Fraternity refurbishes 35-year-old painting honoring late professor

Donovan Aird

Sixteen years ago, the Cal Poly community lost a beloved architect, artist and professor. Since Vern Swansen passed away, Alpha Rho Chi, a professional fraternity in the Cal Poly College of Architecture and Environmental Design, has preserved and curated about 4,000 of his paintings, including a decades-old mural adjacent to Backstage Pizza.

Though it won't be able to be displayed for about 18 months due to pending University Union renovations, the mural was recently repainted by Alpha Rho Chi, then sealed by Facility Services to more splendidly present and safeguard it in the future, said Dwayne Brummett, UU director of business services.

"It's a neat thing students got together to do, to take time out of their busy schedules to improve something like that," Brummett said.

Alpha Rho Chi approached the Associated Students, Inc. advisory board about refurbishing the mural.

Brummett said, and was able to arrange a joint effort with ASI, which helped finance the project through 4-fee-by-8-feet sheets of plywood that would be painted.

The sheets of plywood were sealed and stored. They will be installed by facility services, likely after the summer of 2009 upon completion of the UU Plaza renovation, which is tentatively expected to be undertaken in the spring of 2009.

"We basically redid the entire mural," said architecture sophomore Brittany Thornburg, Alpha Rho Chi historian and Vern chair. "The one that is there is really faded; the new one will be bright and vivid, and truer to the original mural."

Thornburg explained. Alpha Rho Chi scanned the mural's image and used Adobe Illustrator to transform it strictly into a line drawing that was projected onto the appropriately organized pieces of wood, which were then traced upon and painted by numbers in a couple of days.

Throughout, Alpha Rho Chi strove to adhere to the mural's layout.

see Mural, page 2

Panel connects hip-hop to 2008 election, voting

Aaron Gaudette

A national touring panel shared its opinions about hip-hop, youth vote activism and how they relate to the 2008 presidential election on Tuesday night in Fisher Science room 286.

While much of the forum, "Rap Sessions: Community Dialogues on Hip-Hop," centered on how Americans ages 35 and under have come to be defined as the so-called "hip-hop generation," other hot topics included the prevalence of race consciousness in American society as well as voter apathy.

"Politics has really become a spectator sport over the past few decades, where politicians really aren't discussing the issues that are pertinent to us," said Davey D., a hip-hop columnist for the San Jose Mercury News and disc jockey for Berkeley-based KPFA FM.

"People get so caught up in the Lindsay Lohans and Paris Hiltons and what they're doing that they fail to realize that the socioeconomic conditions around us impact even the non-voter."

Rosa Clemente, a community organizer, journalist and hip-hop activist based out of Annapolis, Md., agreed.

"There are issues that the mainstream media isn't presenting us ... the hip-hop movement is not a radical, but an honest way to address neglected issues. Too many people get caught up in the media frenzy over a black candidate, so that they won't remember to ask the hard questions."

The forum began with a discussion between the two panelists about the current political situation, asking why so many people are getting caught up in the hype over a black candidate.

see Panel, page 2

Grand theft avocado

Sara Wright

Two men are going to jail after taking a guac on the wild side when they attempted to steal avocados from a Cal Poly orchard.

Braulio Franco and Alejandro Sanchez of Santa Maria were sentenced to 60 and 45 days in the San Luis Obispo County jail, police said. Misdemeanor loitering and false identification charges were dropped in a plea deal.

"We're thrilled to have caught these guys," said University Police Department Commander Lori Hashim. "There was a lot of theft last year of avocados and lemons that cost a lot of money."

The men were caught around 10:30 p.m. on March 12 after a witness reported a suspicious vehicle at Mission Avocado Orchard, which is on state land and owned by Mission Produce. They were found with 40-gallon trash bags and pruning shears, and though they hadn't taken any of the fruit yet, they ran when police arrived.

Mission Produce is a Southern California avocado and avocado products company with more than 6,450 avocado trees planted near five years ago on 70 acres of Cheda Ranch. The smallest of the Cal Poly campus ranches, it sits beside Steiner Creek and California Highway 1.

The attempted avocado theft is just one in a string of similar thefts that occurred in Southern California in the past few years.
Panel
continued from page 1

"We have people who stood out in the snow for two hours in New Hampshire to see Obama speak at a rally," said Davey D, who spent a considerable amount of time on the campaign trail early in the year. "I had a homeless man in South Carolina telling me he found inspiration in a black candidate because they shared the same skin color."

Clemente retorted, "Yes, but people can find false hope in such officials as Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, who sat in front of the U.N. and gave a speech that he knew was full of shit."

"I'm trying not to hate, I'm trying to think critically and not let our generation be another one which has gotten duped.

The debate touched on a variety of topics regarding socioeconomic situations in America and the inherent constraints that such an environment places on aspiring minorities.

Issues ranged from the prison industrial complex to how U.S. politics make even potentially groundbreaking candidates such as Barack Obama adhere to a certain mold.

The late arrival of Shamako Noble, the president and co-founder of the Hip Hop Congress (a nonprofit organization aimed at instigating socioeconomic and political change on local, regional, and national levels), gracefully steered the conversation back to how hip-hop has an immense potential to affect both politics and society.

"We're going to have a Huge Rap." Noble took his own spin on a common theme in Barack Obama's speeches by noting, "It's not that all Republicans are bad people, but maybe that they just have bad ideas."

"Love can be a dirty, ugly painful thing, but it can also motivate people to put their lives and assets on the line for a movement or cause; hope is what motivates our political activity and causes us to inform and be informed.

Drawing an analogy between the love that came to define the great political movements of the 1960s, Noble reiterated that the new-found love that hip-hop as a movement has forged between young people of all backgrounds needs to serve as a catalyst for change in all social arenas.

"I've found a lot of white kids out there who are doing anti-racist things, and it's because hip-hop gave them a cause to fight for," Clemente said.

After fielding questions from the audience, the panel took a moment to give a few lasting quotes encapsulating the forum's overall message that were pertinent to the vast array of topics the forum touched on.

"It comes from the ethos that you can make a dollar out of 10 cents, and hip-hop makes a lot of that possible," Davey D said.

Noble echoed such sentiments: "Just remember that this is a crazy planet, and everything is possible."

Mural
continued from page 1

out, using boards of the same size and matching colors, Thornburg emphasized.

"It was really cool seeing it come together," Thornburg said of the venture initiated by architect senior Yi Tran, now studying abroad. "We started with just the blank pieces of plywood, but the more it came together, it looked a lot better than the one up right now."

She added that exterior paint was used in order to make the mural, which is actually an abstract of the Cal Poly seal erected in 1973, more sun-and-rain-proof.

Alpha Rho Chi was fully supportive of postponing the installation of the updated work, Thornburg said, because of the risk of it being damaged during the UU upgrade.

Swansen, born in Oregon in 1916, was raised in Pasadena before earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree at USC, where he became a member of Alpha Rho Chi, a chapter of which he was integral in starting and advising at Cal Poly years later.

He served as the president of the Santa Barbara Art Association and as the Santa Barbara Museum of Art curator of education from 1963 to 1971. He also acquired a master's degree in art from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 1975.

Following stints as an instructor at Santa Barbara City College and Westmont College, Swansen began teaching architecture and watercolor at Cal Poly, and in 1987 was bestowed the faculty merit award from the CADER.

For Thornburg, in her first active year with the fraternity, dignifying Swansen made the mural revision memorable and worthwhile.

"One of the things that interested me in pledging was Vern Swansen," she said. "I feel honored working on this, something that everyone can see every day. He wanted the best for his students."

Lighten Up
on earth day
New assembly bill seeks to give cities power to regulate guns

Rachel Gross

A local member of the California State Assembly has authored a state bill that would enable cities in California to impose their own handgun laws.

The bill, authored by California Assemblymember Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, seeks to address the high rates of violence in East Bay cities by allowing those cities to create their own handgun bans and other laws that restrict guns.

"We're concerned with high gun violence in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond," said Armando Viramontes, Hancock's legislative aide. "Lower governments are on the front line in dealing with gun violence. Because they are being affected, they have the right to make those choices."

State law currently prevents localities from drafting their own gun laws. Viramontes said Hancock's bill would remove the state laws and allow cities to take legislative action against high crime rates. Advertisement

Berkeley City Councilmember Darryl Moore said he strongly supports the bill because it addresses the spike in violence in the Bay Area. He said he plans to write a resolution urging the rest of the council to back it as well.

"We have too many guns on our streets, and if this gives local municipalities a tool to ban handguns and get them off the streets, then I'm in support of it," Moore said.

However, not all East Bay residents believe a bill allowing gun bans would reverse the trend of gun violence.

"It would be a catastrophe for anyone who thinks they have any rights at all to defend themselves in their homes or businesses," said Robert Weaver, 52, the owner of the Old West Gun Room in El Cerrito.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who is married to Hancock, acknowledged the massive opposition facing the bill, but said it remains important because it creates constructive dialogue about the current epidemic of gun violence.

"It's a great idea that needs to be put on the table to provoke discussion and debate," Bates said. "We will see if it does happen this year, but if it doesn't, we need to keep after it, because the alternative is to keep seeing people kill each other unnecessarily."

According to Viramontes, the bill was tabled during Tuesday's committee hearing in the interests of waiting for the United States Supreme Court to rule on a case involving a similar ban on handguns in Washington, D.C. The case may be reconsidered next week.

The Heller case, as the Supreme Court case is called, highlights issues about the legality of gun laws and the scope of the Second Amendment. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case by the end of June.

However, Viramontes believes that the Heller case will not affect the passage of Hancock's bill because Washington, D.C. is neither a city nor a state. A similar case that may affect the bill is the California Superior Court ruling that overturned San Francisco's citywide ban on handguns in 2006.

According to Viramontes, the ban passed in San Francisco with overwhelming support and was also a reaction to high gun violence. But the San Francisco gun ban was struck down because it violated state laws. The current bill aims to alter the state law, which could create the potential for local control that does not violate state law.

If the bill passes, Viramontes said, cities like Oakland and Richmond will likely modify their standards for gun control. He added that the bill could serve as an example of how cities can deal with gun violence.

"California is one of the leading states in gun control legislation, so yes, I think this bill could be model legislation that other states would look into to address the gun violence problem," Viramontes said.

Avocado

continued from page 1

Avocado prices can reach $1.30 a pound, or about two avocados, according to the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agriculture Economics.

The price has been affected by consumer demand as well as several setbacks, including a 30-percent water cut by officials from the Sacramento River Delta; the San Diego County wildfires, which caused an estimated $25 million in damage to avocados, according to the county farm bureau; and a January freeze that cut California's avocado production from 237 million pounds to 350 million pounds last year, said the California Avocado Commission.
WASHINGTON — The pilot who steered a freighter into the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge last fall, causing a huge oil spill, had a depression, kidney stones, migraines, pancreatitis and, investigators said Wednesday, a drunken driving conviction and a history of alcohol abuse.

Veranda Cafe is already one of your favorite eateries on campus— and it has just been elevated with the addition of several new items in many sections of the menu. If you love burritos, be sure to try the two new creations: the Baja, a classic burrito with beans, rice, cheese, lettuce and your choice of meat; and the Cancun, with black beans, cilantro rice, Monterey Jack cheese and lettuce...you can even order it Vegan-style!

The Southwest Chicken Caesar salad puts a south-of-the-border twist on the traditional Caesar Salad. If you’re feeling fishy, give the fried fish tacos a shot. Each order includes two soft fish tacos with shredded cabbage, pico de gallo and crema de baja.

New soups add zest to the menu, including Sopa de Lima, a chicken tortilla soup with lime, and the chicken and pork Pozole with hominy and fresh cabbage. Don’t forget to add toppings from the salsa bar to your soup!

Finally, to top off your meal, pick up a slice of Tres Leches cheesecake or a chile chocolate brownie. Don’t be sad that all of the old items aren’t on the menu. You can still find the chicken or beef quesadillas, nachos with beans or your choice of meat, and the popular taco salad!

The Taco Combo is also new; an order includes two soft or hard tacos with lettuce, cheese, pico de gallo and your choice of meat, as well as beans and rice on the side.

Also, don’t forget about Taco Tuesday, when you can get a free fountain beverage with the purchase of a Taco Combo.

For those unfamiliar with Veranda Cafe, it is located up the stairs across from the Rec Center. It is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., and for dinner from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

paid advertisement

American Airlines cancels more than 1,000 flights

David Koening

Business trips and vacations were disrupted for tens of thousands of travelers Wednesday as American Airlines canceled more than 1,000 flights — nearly half in schedule — to fix faulty wiring that could cause a short-circuit or even a fire and explosion.

The airline said it expected to cancel 900 more flights for today. It was the latest — and largest — in a wave of cancellations at major U.S. airlines that have caused long lines at ticket counters and made flying even more stressful than usual.

Executives at American said safety was never compromised, and they suggested the nation’s biggest airline was the victim of suddenly stepped-up scrutiny by federal regulators.

American estimated that more than 100,000 travelers were booked on Wednesday’s 1,994 canceled flights. Many had to scramble to book new flights and were stranded at hotels far from home.

The airline said it expected to give airlines in September to deal with the fuel pump of the MD-80 airplanes. The fear is that improperly bonded wires could rub, leading to an electrical short or even fire. However, no serious incidents have been blamed on the bundles, the FAA said.

American officials thought they had fixed the problem last month. But this week, FAA inspectors found problems with the work done on more than a dozen planes. American said it had no choice but to ground all 300 of its MD-80s to deal with the wiring bundles.

American operates about 2,200 daily flights, more than any other U.S. airline. Nearly half the cancellations were concentrated at two airports, in Dallas and Chicago.

At New York’s LaGuardia Airport on Wednesday, hundreds of passengers stood in check-in lines or milled about, using cell phones to get updates on their flights. The airline offered free doughnuts, coffee and orange juice, but there were few takers.

“You should be able to predict these kinds of things,” said Laura Goodman, whose flight home to Dallas was canceled. She said would miss an important meeting because the airline couldn’t reschedule her flight.

American’s cancellations came after similar delays at Southwest, Delta and United. Last week, hundreds of travelers were marooned when Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines shut down and filed for bankruptcy protection.
Hip Hop Congress unites, enlightens and entertains

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Hip-hop may seem like just spoken words with a beat, but it goes far beyond that, if you ask the Cal Poly chapter of Hip Hop Congress.

Not only does it strive to cultivate the original four elements of hip-hop — breakdancing, graffiti artistry, deejaying and, of course, emceeing — but it also seeks to break down misperceptions and unite people.

"San Luis Obispo's kind of like a petri dish," said graphic communications junior Rachel Cherny, president of the Cal Poly chapter. "It exists in its own little bubble."

Such isolation, Cherny said, can lead to a narrow-minded understanding of the HHC tries to undo.

"People don't understand what hip-hop is; they think it's all what's on the radio, or about dealing drugs or prostitution or whatever," she explained. "But it began as a way to start social change and break through boundaries in the community. People can tend to hate what they think is hip-hop, or they hate hip-hop because they don't understand it."

Eradicating the erroneous notion of hip-hop as merely music is key to the chapter's goals, according to manufacturing engineering sophomore Jonathan Villeda, a Los Angeles native.

"We're trying to get hip-hop culture here at Cal Poly since not too many people know about it besides the music," he said, emphasizing all four elements working in unison.

Breakdancing happens to be especially well-represented at Cal Poly. Its Secret Service Crew boasts 15 to 20 performers who practice three times a week in order to prepare for various community events, Cherny said.

She added that many chapters come to be renowned for a given element, and those interested usually join those chapters accordingly.

"We're primarily breakdancing with a few deejays, some who deal mostly with artwork and then some who just have a love for hip hop in general," Cherny said. "We are somewhat lacking on emcees because there aren't really many rappers who go to Cal Poly."

Important to the chapter's success in illuminating the lesser-known aspects of hip-hop, Villeda said, is its ongoing search for venues to host shows.

At regular meetings, he said, members discuss possible places in the area that would be well-suited for concerts or events and try to pinpoint artists coming through not just San Luis Obispo, but California at large, and then make a calendar detailing such opportunities.

"That way, if people are into a particular artist, it's easier to check it out," he said.

Aside from art's sake, the communicative potential inherent to hip-hop, which the chapter stresses, is often undervalued, opined executive director of housing and residential life Preston Allen, the advisor.

"It's a great opportunity to bring everyone together under the umbrella of music," Allen said. "And it's exciting to watch because there's such an increasing dialogue between diverse groups of people — yet they're sharing the diversity or their experiences as well. It's a movement of communication — just as powerful as the Internet."

At present, the chapter is trying to arrange for Olyown City Rockers, a group known for its eclecticism and liveliness, to return to Cal Poly in late April or early May. It also intends to assemble a collective assortment of Bay Area acts that could take the stage at a locale such as Downtown Brewing Co.

For fundraising, the chapter has started a first-of-its-kind T-shirt initiative pertaining to the HHC as a whole. The endeavor features a design initially devised to fit Cal Poly but is flexibly applicable to all chapters.

Headquartered in San Jose, Hip Hop Congress was founded by Brian McMullen, Brenton Smith and Matt Johnson.

In late 2007, co-president Jennifer Rosenberg (now studying abroad in Thailand) spearheaded the club becoming a chapter of the widely influential, international, non-profit organization.

"Its whole point is to use hip hop culture to inspire action and creativity," said Cherny, who joined last year.

While meetings are formal and involve much "planning and brainstorming," Cherny said, new members shouldn't have difficulty blending in, and anyone can relate to some routines.

"One of the things we want everyone to do is to bring in new artists, or old artists you just started to really enjoy," said Cherny, a Chicoan.

"A lot of us are from different places — from Alaska to all over California, there are tons of regional people. Our favorite part is to use our love of hip hop to help each other."

The full congress meets once a week at 5 p.m. Wednesdays in Building 5, room 225.
International Briefs

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Police have evacuated tourists from Minnerit if located in the back of a seafood truck in southern Thailand while being wounded in the popular resort island of Phuket, police said today.

An additional 47 workers survived the incident late Wednesday in Ranong province and flagged down police for help, police Col. Kritthong Chantongkhai said.

Twenty-one were hospitalized while the rest were dehydrated after the incident.

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An outburst of bloodshed that killed eight people cast a shadow Thursday morning as talks on Nepal's peace deal with communist insurgents, stoking fears of more violence on voting day.

The voting for a new assembly is intended to usher in sweeping changes for this long-troubled Himalayan country, and will likely mean the end of a centuries-old royal dynasty.

BAGHDAD (AP) — An IED packed with fertilizer shells trimmed into homemade bombs and a funeral on Wednesday, leaving three children among the dead during clashes in a Shiite militia stronghold under siege by Americans and Iraqi forces on the fifth anniversary of the U.S. capture of the capital.

The fighting came as the U.S. military announced the deaths of five more soldiers. That raised the number of American troop deaths to 17 since Sunday.

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**Cal Poly Corporation**
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Cal Poly Housing Corporation assists Cal Poly in developing and managing housing programs.

**Cal Poly Foundation**
Board of Directors
Cal Poly Foundation manages a portfolio of successful Cal Poly alumni and friends' endowments and generates private support to launch and maintain the university's model and manages Cal Poly's endowment and other private gifts.

Applications are available through the ASI Student Government Office, University Union Room 202.

Applications are due: April 11, 2008 before 5 p.m.

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

“**How do you feel about hip-hop?**”

Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

“I like hip-hop a lot. I think it’s fun to listen to because it’s upbeat and diverse.”

— Rebecca Kanegasawa, civil engineering senior

“I love hip-hop! Tupac is the best. They need to play more of it around campus. Hip-hop is not dead, it’s just not here.”

— Miguel Ramos, political science senior

“Hip-hop is cool, but there’s not enough of it down here.”

— Devin Alcantra, forestry senior

“I used to listen to it a lot when I was younger, but now that I’m in college, my musical tastes have expanded. I can’t really relate to a lot of the mainstream stuff anymore.”

— Arie Stone, mechanical engineering senior

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**2008**

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

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Navigating CyberOpinion.

For some, "blog" can be a four-letter word (OK, it's a four-letter word for everyone). The anti-bloggers wonder, "Why do people need to subject the rest of the world to their 'profound' insights regarding the universe when they could just get a roommate or a shrink like the rest of us?"

Touché, blog naysayer, but not everyone has the privilege of having their "profound" insights published weekly in their college newspaper (wink).

According to Webster's Dictionary, a "blog" is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and hyperlinks." Provided one has access to a computer (and the frontal lobe of their brain), anyone can blog. Considering the endless space for personal ramblings available on the Internet, is it such a good thing that people can just vomit their opinions all over cyberspace? I say: yes and no. Since I go to Cal Poly, and I primarily learn by doing, I will share my first blog, examining the advantages and abuses of writing one:

Dear Blog (is this thing on?),

Wow, I can't believe how fast this quarter is going! It seems like just yesterday I was moving into the dorms and lying about my age (True, but perhaps incriminating information: consider revising). I am very happy with my grades last quarter, as I got yet another 4.0, which makes me on the Dean's List for the eighth consecutive quarter (Total bullshit; may compromise credibility). But even though I am so successful and talented (insert humility here), I still can't seem to find my keys or a boyfriend (;( Reminder: take blog link off Facebook). But things are looking up because that guy in my math class is pretty cute ;) (Use emoticons sparingly). Anyway, I was just popping in to say hello and note the wonderfully pleasant weather we are having lately (Totally boring; expunge completely).

Love,
Allison

P.S. I hate spiders (Poor use of opinion; next time, care about something that matters).

While it is all too easy to write a blog that just isn't very good, I have a few pointers for you who, like myself, are just getting used to the idea:

1. Don't forget that people might — God forbid — actually read your blog. Don't get too personal if it's a public blog.
2. Be honest. Don't lie.
3. Be accurate (libel suits are easy because Exhibit A is nicely packaged).
4. Stay away from incriminating information (again with the Exhibit A).
5. Say what's on your mind — democracy demands it (and so do your readers).

Happy blogging!

Allison Baker is an English senior, Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast with a love of internet self-promotion.

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760 higuera street downtown slo 549-8373
Beyond the sidewalk
Civic Ballet of SLO presents two disparate but oh-so-quirky ballets

Classical and contemporary choreography will converge Sunday as the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Sidewalk Stories," a work adapted from Shel Silverstein's infamous book of poetry.

There will be something for everyone this Sunday at the Performing Arts Center, where the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo will perform two very different ballets: one classical, one contemporary.

The local company will first perform a ballet based on William Shakespeare's classic comedy of errors "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The ballet will be performed in a traditional style, with original choreography by Silverstien and tells the story of a family whose lives resemble different poems from Silverstein's book.

According to Silvaggio, the choreography is modern and high-energy, "like looking at a picture book," he said.

The contemporary choreography is supplemented by contemporary music. Everything is new. It'll be fun, full of both slapstick (comedy) and melodrama.


According to Silvaggio, the choreography is modern and high-energy, "like looking at a picture book," he said.

There's definitely a wide variety of music (to keep the audience interested," Silvaggio said. Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo has a long history in the community. Founded 30 years ago by Silvaggio's mother, Lori Silvaggio.
Stair Steps to the Gods
Building the Great Pyramid at Giza

Craig B. Smith
Thursday, April 10
11:10 - 12:45 Lecture
12:45 - 1:15 Reception and Book Signing

Performing Art Center Pavilion

World-renown expert Craig Smith will present an illustrated lecture on the design and construction of the 4,500 year old Great Pyramid

Refreshments • Admission Free

Ballet
continued from page 9

the company has been performing ever since.
Their "The Nutcracker" ballet, performed near Christmas annually at the PAC, has become a staple holiday custom for many local community members.
"We perform 'The Nutcracker' every year; it's a tradition," said Cathie Brown, marketing programs director for the company.
The company is comprised of a wide variety of dancers, young and old, experienced and trainees. Some have other full-time jobs, but all have been trained professionally, Brown said.
Silvaggio also has a long history with the company. After growing up in San Luis Obispo, he left to pursue a musical theatre degree at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, Silvaggio performed for several different organizations, including the Barrymore Awards (Philadelphia's equivalent to the Tony Awards) as well as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. He also toured China, Spain and Cuba with the San Luis Obispo Jazz Dancers.
After an injury, Silvaggio returned to the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo, where he currently works as the artistic director, as well as teacher and choreographer. Silvaggio will also dance in the upcoming performance.
"It'll be a great time. A dance needs to do something for the audience, provoke them, make them question life. If I can make an audience do that, that's how I know a show is successful," he said.
Performances are Sunday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PAC ticket office or by phone at 756-2787.

Bakersfield College

Ballet
continued from page 9

the company has been performing ever since.
Their "The Nutcracker" ballet, performed near Christmas annually at the PAC, has become a staple holiday custom for many local community members.
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Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The New York Times Crossword

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Tarzan's remains became a controversial evolutionary find.
Is smoking good for you?

Lee Barats:
Yes, emphysema, shemphysema

Everyone who grows up to be anyone can point to a mentor who helped lead them along the treacherous, rocky path that is our lives. Teachers, rock gods, movies stars and military generals are some of the models we fashion our lives after.

For me, it’s the surgeon general. I’ve always had a fetish for doctors; maybe it’s that wet coat. The S.G. is the god of doctors, thus making him/her my God.

Since 1970, the S.G. has declared that smoking is dangerous to your health. However, that message is printed on the side of a cigarette pack, which is seen only AFTER the purchase. So I will continue the S.G.’s sanctimonious work and give you three solid reasons — BE: FORE you buy the pack — that smoking is indeed bad for you.

First, what is a basic and terrifying ingredient in cigarettes? Tar. It’s black vomit from a dead animal. It’s the sign of evil that Grendel loved. And let’s not forget the stuff that causes you to suffocate to death. Look what you’re smoking.

Secondly, you’re losing control over your body. If you pick up smoking, you can gain access to those prestigious “Smoking Only” hotel rooms and those cool all-glass rooms in airports. And here’s a question: ever worked with someone who smokes? They get to take at least three times as many breaks as you. It is fair! No. But it is something you can do too! You betcha! You’ll make the same amount and work less, but that’s not the only financial benefit of smoking. Statistics show that smokers are more likely to qualify for welfare, medical insurance payouts and scratch-off lottery ticket wins. You’d be an economic dumbass not to smoke!

Finally, cigarettes make your teeth look as crummy as a pirate’s. Ask yourself this: who else was quarantined like that? E.T. And the only friend E.T. had was 10-year old Elliot. If children are the type of friends you want, then just join a seminary.

Finally, cigarettes make your teeth look as crummy as a pirate’s. Ask yourself this: who else was quarantined like that? E.T. And the only friend E.T. had was 10-year old Elliot. If children are the type of friends you want, then just join a seminary.

Moreover, secondhand smoke is terrible for your social life. Mr. Lee Barats will lie to your face and try and convince you that smoking gives you access to more exclusive places. In reality, smokers are just quarantined in small areas so they can’t harm us. Ask yourself: who else was quarantined like that? E.T. And the only friend E.T. had was 10-year old Elliot. If children are the type of friends you want, then just join a seminary.

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Hip-hop is dead. It was a culture unifying the art forms of breakdancing, rapp ing, graf- fiti and DJing and today, little evidence of its original intent and feeling can be found. What we see labeled as hip-hop today is a reflection of that basic culture distorted by capitalistic values and a lack of social aware­ ness. To understand this point, you first need to understand hip-hop’s roots.

Hip-hop as a musical art form was giv­ en birth in the ’70s by DJ named Kool Herc. He took two turntables and a couple of copies of the same record and alternat­ ed between the two, extending the funk-iest part of the song — the “break” — that made dancers go crazy. Kool Herc hosted block parties throughout New York, driving people wild with his new sound. Similar DJs such as Afrika Bambaata began hosting parties, bringing together people wild with his new sound. Similar DJs such as Afrika Bambaata began hosting parties, bringing together block parties throughout New York, driving people wild with his new sound.

They expressed themselves through aggres­sive dance moves that could be substanti­ ated for fistfights. Breakdancing crews were estab lished, and their reputations on the street were determined by how well they could embarrass opponents with innovative moves. Everyone was given a name that said something about his or her unique style.

Rapping came from Jamaican-style toast­ing, which was basically shout-outs over the DJ’s music at a party. When rappers joined the hip-hop culture, they each had a unique style and character that defined them and what the energy their hosted party would be like. They were the masters of the ceremony, and their job was to keep the party people live and hyped with call and response and creative rhymes. MC Busy Bee was known in the late ’70s and early ’80s for his com­ edic rhymes and his battle aptitude. Back then, a rapper’s credibility was determined by their lyrical prowess, not their off-the­matics.

Graffiti started in the ’70s as well, and saw artists running from cops, painting trains and bridges, and fighting those who copied their style or ruined their piece. Respect was again innovation in the form of color and style as well as placement and visibility. There are some similarities between hip-hop’s earliest form and its contempo­ rary manifestation. The competitive nature still exists but is based on a different set of values. Today, innovation does not neces­sarily guarantee respect. In rapping, eco­ nomic success and lyrics about the amount of “weight” (drugs) one can move are the epitome of credibility. It is important to note that there were rappers in the ’70s and ’80s who touched on these topics (the Funky Four Plus One More’s Lil’ Rodney C7 ripped about private jets and sports cars) but this is when these sorts of lyrics were new.

And songs about drugs in early hip­ hop were usually about their damaging ef­ fects and not their economic opportunities. In Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five’s hit “White Lines,” MC Melle Mel rapped about cocaine addiction and the differences in punishment for drugs offenders depend­ ing on their race. This is a far cry from the message of newer songs like DJ Khaled’s “Brown Paper Bag.”

Furthermore, hip-hop’s initial emphasis on originality is lost in today’s sales-orient­ ed music culture. When Soulja Boy released “Crank Dat,” it seemed overnight that a song called “Crank That (Bass)!” hit the ra­ dio from the Pop It Off Boyz. This would have been labeled whack in the 80s because biting someone else’s style was the ultimate disrespect and was cause for a fight or a battle in one of the four elements.

But even today’s culture, if something’s successful, you can piggyback on it and squeeze all the money you can out of it. This repetitious nature has ensured hip­ hop’s death. It’s no longer a cultural move­ ment to make the lives of the disenfranchised visible and to create something positive out of a negative environment. In the hands of record companies, it has become commodi­ fied, stripped of its soul, with the four ele­ ments separated. While it may say something about the state of culture and the mindset of people in America today, the “hip-hop” we see and hear says little in congruence with the founder’s intentions. Then again, hip­ hop’s death it’s ultimate message?

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and a former reporter for the Mustang Daily.
Women

continued from page 16

ieber and any other topic regarding male-driven sports, don’t think I don’t know a good female athlete when I see one.

We have a volleyball team at Cal Poly with perennial All-Americans, and one of the best coaches in the country. Cal Poly has dominated the Big West, winning it twice, and having the conference player of the year two years running. While Cal Poly hosted a regional in 2006, it advanced to the Sweet Sixteen this past season. This team plays everyone who is anyone, and is on the cusp of becoming one of the elite programs in the country. Let me put it this way for guys — if volleyball were football, our coach would have gotten the UCLA job last season.

Sharon Day, a two-sport athlete at Cal Poly, is on the verge of becoming an Olympian in high jumping. She seems to win every collegiate meet she attends, and makes every other competitor in the Big West look inferior. She’s easily one of, if not the greatest, female athletes to ever step foot on this campus. Whether she makes the Olympics or not, her legacy is already etched in stone at Cal Poly.

And while Cal Poly might not be the elite platform in track like several of the Pac-10 schools, Day has helped this program creep closer with her immense talent.

Last but not least, I can’t forget about the softball program. Its head coach, Jenny Condon, has taken this program out of obscurity to the national spotlight in less than four years. In 2007, she led the program to its first Division I NCAA tournament appearance by winning the Big West. Averaging 34 wins over her first three seasons, Condon has this team headed down a winning path, and has beaten several highly-ranked teams in a short time at Cal Poly.

So while the men tend to grab the headlines in my articles, it’s definitely not due to a lack of female talent at this school.

John Middlekauff is an illegitimate center and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

You’ve been poked by
The Mustang Daily

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www.mustangdaily.net

Fencing

continued from page 16

Thank the batter and the batter is always trying to guess the pitch that’s coming,” he said. “It’s addictive.”

Recently, the club participated in the final NCFL tournament of the year, and did fairly well, Ferraresi said.

“Even though it is disappointing that we didn’t win the cup, I feel that the club is slowly rebuilding and improving,” he said. “Many of our novice fencers have been placing in the top eight and I’m very hopeful that we may win the cup again within two years.”

Yamashita placed first in epee and eighth in foil, and Ferraresi eighth in epee.

With regards to the future of the club, Yamashita would like to see the program develop more.

“If I’d like to get our members competing in more national events and branching out and getting better,” he said.

All ambitions aside, though, the club continues to thrive because of the simple joy it provides.

“Fencing is a fun, gratifying sport — and you don’t need any experience whatsoever to succeed,” Ferraresi said.

On April 26, the club will host the All California Collegiate Club Championships on campus in the Recreation Center.

The club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Mott Gym from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will take students until April 15.

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The Mustang Daily

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MEN’S TENNIS VS. UC SANTA CRUZ

TOURNEY APRIL 10TH 2 PM

BASEBALL VS. PACIFIC

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH 6 PM
SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 6 PM
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 1 PM

WOMEN’S TENNIS VS. UC DAVIS

SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 11 AM

WOMEN’S TENNIS VS. UCSB

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 11 AM

MAKE IT A CAL POLY ATHLETICS WEEKEND
Basketball
continued from page 16

with Golden State. We could get in (to the playoffs) if we don't win, (but) it could give us a big leg up if we do win."

There's a symmetry to the two exciting clubs that find themselves in the tough spot, thanks to the unprecedented glut of good teams in the West — and the improbable 22-game winning streak that shot the fifth-place Houston Rockets to the top of the West — and the improbable winning.

morel uplifts morale of Mustangs

Cal Poly junior third baseman Brent Morel blasts a home run against Fresno State at Baggett Stadium on Wednesday night. Morel had two home runs in the Mustangs' 8-5 victory.

Morel had two of the Mustangs' three home runs in the Mustangs' 8-5 victory.

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HELP WANTED

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innovativewebeoncepts@ yahoo.com

Lifeguards Seasonal / Part-Time
Port San Luis Harbor District is hiring high school graduates to serve as lifeguards in Avila Beach. Prior experience desirable. Need certification in First Aid and CPR / Title 22 (or ability to obtain same). Must pass 500 meter ocean swim test in 10 minutes or less. Pay: $11.50/hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) Application & job flyer available at Student Services Office. Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

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Unlimited yoga classes for 90 days. Smiling Dog Yoga 546-9100. 1227 Archer St. www.smalldogyogasolo.com

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Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services Stop by UU Room 217 or call (805) 756-2476

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Students: Look for your lost items at Cal Poly Lost and Found. 756-7469.

LOST Gold heart shaped charm. On Cal Poly Campus. Incredible sentimental value, reward if found. Please contact Sheila 756-2784.

LOST Camo jacket. If found, please call: 831-801-8718.

LOST Silver necklace with quarter pendant. Value not known. Reward if found. Please contact Derek (619) 813-0539.

LOST Brian Siu Yang. If found, please return to Building 65-107.

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FENCING CLUB TO HOST ALL CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Britney Clyde

"En Garde ... Fencers ready! Fencer!" Most may immediately picture "The Three Musketeers" when the topic of fencing comes up, but it is a sport that is so much more than three ridiculously dressed men fighting against injustice. It's one that requires skill, strategy, spontaneity and practice.

Though Cal Poly has never had a well-established fencing club, this past year it has steadily gained momentum and grown in popularity. What has helped the sport garner more attention in general is the previous Olympics, said Kyle Yamasaki, a club member.

"We had a couple of gold medals and a couple of bronze (medalists) so it has really been growing from that, and then in this year's Olympics there could be a couple medal potentials that are helping (the sport) a lot."

As of right now there are between 30 and 40 members, although the count varies each quarter. "Back in 1993, when our current head coach, Eric McDonald, came to Cal Poly, there were 250 people signing up for the fencing program. That club had a couple of guys sharing most of their gear on a single strip," club member Mark Ferraresi said. Since then, the club has become a top player in the Northern California Intercollegiate Fencing League (NCIFL).

Skill level also varies, and there is no experience required to join the club; equipment is supplied, as well, Yamasaki said.

"We have seven coaches right now; every quarter we have a beginning class that's devoted to people that don't know anything about the sport and have never done it before," he explained. "We also have intro classes for various weapons and then we have intermediate and advanced classes, as well as private lessons."

The sport includes three weapons: the foil, epee and saber. Each weapon type has special rules; which then determine how the fencer may score on an opponent. Distinguishing fencing from other sports is its unique intimidation factor, Ferraresi added.

"Most people have never seen modern Olympic fencing, as the sport isn't very widespread," he said. "Because of that, it may take some people out of their comfort zone."

Due to no two fencing bouts being the same, players can never rely on one strategy, move or trick alone, and in the higher levels, it can become all about strategy, according to Ferraresi. "You constantly have to be aware of the opponent's intentions or second intentions," he said.

Club president Tim Baldwin compared the sport to a duel between a batter and a pitcher. "The pitcher is always trying to out tipping the game on the line, there was no question where the ball was going. It wasn't six players against a five-time defending state champ — it was one player on a mission."

And 14 rounds and seven assists later, the team with six players led by one superstar went to the NCAAs, where they were a handful of guys sharing their gear, as well, Yamasaki said. "Since then, the club has been doing good," he said. "We have seven coaches right now; every quarter we have a beginning class that's devoted to people that don't know anything about the sport and have never done it before," he explained. "We also have intro classes for various weapons and then we have intermediate and advanced classes, as well as private lessons."

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