at Cal Poly for nine years. “It’s a combination of two reasons. First, from a statistician’s point of view, the sample is totally biased and not close to representative of what students think. Secondly, it’s too tempting to look at others’ ratings, and that’s not an appropriate thing to do with a terribly biased sample of opinions.”

The assessments, Carlton said, are akin to feedback given to politicians because those sounding off usually do so from an ex­treme, while a silent majority remains unheard. “The same thing happens in politics, when politicians hear from constituents on polarized sides,” he said. “Polyratings is re­ally the same phenomenon — it’s either a rave or a rant. It doesn’t give any sense of how the majority of students feel.”

As of Wednesday, the most ratings a professor received was 190, amounting to less than one percent of the school’s fall 2007 enrollment of 19,777.

Adding to the insignificance of the ratings, said English profes­sor Robert Inchausti, are the official evaluations administered by the school toward the end of each quarter. “I think the faculty view on Polyratings is that the people commenting usually really like a class or really hate a class — what you’re going to get are extremes,” he said. “Official evalua­tions are more measured and not as extreme.”

Polynotes Brady, an architectural engineering professor at Cal Poly for 10 years, agrees that the small number of commenting students doesn’t sufficiently depict the entire student body’s ex­perience. “If a professor’s been here a really long time and there are only about 100 posts, it’s not really representative,” she said. “Students see Polyratings, page 2

As gas prices soar, Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits

H. Josef Hebert

WASHINGTON — Don’t blame us, oil industry chiefs told a skeptical Congress.

Top executives of the country’s five biggest oil companies said Tues­day they know record fuel prices are hurting people, but they argued it’s not their fault and their huge profits are in line with other industries.

Appearing before a House com­mittee, the executives were pressed to explain why they should continue to get billions of dollars in tax breaks while they made $123 billion last year and motorists are paying record gasoline prices at the pump.

“Our earnings, although high in absolute terms, need to be viewed in terms of the huge investment require­ments,” said J.S. Simon, senior vice president of Exxon Mobil Corp., which made a record $40 billion last year.

“We depend on high earnings during the up cycle to sustain … in­vestment over the long term, includ­ing the down cycles,” he continued. The up cycle has been going on too long, suggested Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo. “The anger level is rising significantly.”

Alluding to the fact that Congress often doesn’t rate very high in opin­ion polls, Cleaver told the executives: “Your approval rating is lower than ours, and that means you’re down low.”

Several lawmakers noted the ris­ing price of gasoline at the pump, now averaging $3.29 a gallon amid talk of $4 a gallon this summer.

“I heard what you are hearing. Americans are very worried about the rising price of energy,” said John Hofmeister, president of Shell Oil Co., echoing remarks by the other four executives including represen­tatives of BP America Inc., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips.

While Democrats hammered the executives for their profits and de­manded they do more to develop alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and biofuels, Republican lawmakers called for opening more areas for drilling to boost domestic production of oil and gas.

What would bring lower prices? asked Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, the committee’s ranking Republican.

“We need access to all kinds of energy supply,” replied Robert Ma­lonie, chairman of BP America, add­ing that 85 percent of the country’s coastal waters are off limits to drill­ing. But Malonie wanted to know why the companies aren’t investing more in energy projects other than oil and

see Gasoline, page 2
Polyratings
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should think critically and not take it at face value."

Of the 1,365 professors filed in the database, averaging al­
most 20 evaluations apiece, some seemed to have more per­
sonal reasons for disregarding the site. In

Although Carlton couldn’t recall a case of negative evalu­
ations hindering an instructor’s in-class performance; he did
mention a recent situation where a scathing critique was “very
upsetting” to a colleague, affecting her on a personal level.

“She was certainly shaken up by the experience,” he said.

Sometimes, the overwhelming census is enough to entirely
dissuade instructors from monitoring their ratings, materials
engineering professor Trevor Harding said.

“I think most faculty don’t look at it because it can be so
depressing,” he said.

Even those who admitted to occasionally checking the site
proudly out of curiosity minimized its importance.

“Occasionally I will look, from time to time, when some­
one will tell me interesting things on it and I’ll check it out,”
Inchausti said. “It varies. There are people who never look at it,
and others all the time — to them it’s a fascination.”

Some take it upon themselves to take a look if they hear
about comments that necessitate it, psychology professor
Chuck Slem said.

“In general we don’t look at it,” he said. “But someone may
check if there’s something outrageous, or some dangerous
things they may want to take care of.”

His department doesn’t appear to be the only one to have
an unknown understanding of dismissing the site.

“Most of the people in my hall steer clear of it,” Carlton
said.

No study has gauged professors’ perceptions or responses to
the site, according to Joan DeCosta, dean of students.

“My opinion is that students can do a disservice to them­
selves if they put too much stock in comments that can be so
descriptive and biased,” DeCosta said.

She said the only times she becomes prey to comments on
the site are when professors become distressed due to alleg­
edly inappropriate comments, at which point they are advised
to contact the site’s administrators to have the comments re­
moved.

That can be easier said than done, according to Slem.

“One of the biggest problems is when a disgruntled student
will say something ‘off the wall’,” he said. “As a professor I’m very hard to get it taken off.”

Keed, who graduated in 2003, told the Mustang Daily in
October 2006 that he no longer had the time to maintain
the site, as more than 200 then-new professors who had been
submitted needed to be filtered into the database.

Vice provost of Academic Affairs David Conn, who called
the site’s free-wheeling approach “very unscientific” and “totally
haphazard,” analogized the asserted lack of veracity within the
comments to the same danger found everywhere online.

“No, it is not one of those sites that one would expect the
students to read and react to as a forum or to even really
think about the comments that are posted there,” Conn said.

“I always check it out when I register to see what profes­
sions are like,” English sophomore Stacy Liu said. “I’ve found it
pretty useful.”

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Gasoline
continued from page 1

gas — or giving up some tax breaks so the money
could be directed to promote renewable fuels and con­
servation and take pressure off oil and gas suppliers.

"Why is ExxonMobil resisting the renewable energy
revolution," asked Markey, noting that the other four
companies together have invested $3.5 billion in solar,
wind and biodiesel projects.

Exxon is spending $100 million on research into climate change at Stanford University, replied Simon,
but current alternative energy technologies "just do
not have an appreciable impact" in addressing "the
challenge we’re trying to meet."

The appearance Tuesday before the Select Com­
nitee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
was not the first time that oil executives had faced the
harsh words of a lawmakers frustrated with their in­
sability to do anything about soaring oil and gasoline
costs.

In November 2005, executives of the same com­
pa nies sought to explain high energy costs at a Senate
hearing at which Hofmeister emphasized the cyclical
nature of the industry. "What goes up almost always
comes down," he told the senators on a day when oil
cost $60 a barrel.

About six months later, the executives were grilled
again on Capitol Hill when a barrel of oil cost $75. As
the three-hour House hearing came to a close Tuesday,
the price of oil settled at just over $100 a barrel on the
New York exchange.

"We face a new reality, volatility, high prices, greater
Instrumental in Polyratings’ appeal is its particularized na­
ture exclusive to Cal Poly. Anderson said.

"I like it because it’s not just four stars," she added, allud­
ing to nationally oriented sites such as Ratemyprofessors.com
providing less opportunity to reason a grade. "You have an op­portunity to explain yourself and justify the ratings with words
and it’s set up for Cal Poly, not other sites that are set up
for any undergraduate." However, what other sites may lack in locality, they make up for it with more constructive, quantifiable, specific informa­
tion, Brandy said. Sites such as Pickprof.com, which is affiliated with Facebook, offer students detailed data on teachers’ grad­ing habits.

Anderson, who clarified Polyratings should be "taken with a grain of salt," indicated that its reputation as a helpful resource doesn’t seem to be on the verge of disappearing any time soon.

"In one of my classes there are a lot of freshmen, and every­
one seems to know about it," she said.

Most professors and administrators urge students to exer­
cise healthy skepticism when considering the site’s offerings,
consult known and trusted friends and peers when registering,
value learning over grades, make more thorough use of official
website comments and remember what one student may dislike about
his professor’s teaching style may be liked by others.

In spite of their grievances, most faculty and administrators
credit the site for its noble ideals and inherent exercise of de­
mocracy, albeit one they say is overly rough around the edges.

"Professors may have misgivings about themselves being up
on Polyratings," said Slem, who remained bashful about his new role as an undergraduate student at UCLA, where a Polyratings of its day covertly resided in the bookstore as a booklet containing student’s reviews of teachers. "But I’m sure they wouldn’t mind
having student ratings to know who they’re getting in class."
Man trying to bring explosives on plane wanted to show bomb-making skills

Travis Reed

A former Army veteran, arrested after trying to check luggage containing pipe-bomb-making materials onto a flight, explained that he wanted to show his friends how to make them.

Investigators were questioning whether Kevin Christopher Brown had ever been to Iraq — where he told them he'd learned how to make pipe bombs — and looking into his mental health history after his arrest Tuesday at Orlando International Airport. Authorities said their repeated assurances that passengers were never in danger.

Transportation Security Administration officials nonetheless touted the 33-year-old's arrest as a victory for new covert screening techniques involving plainclothes officers mingling with travelers.

Cleveland Lawcock, a manager in TSA's behavioral detection program who was walking in civilian clothes, first spotted Brown approaching the Air Jamaica ticket counter. He told a uniformed subordinate to watch the man, and soon that officer called another for backup.

Both detection officers Frank Skowronski and Jose Zenotti wouldn't specify what Brown did that looked suspicious, saying it would undermine TSA's strategy. But they generally study facial expressions and body posture for signs of fear, stress and deception.

"When he came up to ticket counter, he wouldn't look at any of the 'screener' kids." The officers watched Brown drop off two bags to be checked, and had security officials set them immediately aside.

Inside were two glass vodka bottles containing nitromethane, a colorless liquid used as a fuel for drag racing, in manufacturing and as a cleaning solvent, the FBI said in a court filing. Brown told officials he hoped the liquid bottles would disguise the ammonium nitrate in the plastic containers.

The baggage also had a model rocket igniter, galvanized pipes, end caps, two small containers containing BFB, butane and instructions on how to make bombs, the FBI document said.

Dave Plat, a TSA bomb appraisal officer who watched the baggage, described the instructions as something that could be downloaded from the Internet.

Teams of scientists find genetic changes linked to cigarette addiction, lung cancer

Seth Borenstein

Scientists have pinpointed genetic variations that make people more likely to get hooked on cigarettes and more prone to develop lung cancer — a finding that could someday lead to screening tests and customized treatments for smokers trying to kick the habit.

The discovery by three separate teams of scientists opens the door to a new area of research that could lead to treatments to help smokers quit. The finding also provides new insights into why some people are more addicted to nicotine than others and why some people are more likely to develop lung cancer.

"This is kind of a double whammy story," said Christopher Amos, a professor of psychiatry at Oregon Health and Science University.

Amos and his team found is a set of variations in one gene called NTRK3, which already does prostate cancer research.

"It opens our eyes," Volkow said. "This is especially true for people that you can't quit smoking." The new research adds to other studies that have found an association between nicotine addiction and lung cancer.

The gene variations, which govern nicotine receptors on cells, could eventually help explain some of the mysteries of chain smoking, nicotine addiction and lung cancer. These include why there are 90-year-old smokers who don't get cancer and people who light up an occasional cigarette and don't get hooked.

"This is really telling us that the vulnerability to smoking and how much you smoke is clearly biologically based," said psychiatry professor Dr. Laura Bierut of Washington University. "This is our first genetics study of addiction." The study was published Wednesday in the journal Nature and Nature Genetics.

The gene is part of a family of genes that help make a reward center in the brain called the ventral tegmental area, the researchers said.

Another study found a 66 percent greater chance of lung cancer among smokers who inherited a specific gene variant.

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National Briefs

**OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (AP)** — An explosion and fire in southeastern Wisconsin on Wednesday destroyed two homes and injured seven people, including three firefighters, authorities said.

Road and sewer work was being done in downtown Oconomowoc before the explosion occurred around 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, said Bob Duff, economic development director for the Lakeside community 30 miles west of Milwaukee. The blue and yellow debris knocked over several workers, he said.

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The leader of the largest branch of American Judaism said Wednesday that współpracers in the movement shouldn't work with the Rev. John Hagee, a Christian Zionist, calling him an "extremist" on Israeli policy who disparages other faiths.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the liberal Union for Reform Judaism, said Hagee and his group, Christians United for Israel, reject any Israeli land concessions to achieve peace with the Palestinians.

Rabbi Alvin Study, a Palestinian state, Hagee sees a biblical mandate for the territory so Hamas power can be fulfilled.

**ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)** — A Maryland jury found a former Army Ranger guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a fellow Ranger he had served with in Afghanistan.

Gary Smith, 25, was accused of killing Michael McQueen, 22, with a gun藏 the head in the apartment the two shared in Gaithersburg in September 2006.

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Maybe men had it right all along. It doesn't take long to satisfy a woman in bed.

A survey of sex therapists concluded that the optimal amount of time for sexual intercourse was 3 to 15 minutes. The findings, to be published in the May issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, strike at the notion that endurance is the key to a great sex life.

If that sounds like good news to you, don't cheer too loudly. The time does not count toward, and the therapists did rate sexual intercourse that lasts from 1 to 2 minutes as "too short."

**MONROE, Ga. (AP)** — The mystery of a tire that plunged from the sky and crashed through the roof of a home here now has an explanation.

Federal Aviation Administration officials told homeowner Mark Brown on Tuesday that the wheel plummeted to earth from a helicopter owned by the Loganville-based Forever Green Landscaping. The wheel is part of equipment used to haul the helicopter around the landing pad during maintenance.

Officials said the equipment should have been removed before flight.

Octopuses are the kinky creatures of the sea, study says

Paul Elias

Marine biologists studying wild octopuses have found a kinky and violent society of jealous murderers, gender subterfuge and once-in-a-lifetime sex.

The new study by researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, who journeyed off the coast of Indonesia found that wild octopuses are far from the shy, unromantic loners their captive brethren appear to be.

The scientists watched the Abdopus aculeatus octopus, which are the size of an orange, for several weeks and published their findings recently in the journal Marine Biology.

They witnessed picky, macho males carefully select a mate, then guard their newly domesticated digs so jealously that they would occasionally use their 8-to-10-inch tentacles to strangle a romantic rival to death.

The researchers also observed smaller "sniffer" male octopuses put on feminine airs, such as swimming girlishly near the Isottom and keeping their male brown stripes hidden in order to win unsuspecting conquests.

And size does matter — but not how you'd think.

"If you're going to spend time guarding a female, you want to go for the biggest female you can find because she's going to produce more eggs," said UC Berkeley biologist Roy Caldwell, who co-wrote the study. "It's basically an investment strategy."

Shortly after the female gives birth, about a month after conception, both the mother and father die, researchers said.

"It's not the sex that leads to death," said Christine Huland, the study's lead author. "It's just that octopuses produce offspring once during a very short lifespan of a year."

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— John Grinstead, architecture junior

“Snack because you can have it multiple times a day and it’s always instant gratification.”
— Lindsay Berkowitz, architecture sophomore

“Dinner. I like having it on my plate and an international party, and on ‘The Tonight Show’ Tuesdays, I do have it multiple times a day.”
— Nathaniel Reed, computer science senior

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celebrity news

Cusack’s New Follower

A woman who was ordered to stay away from John Cusack was charged Wednesday with a felony count of stalking.

Emily Leatherman, 33, was also charged with misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, a court restraining order and petty theft in connection with her arrest outside the actor's Malibu house over the weekend. She faces up to three years in state prison if convicted of the stalking charge, and up to a year in jail if convicted of the misdemeanor counts, the district attorney’s office said.

Idol Hospitalized

A producer for “American Idol” says contestant David Cook went to the hospital because of heart palpitations after appearing on the show.

Executive Producer Nigel Lythgoe said Wednesday that the 25-year-old from Oklahoma had heart palpitations and high blood pressure near the end of Tuesday night’s show.

Lythgoe said Cook was treated at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and did not require continued care.

Cook returned for Wednesday night’s cast of the show.

Mariah Coming In Close to Beatles

With her 18th chart-topper "Touch My Body," Mariah Carey has passed Elvis Presley for the most No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100, and is now second only to the Beatles.

But while the diva was in full celebration mode after learning of her latest milestone, she was also quick to put her accomplishment in perspective.

“I really can never put myself in the category of people who have not only revolutionized music but also changed the world,” Carey told The Associated Press on Tuesday via phone from London. "That’s a completely different era and time...I’m just feeling really happy and grateful.”

Neighborhood Chatting

Since moving to Los Angeles to play for the Galaxy, Beckham has lived in the same neighborhood as Jay Leno, and on "The Tonight Show" Tuesday the men traded jokes about driving themselves places and life with a constant paparazzi presence.

Beckham apologized for the paparazzi hanging around the neighborhood, but also said American celebrity photographers "have been kind to us" compared to those across the pond.

Leno quizzed Beckham about Emporio Armani ads that have the soccer star appearing in briefs.

"Do you normally sit around the house like this?" asked Leno.

Privacy Policy Ignored

UCLA Medical Center officials investigated an employee for accessing Farrah Fawcett’s medical records and took disciplinary action, officials said Wednesday.

Fawcett’s representative Lauren Auslander told The Associated Press on its Web site Monday that details of her condition were being leaked to tabloids, and that hervisit to the hospitalization last week while playing basketball — but still won the game — according to a statement sent to The Associated Press from Fawcett’s representative.

Injured Comedian

41-year-old actor Adam Sandler, broke his ankle over the weekend while playing basketball — but still won the game — according to a statement sent to The Associated Press from Fawcett’s representative.

Sandler, who starred in "Happy Gilmore” and "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry," is currently shooting Walt Disney Pictures’ “Bedtime Stories.” In the film, due out later this year, Sandler plays a hotel handyman whose bedtime stories magically come true. The statement said the injury will not affect production.

Kidney Infection for Simpson

Jessica Simpson is feeling “much better” after being hospitalized with a kidney infection.

Simpson was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Friday for a "minor kidney infection" and was released Monday. Simpson’s representative Lauren Auslander told The Associated Press in a brief statement Monday that the singer was cleared to go home.

But the show features special correspondent Lisa Ling investigating puppy mills, which Ling calls "horrible" and "haunting.”

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Christopher Boden
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unrest was reported Wednesday among Muslims in far western China. A headache for Beijing as it tries to quell Tibetan protests and another sign that neither investment nor repression has ended anti-government feeling in the hinterlands.

The protests in Xinjiang create new problems for Beijing as it tries to contain demonstrations while finding a balance in its treatment of minorities ahead of this summer's Beijing Olympics.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the highest-ranking US official to visit Beijing since a deadly March 14 anti-government riot in the Tibetan capital, said he appealed to Chinese leaders to engage in dialogue, "We expressed our concerns about the violence and urged a peaceful resolution," he said.

Faced with local opposition, China has employed the twin policies of economic development and repression in both Xinjiang and Tibet, believing that would win over the masses while crushing dissent.

The reports about the latest unrest in Xinjiang described disturbances last month at a bustling in the city of Hotan, deep in the Muslim Uighur minority's cultural heartland. A local government statement said a "tiny number of people" tried to create an incident March 23 "under the flag of separatism." A top Uighur spokesman blamed the protest on Uighur separatists who he accused of seizing on the Tibet unrest to call attention to their independence cause.

"These people are splitters responding to the Tibetan riots," the spokesman, Fu Chaos, said. He said donors were arrested, but only the "core splitters" remained in custody.

U.S. government-funded Radio Free Asia and an overseas Uighur activist reported earlier that the demonstrations were demanding the right for Uighur women to wear head scarves and the release of political prisoners.

The rare official confirmation of the Xinjiang protest appeared to signal the government's sensitivity to unrest, said Nicholas Bequelin, a Hong Kong-based researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"It was out already, so they were forced to react rapidly," he said.

Linking the protesters to events in Tibet was a way of portraying them as opportunistic and thereby undermining any real grievances, he said.

Opposition has continued, however, mainly peacefully in Tibet, but sometimes accompanied by violence in Xinjiang. Authorities this year claimed to have foiled a Uighur terror plot targeting the Olympics and an attempt to crash a commercial airliner.

The incident in Hotan came nine days after the deadly rioting in Lhasa set off the largest and most sustained wave of protests in Tibetan areas of western China in almost two decades.

The protests, and the accusations of Uighur xs ideological leader, the Dala Lama, has denied any links to the violence and urged an independent inquiry into the unrest — something China has repeatedly ruled out.

Many Tibetans insist they were an independent nation before communist troops invaded in 1950, while radical Islamic groups in Xinjiang have battled Chinese rule through a low-intensity campaign of bombings and assassinations.

Uighurs, pronounced "Wee-gees," are a Central Asian people related to Turks whose language, customs and religion are distinct from those of most Chinese.

Beijing has pumped billions of dollars in aid and investment into the region in hope that economic development would quell anti-communist sentiment. Yet intense police and army repression may have undermined such gains, with Tibetans and Uighurs complaining of restrictions on religion, economic disenfranchisement, and the watering down of their culture and language.

International Briefs

HAVANA (AP) — It's not the stuff of Lenin or Marx, or even of Fidel Castro, but it's hardly free-market capitalism, either. In fact, steps to encourage a Cuban spending spree may help the communist system and in new president survive.

In rapid-fire decrees over the past week, Raúl Castro's government has done away with some desired restrictions, lifting bans on electric appliances, microwaves and computers, inviting average citizens to enter long-disbursed stores and declaring they can even legally have their own cell phones.

More could be on the way. Rumors are rampant the government could ease travel restrictions and tolerate a free enterprise that would let more people start their own small businesses. Hopes that it will break the dual-currency system that puts foreign products out of reach for most Cubans have sparked a run on the peso.

"We're going to get out and buy more and more," said retiree Roberto Avila, "That's the future in Cuba, and it is a strong future."

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, the common-man Debonair who tended Ireland's economic boom and the blossoming of Belfast peace, announced his resignation Wednesday under a darkening cloud of financial scandal.

The announcement stunned Ireland and much of the Cabinet, whose members stood by Ahern during an 18-month battle against allegations he accepted secret cash payments from businessmen in the 1990s. Ahern, who governed Ireland through 11 years of growing prosperity at home and peace in Northern Ireland, maintained his innocence.

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — President Bashar Assad suffered a painful diplomatic setback Wednesday when NATO allies rebuffed his passionate plea to put former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on the path toward membership in the Western military alliance.

The decision, to be made final on Thursday, was sure to be cheered by Moscow, which heatedly opposes NATO's current expansion.

In another sign of discord, Greece blocked Macedonian Presidu's request to join the 26-nation alliance because of a dispute over its name. Only Croaia and Albania will be invited as new members.

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A court-appointed expert has recommended that Chevron Corp. pay up to $8 billion for allegedly polluting the Ecuadorian Amazon. Chevron on Wednesday called the expert biased, and the trial a farce.

The class-action lawsuit by 30,000 jungle settlers and Indians alleging the San Ramon, California-based company failed to clean up billions of gallons of toxic wastewater produced by Texaco Petroleum Co., which Chevron acquired in 2001.

The court in the jungle town of Riobamba confirmed the multi-billion-dollar damage total to The Associated Press on Wednesday. It was tallied by geotechnical engineer Richard Cabrera, but has yet to be approved by a judge.
It's the beginning of the quarter, and (if your professor knows what's good for them) you probably have a little more time on your hands than you did a few weeks ago. Whatever will you do with the time? I have four ideas for you.

Even if time isn't an issue, it's still hard to choose which ones to invest in, especially when those 30 seconds don't do them justice. That's what I'm here for. Over spring break, in between trips to the piha colada bar and reapplications of sunscreen, I did some research for the shows you want to watch (if you do, maybe I could get a few pointers from you on time management).

If you're anything like me, you have your few staple TV shows and then whatever happens to be on before or after. I know it's hard to branch out, even if you see a promising 30-second preview during "Oprah." You probably don't even have time to watch all the shows you want to watch (if you do, maybe I could get a few pointers from you on time management).

Even if time isn't an issue, it's still hard to choose which ones to invest in, especially when those 30 seconds don't do them justice. That's what I'm here for. Over spring break, in between trips to the piha colada bar and reapplications of sunscreen, I did some research (I love that I can call it that) and found quite a few new shows that have misleadingly similar stories. Two shows about rogue lawyers, two "Sex and the City," Jones, two shows involving amnesia and two shows about twenty-somethings. Here are a few you should skip and a few to love. (I swear ABC isn't paying me for this.)

Not Worth It

"Canterbury's Law" (FOX)
In "Canterbury's Law," Elizabeth Canaryworth does whatever it takes to make sure the innocent walk free, even though she works just as hard to get the criminals off as well. We all love bad people that do good things, but "Elle Stone" has more heart, wit and did I mention the George Michael cameo?

"Amnesia" (NBC)
Despite the title, "Amnesia" doesn't have to do with the medical condition. Hosted by Dennis Miller, the contestants are quizzed on specific details from their life for cash. Then life: NBC, are you serious?

"Lipstick Jungle" (NBC)
Before watching it I thought "Lipstick Jungle" to be the legitimate heir to the "Sex and the City" throne. It has Brooke Shields and her white teeth, scandal, and Kim Raver's character was a Clarke, but we can't have two "Sex and the City" clones, two shows involving amnesia and two shows about twenty-somethings. Here are a few shows you should skip and a few to love. (I swear ABC isn't paying me for this.)

Love It

"Eli Stone" (ABC)
Eli Stone is a San Francisco lawyer who suffers from a brain aneurysm that causes him to have odd hallucinations and outbursts that tell him which cases to select and how to win them. A recurring hallucination includes singing George Michael.

"Samantha Who?" (ABC)
"Samantha Who?" starring Christina Applegate is about a remorseful amnesiac who finds out little by little what her life was like before she was in a terrible accident. As it turns out, she was a jerk.

"Greek" (ABC FAM)
"Greek" is witty and highly addictive, so view with caution.

"Cashmere Mafia" (ABC)
"Lipstick" ultimately doesn't compare to "Cashmere Mafia," which has more watchable "Sex and the City" charm and way more laughs.

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

TV'S BEST AND WORST SHOWS

(A SHORT LIST)

"Run, Fat Boy, Run" decent but predictable

Natalie Abreu
THE EDIT ORS OF ARTS

Some might not think a film where a man leaves his future wife at the altar with their unborn child would be predictable, for the most part, it is. "Run, Fat Boy, Run" proves to be the right balance of gross-out jokes, civil humor, it is mostly Americanized rather than British humor in gross-out jokes, middle fingers, male nudity, and farting, all too far in between somewhat sappy moments between Dennis and his son, by the same name, trying to win back Libby and competing with the arrogant White. The film follows a standard underdog story plot, a romanticized view of the world in which even the everyday man can achieve fame, greatness and get the girl. Perhaps if this film followed the various Formula of other Pegg films like "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz," of making fun of underdog films, it would find more laughs.

However, the film is enjoyable, especially the supporting characters like the Indian landlord and Dennis' friend Gordon (played by Dylan Moran of "Shaun of the Dead") who act as coaches in Dennis' training. The film allows the viewer to get a look at the posh side of London, Schwimmer shows promise as a director in the way he films the city and men visuals like an actual walk to show how Dennis 'hits the wall' during his run.

Overall, viewers should not run to "Fat Boy" but it is definitely worth watching. It seems like a perfect DVD rental.
The word on the street was the show would be big, but nothing prepared me for what took place April Fool’s night. Bay Area rapping legend E-40 headlined a show at The Graduate, and I would’ve been a fool not to check it out.

Standing for what seemed like forever in a line that put Disneyland rides to shame, I was finally greeted at the door by security guards with an intrusive frisk and inventory check. Heightened alert would be an understatement, but since a drive-by shooting happened near the same place just days before, I had no qualms about being groped.

Past security, patrons formed another, slightly smaller line at the bar while opening acts prepped the crowd for what was to come. After impressive performances by local groups The 40oz. Freaks and Public Defendaz, a brief intermission was called for a welcomed breather.

Finally, the lights dimmed and bass filled the room. A posse of backup singers and rappers took the stage, and then split to give way to the unmistakable figure of E-40. The crowd roared with approval, and E-40 immediately started by delivering old-school crowd favorites that everyone knew and loved.

Within minutes the temperature rose to what felt like 50 degrees. The air became thick with the aroma of sweat and smoke. People, packed together like sardines in a can, jumped in unison to the beats. It felt like the floor might give way at any moment.

After pummeling the crowd with his signature flows, E-40 took a break to shout out to fans and get the crowd even more pumped than before. Incidentally, UFC fighter Chuck Liddell, who was in attendance, joined 40 onstage for a hug and handshake, much to the delight of fans. Unfortunately, fans didn’t get to hear The Iceman bust a rhyme, but that’s probably asking too much anyway.

E-40 then picked back up with some of his newer jams. Every song was a crowd-pleaser; it was like listening to a “best of” album. Throughout the last few songs, more and more fans joined the stage to sing and dance. By the final song, the stage resembled the world’s biggest house party with scantily clad ladies and male hip-hoppers shaking their tails alongside E-40.

Straight up, this show was just plain awesome. In the past, big-name rappers who’ve performed in San Luis Obispo have disappointed fans with lackluster performances. I can remember rappers arriving hours late or too drunk to perform — or, more often, both. Maybe they don’t take San Luis Obispo seriously? Who knows.

But this was the exact opposite. E-40 brought his A-game to San Luis Obispo, and his performance was on point. He effectively renewed my faith in rap concerts and reminded fans of just how intense a live show can be.

Perhaps Jason Carmichael, who drove from Morro Bay and took the day after off work to see the show, said it best when he yelled, “That show was $@&*$@ sick!” I couldn’t have said it better myself.
A college student's guide to sushi

Rachel Glas

The restaurant is teeming. Every booth and table is filled. Young people, old people, families and couples are all packed into the open, colorful room, eating and chatting. It's just another Friday night at the sushi bar Sushiya.

"Friday and Saturday nights are always crazy here, just packed," Sushiya manager Toshio Maruta said.

The sushi businesses in San Luis Obispo are booming. In the last year and a half, two popular new sushi bars opened — the aforementioned Sushiya and Sumo Sushi, located on Marsh Street; Shin's Sushi Bar, Yatai Sushi and Grill, and Sushi Kokku also thrive here.

"It's the trendy thing to do now, to go eat at a sushi bar," English junior Emilie Egger said.

College students seem to be the catalyst for this growing Central Coast trend. Shin's Sushi Bar manager Jonathan Brogno estimates that 90 percent of his customers are students from Cal Poly and Cuesta College. But, according to Maruta, San Luis Obispo is actually behind the times.

"Sushi has been popular in places such as Los Angeles since the 1980s. San Luis Obispo is just now catching up," he said.

Despite popular belief, sushi does not refer to raw fish. The word refers to foods that are paired with rice marinated in sweet, rice-wine vinegar. Raw fish (called sashimi) need not be part of the equation at all. Sushi rolls do, however, generally contain some form of raw fish, and popular choices include tuna and salmon. Vegetables are sometimes added to the rolls as well.

In fact, most students said their favorite type of restaurant to visit in San Luis Obispo is a sushi bar.

But why is this simple meal of raw fish and rice wrapped in seaweed becoming so incredibly popular among San Luis Obispo college students?

It's healthy

It's no coincidence that people living in Japan have the longest average lifespan in the world, as per the news Web site Japan-to-day.com. According to another Web site, world'shealthiestfoods.com, sushi is one of the healthiest meals you can eat.

Sashimi contains a high concentration of omega 3 fatty acids, which help maintain a healthy heart. The seaweed surrounding the roll contains vitamins and nutrients as well. Overall, sushi rolls are low in calories and saturated fat, and high in protein, making it an ideal meal.

"My mother, who lives in Japan, only eats fish and vegetables. She's 94," Maruta said. "Sushi is a trend here because students want to be healthy."

It's cheap

In a world where a decent steak can cost upward of $20, sushi in San Luis Obispo is a bargain. Restaurants like Sushiya and Sumo Sushi offer high-quality sushi for a lower price than what one would pay for the same dish in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We know college students can't afford to pay what people in big cities can pay, so we make an effort to keep costs down while providing the same quality of food," Maruta said. Sushiya also gives a 10 percent discount to all college students with an ID.

Shin's Sushi Bar is also all about low costs; the restaurant's rolls are usually half the price of rolls at other sushi bars, Brogno said.

It's new

Like Egger, avid sushi eaters may not have consumed the Japanese food prior to attending college.

Brogno believes the novelty of sushi drives his business. "Sushi is 'new age' and different. Students come from these small towns to Cal see Sushi," page 8.
Sushi

continued from page 7

Pols, and they want to try new things. Sushi is new to them, so they try it and like it and keep coming back," he said.

It's accessible

In a town where businesses close at 6 p.m. (or 9 p.m. on Thursdays!), sushi bars are known for offering hours that extend well past this early closing time. Sumo Sushi is open until 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, while other restaurants are open until similar hours.

Sushiya caters to college students by remaining open all day, even though sushi bars traditionally close in between lunch and dinner. "We know students are always hungry and have crazy class schedules, so we open early and close late every day," Murata said. Most students eat dinner at Sushiya after 8 p.m., he added.

It's fun!

Although only Yanagi Sushi and Sushiya take formal reservations, sushi bars in town do their best to accommodate large parties. And since most sushi bars have a large seating capacity, they have become the go-to place for birthday parties.

When people celebrate birthdays at Sushiya, they are treated to Sushiya's famous birthday serenade, complete with strobe lights and techno music. But whether a customer is celebrating a birthday or not, sushi bars offer a good time. Sake bombs are extremely popular with the college crowd. A sake bomb is created by pouring sake (an alcoholic beverage made from rice) into a shot glass and dropping the glass into (usually Japanese) beer, then drinking the concoction quickly. Students often race to see who can drink their "bombs" the fastest.

"In Japan, everyone is very reserved during the day, people rarely speak. So when they get off work, they like to go out and have fun. We try to replicate that same atmosphere here," Maruta said.

"Sushi is great. It's good food in a fun environment," recreation administration senior Julia Ciroth said.

Just stop by any sushi place in San Luis Obispo, and there will be plenty of students who agree.

Applications are now available in the ASI Student Government Office, University Union Room 202. Applications are due: April 11, 2008 before 5 p.m.

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The New York Times Crossword

Across
1. Luxury hotel amenity
2. Some team practice for short
3. "Get____!
4. Hit or Hit at Old McDonald's
5. Side in a debate
6. "It's so obvious!"
7. Mountain West
8. Instant replay
9. Mother____
10. Providers of life
11. Words with a familiar ring?
12. "I'm____!
13. "H's so obvious!"
14. "____Coming"
15. Put a new coat on
16. Farberware set
17. A hint to this puzzle's circled letters
18. Film director
19. Word with red, white or rock
20. Baker's supply
21. Overseas
22. Priests: Abbr
23. Summon up
24. Require
25. Get in trouble, in short
26. Susan who
27. Sighter of the "Point of view"
28. Yen or yuan
29. Huffington of the News
30. L. Dortmund
31. Embryonic membrane
32. Political hostess
33. Yukon neighbor:
34. Hitter of 511 lifetime home runs
35. HBO's "____Nuts"
36. "____Coming"
37. Excavation
38. Dr. J's first pro league
39. Post-vacation____
40. Young
to the point
41. It may fill a hall
42. Solicits
43. Twisted thread
44. Longtime ABC News anchor
45. Hideouts
46. Classic song
47. Singer of the American national anthem "____on Down!"
48. Heraldic border
49. Sony subsidiary
50. Computer command
51. Readers
52. "____Bright" keg
53. Red letters?
54. ____gallop
55. Party snack (and a hint to this puzzle's circled letters)
56. It's often turned upside down when not in use
57. Instant replay subjects, for short
58. Sterile
59. Cry at Old MacDonald
60. Side in a debate
61. 's so obvious!"
62. Mountain West Conference team

Down
1. Fireman
2. Off-white shade
3. Creator of Oz
4. Abbr. that may precede an ellipse
5. Like a certain court
6. Sign of fright
7. "____Coming"
8. Instant replay subjects, for short
9. Mother____
10. Providers of life
11. Words with a familiar ring?
12. "I'm____!
13. "H's so obvious!"
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62. Mountain West Conference team

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0220

M.C. Hammer's Third Grade Grammar Teacher

su|do|ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

6 7 4 3
1 6 8 9 7
9 1 5 7
4 5 9 2
8 1 5 6

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Edited by Will Shortz
Should America legalize marijuana?

Lee Barats: Yes. But I'll hit it every day either way.

"Scuse me if I seem a little off this week. I just shared a bowl of Mint Julep with this talking deer I just met. He's crazy, man. Anyway, yeah, America should totally legalize weed. It just makes the world better. You know those square, white, a-holes who run our country get high even, d'w, man. You think as long as the poor are high, they'll put up with the government taking away their civil liberties. How awful is that? I don't even wanna think about it. I just wanna smoke that thought right out of my mind.

Real quick, think about your favorite band. The members smoke weed. Lots of it! Weed has contributed more to the American arts than tobacco or alcohol; and it's not even legal! Could you imagine how American culture would blow up if ganja was made readily available for every woman, man and child? We'd have a country full of Dylan, Malvins and Chapelines.

I bet if the reef was legal, there would be a lot less dicks around. Everyone would be all "endless" cuz they're on a high. I bet that lady wouldn't have been so unreasonable when I crashed my car into her mailbox. I was high. She would have been like, "Nah, it's cool, man. The Postal Service will bring me down anyway." Man, hittin' greens feels so good, just gotta be right. Why would God put us on this planet if he didn't want us to feel good all the time? Think about that, you uptight, Neo-Con, flag-waving fanatics. Now excuse me while I hit the hay.

Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barats and Michetti are Mustang Daily humor columnists and can be contacted at editorsforlife@gmail.com.

Sean Michetti: No. The gateway to Hell drug

For years I've believed marijuana to be the "gateway drug," but I've had little proof. Now, really do I believe scientific findings, much less quote them, but I must make an exception for this virtuous study performed by Yale scientists:

"The soil surrounding a marijuana plant literally provides a gateway for Lucifer to travel from earth to hell."" Terriified yet? I constantly am. Several symptoms associated with excessive marijuana use are clearly influenced by the devil. You can almost see his goat-like grin in each smoke ring blazed.

Studies show that marijuana users report feeling a sense of tolerance. Tolerance! Tolerance to settle with your abusive spouse? Tolerance of radical third world nations? Tolerance of yourself? All are disturbing ideas that have led to the dreadful conditions we see in our urban cities.

If we allow marijuana to become legalized, then our cities will fail and our doped-out citizens will be too complacent to fix anything. Advantage: devil.

If our nation succumbs to the pressures of Oregonian hippies and legalizes marijuana, then we will see respiratory infection cases shoot through the roof, and doctors will be overwhelmed with patients who giggle while describing their constant shortness of breath. We can't allow marijuana to terrorize the lungs of our young.

Every two years, America shows its athletic dominance at the Olympics. How do they do it? This transpires with the heavy weight of obesity, how can we afford to allow our kids to become any LESS athletic? Advantage: U.S. in gold medals; devil in urban cities.

Marijuana is real, people. If I had any less self control and found myself smoking marijuana, then this article, and all my extensive research, would never be completed. It's a fact. Marijuana users suffer short-term memory loss. Marijuana is real, people. If I had any less self control, this article would never be...
Of all the disaster warnings parents give children, they probably leave out the most important: the zombie invasion.

I'll smash in a head if I have to

I've been given instructions by my friends Seneca and Dylan, who have both researched potential scenarios thoroughly. When the day comes, I am to gather my family and drive immediately to Seneca's house, the designated meeting place. Seneca's mother originates from Oklahoma. Apparently it's fitting that they have various firearms.

You think I'm nuts. But I'm writing for your welfare, with your best interest at heart. So listen up, unschooled.

Walking out of the horror film "28 Days Later" and silenced that small voice that asks, "What if that happens?" is understandable, because those zombies are supernatural. Though many of you are doomed already, the concept of being overtaken by the supernatural undead is pretty absurd. But believe me, it'd be a royal screwing (even an ironical screwing when infected Queen Elizabeth II herself runs you down).

It comes down to supernatural versus biological. Supernatural calls for a parasitic meteor hitting the planet, pernacular. Though many of you are doomed already, the concept of being overtaken by the supernatural undead is pretty absurd. But believe me, it'd be a royal screwing (even an ironical screwing when infected Queen Elizabeth II herself runs you down).

It comes down to supernatural versus biological. Supernatural calls for a parasitic meteor hitting the planet, pernacular. Though many of you are doomed already, the concept of being overtaken by the supernatural undead is pretty absurd. But believe me, it'd be a royal screwing (even an ironical screwing when infected Queen Elizabeth II herself runs you down).

The article stated, "The feat, the researchers say, makes it possible for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh managed to bring dogs back from a state of clinical death after three hours."

Max Brooks, author of "The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead" states on his Web site that infection can occur only through direct fluidic contact.

A zombie bite, although by far the most recognizable means of transference, is by no means the only way.

Humans have been infected by brushing their open wounds against those of a zombie or by being splattered by its remains after an explosion," Brooks wrote.

The moment of truth will elicit pure chaos. If you're lucky enough to not be one of the poor suckers lost to the first phase, the next step is to decipher a means of survival. Your rudimentary instinct will most likely be to reach the most advantageous habitat such as a megastore. Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Costco are all going to be fought over. The riotous battle to make a claim on a venue may be more perilous than warding off the infected.

Your best bet is to be stationary. Stay away from densely populated areas. If you are already in such an area, use your supplies to stay put for a few days until the commencing turmoil subsides.

Give it two or three days for society's initial panic to settle. Yes, there will be more zombies out there, but they'll be easier to fight than a thinking human desperate for survival.

Escape heavily populated areas but do not necessarily move. Build a base camp preferably in the hills or mountains not too far from an urban area. This proximity will allow you to be far enough to see the threat coming and close enough to travel for supplies without a dependency on the little, if any, transportation available.

The inevitable event should be prepared for — both mentally and with supplies. Stocking up on supplies is obvious. In the least, have the following: food, pet food, water, firearms, ammo, blades (Whip blades, you ask? For stealth moves when ammo isn't available), a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, clothing, shortwave hand radios, batteries, gas-powered generator, flashlights and toilet paper.

Mental preparation is key. Be fully prepared to demolish the heads of loved ones who are infected. Assume all forms of communication inoperative.

Hollywood is misleading in what the actual outbreak will probably be like. Movies like "Resident Evil: Extinction" may give you the idea that becoming nondescript is potentially a good idea. Do not do this!

What if it turns out you aren't the main character and you're that secondary RV that gets a flat tire? And in the middle of the zombie outbreak catch up and Mills Jovovich can't save you?

Relying on your supplies for an indefinite period of time is your best bet. Do not rely on the possibility of a cure, but rather the undead decaying after running out of their food supply.

"Goals range from stronger human antibodies to resistant cell structure to a counter-virus designed to identify and destroy (the virus)," Brooks wrote on a potential treatment. "This and other, more radical treatments are still in their earliest stages, with no foreseeable success in the near future ... chances are, the infected human was doomed from the moment the virus entered his or her system."

Hopefully, this will inspire you to have your own back-up plan as you should for any other emergency like floods and earthquakes. Good luck out there, because there's no more room at Seneca's.

Agnes-Dor Fantani is a journalism senior and a former Mustang Daily reporter.
For Omaha and fans, keeping College World Series an absolute must

Chris Hatch

In 1947, the College World Series moved from Minneapolis to Omaha. And that is why I'm not normally one to wax nostalgic about baseball. You probably won't hear me talking about the game with a faraway look in my eyes describing the sounds of America's pastime in reverential terms.

But when discussing the College World Series, those things change.

I begin to talk about the odd mixture of Midwestern optimism and high-caliber baseball that we see around Rosenblatt Stadium every summer. I remember the blending of old men who fondly recall their youth — growing up with the CWS — with the college kids who have road-tripped in to experience it for the first time.

I begin to think about a celebration of sport and all the good things that it stands for — and suddenly I realize just how important this event is.

That is why you can imagine my shock when I heard that the College World Series, one of the oldest and best traditions in all of collegiate athletics, was seeking a change.

The National Collegiate Athletics Association has recently been putting the screws to Omaha to try and get them to either pay up or ship out the College World Series from its home of 57 years.

The CWS is inexorably linked to the city of Omaha and vice versa; moving it somewhere else is unthinkable.

Omaha receives nearly $40 million annually from hosting this event and delivers many other intangible elements that make the CWS what it is today.

It is an amazing symbiosis that occurs between too few sporting events and their host cities.

If Rosenblatt Stadium is the key concern, with worries about the "Blitz" needing some remodeling, let us not forget it is, after all, 60 years old.

The renovations of Rosenblatt would be extensive, but the city has promised around $26 million more to the future if the NCAA will sign a contract for the CWS to stick around until 2031.

There's even a proposal to build an entirely new stadium in downtown Omaha. I'm one of many who think that the CWS should stay in its current home.

However, if a new stadium means allowing Omaha to keep its long-standing marriage with the NCAA, so be it.

Somehow, Omaha and the NCAA need to reach an agreement to keep this tradition alive and well. If it is merely about money and marketing, then we're missing out on the spirit of the event.

In a sport that values tradition more than any other, we're losing track of what the CWS is all about. It is more than the game thriving.

You can keep your corporate money, and your big-name media marketers.

The only place I want to be is in the metal bleachers of the "Hiatt," and the only place I want to do that is Omaha.

Lester, Ortiz lead Red Sox past A's

Greg Beacham

OAKLAND — After opening day in Japan, an exhibition weekend in Los Angeles and yet another opener in Oakland, the Boston Red Sox are finally headed back east from the Far East.

And they're still off to a rock-solid start to their crazy season.

Jon Lester pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning, David Ortiz broke open a scoreless game with a two-run homer and the Red Sox beat the Athletics 5-0 Wednesday.

Kevin Youkilis had a double and a run-scoring single while setting the major league record for consecutive errorless games by a first baseman as the Red Sox defeated the A's for the third time in a four-game series that began last week in Tokyo.

Boston won two straight in Oakland, with Lester and Daisuke Matsuzaka carrying the Red Sox until their hitters perk up.

"We're certainly not on all cylinders," manager Terry Francona said. "That may be part of the trip ... but what they did today was good enough.

The Red Sox still aren't done with a 16,000-mile trip that included two exhibitions against Japanese teams and a game in front of 115,300 fans at Los Angeles' Memorial Coliseum. Boston has a three-game weekend series in Toronto before finally getting back to Fenway Park.

Lester (1-1), who lost his season debut in Japan, didn't allow an Oakland runner to reach second base after the first inning. He retired 10

see Baseball, page 15

Football

continued from page 16

Only five starters, however, return to the Mustang defense, which finished 62nd in the country a year ago, allowing 370.4 yards per outing.

To the right are 10 likely games on the schedule, according to various reports and opponents' Web sites, leaving three Saturdays in late September and early October open for the 11th game.

Date

Opponent

Time

Aug. 30

at San Diego State

5 p.m.

TBA

Sept. 6

Montana

5 p.m.

TBA

Sept. 13

McNeese State

TBA

Sept. 20

at Northwestern State

OPEN DATE

OPEN DATE

Sept. 27

Oct. 4

Oct. 11

Oct. 18

Oct. 25

Nov. 1

Nov. 8

Nov. 15

Nov. 22

at South Dakota State

Southern Utah

Idaho State

9th annual practice

at Washington

Home games are bolded, and all times are Pacific.

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA
Silva continued from page 16

As a kinesiologist major with a concentration in workforce health promotion, her coursework has assisted her in her training.

For Silva, it means more to compete against herself than others. "I’d rather jump well over 13 feet and feel good than third or even with a 12-foot mark, but it’s also extremely important to me to do well for Cal Poly and to score points for our team," she said. "And surely, having great competition will help me exceed to bigger heights."

The work involved is often frustrating for Silva, especially when it is difficult to move past what she calls old habits.

"I’ve had the need to exceed that 13-foot barrier that I’ve been so close to for so long," she said. "But my coach told me to be patient, that a lot more bar clearances will be coming soon."

Silva even has a number of local sponsors, though she says she likely will “have to get a part-time job because even a Nike sponsorship for pole vaulting is not very much to solely support yourself with.”

In order to be in good shape for the 2012 Olympics, she plans to remain in the area graduating in 2010, working at her school’s physical education program of worksite health concentration, which isn’t something that would usually happen.

Brown thinks Silva’s background in gymnastics has made him role as her coach easier. "Gymnasts are used to training for four hours at a time," he said. "If I give her things to do, she’ll do it all. As an athlete, she’s basically ideal, very coachable and focused.

Silva practices a total of 20 hours a week, with workouts ranging from grueling hours of jumping and lifting to more relaxing jogs. She said since Brown came to Cal Poly, she has seen improvements not just in herself but in the team’s other pole vaulters, four other women and five men.

"He is my main coach," Silva said. "He never explains what (training) is. He just comes up with great workouts to help get a feel for the right technique."

HELP WANTED

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

Mustang Daily Classifieds

Silva, along with six other Mustangs, will compete at the 80th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays, which are held through Saturday at Mike A. Myers Track and Soccer Stadium in Austin, Texas.

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Silva striving to reach Olympic trials standard

Cal Poly senior pole vaulter has overcome a broken wrist to become one of country's 20 best

Sara Wright

Need inspiration? Meet Christine Silva, who has overcome a broken wrist from a year ago to become one of the top pole vaulters not only in the Big West Conference, but in the entire country.

Her involvement in pole vaulting was mostly for fun; there wasn't even a coach or a pit. "My best friend's dad was one of the track coaches for me high school, and he was able to talk me into it," she said.

A high school teammate brought Silva vaulting at Chiesta, where his wife, Jani, was the head coach of the track and field team.

Cal Poly senior Christine Silva won the pole vault at the UCLA Invitational on March 8 with a clearance of 12 feet, 9 1/2 inches, meeting an NCAA West Regional standard.

The 22-year-old senior cleared 12-5 3/4 on April 28, 2007 at the UC Santa Barbara dual to qualify for West Regional competition in Eugene, Ore.

Now, Silva, whose feats rank in the top five all-time in Cal Poly history, is half a foot away from her goal of a shorter approach, or from 10 to 12 steps, in comparison to a long run, 14 to 18 steps.

Her interest in pole vaulting began after her sophomore year of high school at Bishop O'Dowd in Oakland, following a lengthy 12 years of gymnastics.

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A high school teammate brought Silva to the Skyjumpers Pole Vaulting Camp in Atascadero, where Jan Johnson was not only the director, but also a 1972 Olympic bronze medalist and former world-and-American record holder.

Johnson encouraged Silva to try pole vaulting at Cal Poly, where his wife, Jan, was the head coach of the track and field team.

Cal Poly senior Christine Silva won the pole vault at the UCLA Invitational on March 8 with a clearance of 12 feet, 9 1/2 inches, meeting an NCAA West Regional standard.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Since announcing Feb. 22 a game at Wisconsin scheduled for Nov. 22, the Cal Poly football program has struggled to fill out a desired 12-game slate for the upcoming season.

After a lengthy, unsuccessful search for a final opponent that failed to make that calendar a reality, though, an 11-game schedule will likely be announced soon, Cal Poly athletic director Alson Cone said Tuesday.

In the more immediate future, the Mustangs will engage in their annual spring game at 3 p.m. Saturday in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Two groups, separated into green and gold and coached by offensive coordinator Ian Shields and defensive coordinator Payam Saadat, will take the field, as one full half of play is planned utilizing the scoreboard and play clock, without live kicking.

The Mustangs, who conducted spring drills in February and March before taking a break during winter-quarter finals, will have one final preparatory practice Friday morning.

Cal Poly, which went 7-4 last season, returns 10 starters from an offense that compiled 487.1 yards per game to finish second in the Football Championship Subdivision.

The average yards per game gained this season are 487.1 yards per game to finish second in the Football Championship Subdivision.

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