A large amount of drugs were found after San Sing' is a masterpiece. Columnist, Port O'Brien's locations near SOSU. See what our reporters see.

ONLINE

ONLINE

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Sunny
High 67°/Low 47°

Poly students show Pride

Animal science freshman Akane Gunterman (left) and food science freshman Gina Hill (middle left) take a look at the information available at the Pride Center's booth in the UU Tuesday.

Police crack down on Cal Poly parties

Cal Poly students can expect to see a host of new police measures designed to crack down on parties in their residential neighborhoods when school starts up in fall 2008.

Thanks to Measure Y, the half-cent sales tax measure passed in November 2006, and implemented in April 2007, the San Luis Obispo Police Department has been able to hire six new law enforcement officers and is recruiting one more.

At a special city council meeting held Tuesday at City Hall, police Chief Deborah Linden detailed the police department's plans to use these new officers.

Her primary concern: Improve neighborhood wellness, or — as Cal Poly students might see it — crack down on loud parties.

The plan is to create "neighborhood teams" of officers that travel residential neighborhoods from late afternoon until 3 a.m. the following morning, Thursday through Saturday. These specially trained officers would be assigned to different neighborhood beats to develop relationships with the communities in that beat.

"We created these neighborhood teams with the mission to work proactively with the residents and improve their quality of life and decrease disturbances," Linden said.

The main problems she cited were loud music, parties and alcohol violations, though she also mentioned automobile burglaries and theft as issues to be developed.

Linden hopes that these neighborhood teams can stop problems before they start.

"If we find out that someone is hosting a party, through passing out flyers or bringing alcohol into their homes, we want the officers to talk to them early about noise and alcohol restrictions before a problem occurs," she said.

Obama wins NC primary; Clinton leads in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton led narrowly in Indiana, struggling to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a cheering delegation away from voting in Raleigh, N.C., and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

He said it appeared Clinton had won Indiana's primary. Thousands of votes had yet to be counted, primarily in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

Returns from 62 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama was winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

Obama won at least 40 delegates and Clinton at least 31 in the two states, with 116 still to be awarded.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern state for the former first lady, hoping to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a strong run through the late prima-
Primaries continued from page 1

The effect of Clinton's call for a summertime suspension of the federal gasoline tax — which dominated the final days of the two primaries — was impossible to judge.

The questionnaire used to learn about voter motivation did not include any questions about the gasoline tax.

In Indiana, about one in five voters said they were independents, an additional one in 10 said Republican. Only Democrats and unaffiliated voters were permitted to vote in North Carolina.

Voting in Indiana was carried out under a state law, recently upheld by the Supreme Court, that requires voters to produce a valid photo ID. About a dozen possible to judge.

In North Carolina, six in 10 voters who said they were independent, an additional one in 10 said Republican. Only Democrats and unaffiliated voters were permitted to vote in North Carolina.

In Indiana, about one in five voters said they were independents, an additional one in 10 said Republican. Only Democrats and unaffiliated voters were permitted to vote in North Carolina.

Clinton saved her candidacy with her win in Pennsylvania. In North Carolina, six in 10 voters who said they were independent, an additional one in 10 said Republican. Only Democrats and unaffiliated voters were permitted to vote in North Carolina.

It was a victory in the Pennsylvania primary two weeks ago. Obama ridiculed the proposal as a stunt that would cost jobs, not the break for consumers she claimed. The two rivals dug in, devoting personal campaign time and television commercials to the issue.

Indiana had 72 delegates at stake, and Clinton projected confidence about the results by arranging a primary-night appearance in Indianapolis.

Now offer HPV Vaccine!

"Walk Ins Welcome"
San Luis Obispo at University Square

www.healthworkscc.com phone: 862-0900

Both races were dominated in the final days by Clinton's call for a summertime suspension of the federal gasoline tax, an issue that she created after scoring a victory in the Pennsylvania primary two weeks ago. Obama ridiculed the proposal as a stunt that would cost jobs, not the break for consumers she claimed.

The two rivals dug in, devoting personal campaign time and television commercials to the issue.

Indiana had 72 delegates at stake, and Clinton projected confidence about the results by arranging a primary-night appearance in Indianapolis.

North Carolina had 115 delegates at stake, and Obama countered with a rally in Raleigh.

Obama leads Clinton in delegates won in primaries and caucuses. Despite his defeat two weeks ago, he has steadily whittled away at her advantage in superdelegates in the past two weeks, and trails 209.5 to 255.

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Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"I know who’s running, but I don’t know what duties they have."
— Spenser Wilkins, biology sophomore

"Other than what I’ve read in the paper, I haven’t really seen a presence of the ASI president."
— Zach Steeber, civil engineering freshman

"I would say the office has minimal influence. In the four years I’ve been here, the promises have all either been broken or coincidentally already in progress."
— Jordan Dorenfeld, business junior

"I actually don’t know what the ASI president does."
— Kendra Nomoto, graphic communication sophomore

"How influential is the ASI president?"

To place an ad in this directory call 805-756-1143
Dietitian hired to arrest officer obesity

Shaya Tayefe Mohajer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rana Parker tells pudgy police they have the right to remain chubby, but it can and will be used against them on the streets of Los Angeles.

The dietitian lays down the law for recruits, veterans and top brass, letting them know that eating right can help them do a better job and could even save their lives.

"I joke with them that I'm not the food police, that I'm just here to give them information, education and hopefully give them motivation to help themselves," she said.

While overweight officers aren't unique to Los Angeles, the police department believes it's the first to hire a full-time diet coach, Rana Parker.

"Doughnuts may be the purse line for many cop jokes, but they're not the problem, Parker said. Long hours and the on-the-go nature of police work make it hard to find time to eat well and stay in shape, she said.

"They may be sitting in their car and all of a sudden they need to go for a sprint, which might end in a fight as well," Parker said. "They need to be in good shape so their body can handle that kind of stress."

But officers who don't plan their meals are reduced to nutritional bottom-feeding: drive-thru burgers, microwave burritos and greasy slices of pizza.

Parker believes officers can better take a bite out of crime if they aren't hungry on their shifts. She encourages stashing energy bars, fruit and peanut butter sandwiches in squad cars and desks, to stave off hunger when getting a full meal is hard.

"Fit officers are more confident, project image, she added. A suspect now thinks twice," he said.

Kevin Sommers, national chairman of safety and technology for the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded the LAPD for recognizing diet as an important issue.

"For the longest time in law enforce-

State Briefs

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A man has been sentenced to a maximum of life in prison for killing a transient and scattering his body parts around San Diego County.

A jury convicted 62-year-old Gerald Nash in March of first-degree murder in the February 2007 death of 57-year-old Allen Hayes, who used to visit an adult video store where Nash worked.

Authorities say the victim's torso was found along a riverbank. A day later, other body parts were found along highways.

FRESNO (AP) — An animal rights group is released an undercover video showing chickens at a major California egg farm being mistreated by workers and locked in cages so small they can't spread their wings.

The group Mercy for Animals began circulating the footage Tuesday as part of its campaign to promote a state ballot measure that would bar farms from keeping animals in pens or cages that are too small.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Irvine Robbins, co-founder of the Baskin-Robbins chain that famously offers 31 flavors of ice cream, has died. He was 90.

Robbins died Monday at his home in the desert community of Rancho Mirage, said his daughter, Marsha Wein of Mount Kisco, N.Y.

"He had been in ill health for some time, she said.

Generations of kids trooped to Baskin-Robbins stores to buy ice cream flavors like Praline Cream, Daiquiri Ice and Pink Bubblegum.

MURIETTA (AP) — An audio tape of an alleged beating was played for jurors as prosecutors opened their case against a man charged with torturing, starving and abusing many of the 19 children living at his home.

"What catches our eyes unless we discipline ourselves is pizza, hamburgers — all the food that's out there that's easy-access," Rubio said. "Now I tend to look at it as a heart attack waiting to happen."

While overweight officers aren't unique to Los Angeles, the police department believes it's the first to hire a full-time diet coach, Rana Parker.

"The food police say it's a heart attack waiting to happen."

With Parker's guidance and a regimen that replaces sweets with fresh oranges and strawberries, Rubio has dropped from 195 to 175 pounds. He vows to be wary of the fatty foods that lured around every corner.

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With food costs rising, ethanol benefits questioned

H. Josef Hebert

Associated Press

Just months ago, ethanol was the Holy Grail to energy independence and a “green fuel” that would help meddle the country away from climate change, said Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich.

Democrats and Republicans cheered its benefits as Congress directed a fivefold increase in ethanol use as a motor fuel. President Bush called it key to combating the “energy crisis” and a “green fuel” that would help nudge the country away from climate change. President Bush called it key to combating the “energy crisis” and a green fuel that would help nudge the country away from climate change.

In this May 24, 2006 file photo, a handful of corn is shown before it is processed at the Tall Corn Ethanol plant in Coon Rapids, Iowa.

With food costs rising, ethanol benefits questioned

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The leader of an apocalyptic sect in northeastern New Mexico was arrested Tuesday and charged with felony sex crimes against children.

State police arrested Wayne Bent, 66, on three counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, said Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Peter Olson.

Bent was being held on $500,000 bond at the Union County Detention Center in Clayton and was scheduled to be arraigned on Thursday.

*****

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia man who killed his line-in girlfriend was executed Tuesday, the first inmate put to death since the US Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections.

William Earl Lynd was pronounced dead at 7:35 p.m. EDT, Georgia Department of Corrections spokeswoman Mallie McComb told The Associated Press.

*****

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Tulsa businessman who uses the phrases “Barkstrong” and “Purrstrong” on his animal charity’s pet collars has sued the Lance Armstrong Foundation in a trademark dispute.

Chris Olmman filed his suit on April 30 in federal court, and claimed the Armstrong Foundation — which has marketed popular yellow “LiveStrong” wristbands — is infringing on Olmman’s intellectual property rights because it also sells pet collars with the “LiveStrong” motto.

*****

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Finally, David Winthoff slammed his Brevi Farce jersey for the first time in 1,581 days.

The Ridgefield, Conn, boy, 12, wore the No 4 jersey every day since receiving it as a gift for Christmas in 2003. David’s father, Chuck Winthoff, said Monday that his son’s last day wearing the jersey was April 23 — his 12th birthday.

Winthoff conceded his son was starting to become more concerned about his appearance after the jersey barely came down to his belt line.

*****

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A California lawmaker wants to ban narcotics from holding pets on their laps while driving and getting caught can cost a $35 fine.

The bill passed the Assembly on a 44-11 vote on Monday, and heads to the Senate.

Assemblyman Bill Mox said his legislation has nothing to do with pet-loving celebrities who are photographed driving around Los Angeles with their small dogs.

Mox said he introduced the bill after seeing a woman driving with three dogs on her lap.

*****

DENVER (AP) — Waving the Tibet flag, or paying tribute to the Dalai Lama during the medals ceremony will be against the rules at the Beijing Olympics, though the penalties for those infractions remain unknown.

With fewer than 100 days until the Beijing Games, the International Olympic Committee clarified its protest rules Monday, saying that athletes’ external appearance, clothing and gestures would be scrutinized at Olympic venues.

*****

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A half-dozen police officers kicked and beat three men pulled from a car during a traffic stop as a TV helicopter taped the confrontation.

The video, shot by WTXF-TV, shows three police cars stopping a car Monday, two days after a city officer was shot to death responding to a bank robbery.

The tape shows about a dozen officers gathering around the vehicle. About a half-dozen officers hold two of the men on the ground.

POLICE BLOTTER

May 5, 23:29 - Officer arrested a subject for public intoxication at the Recreation Center.

May 5, 14:53 - Officers responded to a complaint of a transient causing problems in the area of the railroad tracks near the stadium. Officers searched the area, located the subject and directed him to leave the area.

May 4, 23:37 - Officer investigated a complaint received from the security guard at the Poly Canyon Village construction site regarding three subjects trespassing in the area.

May 2, 09:44 - Officer arrested a subject for disorderly conduct; he was discovered taking pictures of people in a restroom at the university dining complex.

May 1, 23:17 - Officer arrested a subject attempting to steal parking sign(s) in Lot A-1.

April 29, 20:08 - Officer responds to a medical aid call where a subject cut his/her own finger on a can. The subject refused treatment and opted for private transport to a physician.

April 29, 16:38 - A non-injury traffic collision occurred in the G-02 parking lot when a vehicle rolled out of it's space and struck a parked vehicle.
Drug probe at San Diego State University nets 75 students

Allison Hoffman

Several dozen San Diego State University students were arrested and six fraternities were suspended after a eight-day drug investigation found that some fraternity members openly dealt drugs, and one even sent a mass text message advertising cocaine, authorities said Tuesday.

A five-month investigation prompted by a cocaine overdose death last year led to the arrests of 32 people, 75% of them San Diego State students. A second drug death occurred while the investigation was ongoing.

Two of the students were arrested early Tuesday in raids at nine locations including the Theta Chi fraternity, where agents found cocaine, Ecstasy and three guns. Eighteen of them were agents in waiting for suspects to admit charges.

Two kilograms of cocaine were seized in all, along with 350 ecstasy pills, marijuana, psychedelic mushrooms, hash oil, methamphetamine, illicit prescription drugs, several guns and at least $60,000 in cash, authorities said.

Profits may have been used to finance fraternity operations, they said. Those arrested included a student who was about to receive a criminal justice degree and another who was to receive a master's degree in homeland security.

"A sad commentary is that when one of these individuals was arrested, they inquired as to (whether) or not his arrest and incarceration would have an effect on him becoming a federal law enforcement officer," said Ralph Partridge, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in San Diego.

During the probe, investigators discovered that in some fraternities most members were aware of "organized drug dealing occurring from the fraternity houses by its members," the DEA said in a news release.

"Undercover agents purchased cocaine from fraternity members and confirmed that a hierarchy existed for the purpose of selling drugs for named fraternity members," the DEA said.

The district attorney's office said search warrants were served in San Diego and suburban La Mesa, including the Theta Chi fraternity house and several apartments.

A member of Theta Chi sent out a mass text message to his "faithful customers" stating that he and his "associates" would be unable to sell cocaine while they were in Las Vegas over the weekend, according to the DEA. The text promoted a cocaine "party" and listed the reduced prices.

San Diego State suspended Theta Chi and five other fraternities Tuesday pending a hearing on evidence gathered during the investigation. Members of at least three fraternities were arrested, according to authorities. Investigators identified seven fraternities in the course of the probe.

The undercover probe, dubbed Operation Sudden Fall, was sparked by the cocaine overdose death of a student in May 2007, authorities said. As the investigation continued, another student, from Mesa College, died of a cocaine overdose at an SDSU fraternity house, the DEA said.

Two defendants in the case pleaded not guilty to drug charges Tuesday. An SDSU fraternity president said his "failure" to deal with the problem by Adriano Smith, who was kicked out of the fraternity in May 2007, was a "real wake-up call."

"We're talking to our advisers," said John Phillips, a past president of the chapter.

Dale Taylor, the fraternity's national executive director, said he was "obviously shocked and saddened" by the allegations.

Theta Chi has prohibited the San Diego chapter from group activities for 90 days or more and will investigate additional disciplinary measures, up to expulsion of members or the entire chapter.

Theta Chi, based in Indianapolis, has 131 chapters in the U.S. and Canada and more than 161,000 initiates. It was founded in 1856.

The San Diego chapter was founded 61 years ago and has 65 members.

"They were on the upswing," Taylor said. "They had improved their recruitment. They were trying to raise money for a new house."

University police and federal drug agents worked together in the investigation, making more than 130 undercover drug buys at locations including fraternity houses, student parking areas and dormitories, authorities said.

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May 17 & May 18
Sinsheimer Park
Ages Divisions: 7-12, 13-14, 16, All under 12, under 4 and all world.
Competition includes 3 on 3 half court or 4 on 4 full court.
Music, food and beverage will be onsite. Don't miss the high flying slam dunk contest!"
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Tickets on sale FRIDAY
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1-800-909-FAIR
www.MidStateFair.com
Swing dance enthusiasts will have the chance to show their stuff at various events, competitions and games this weekend at the third annual San Luis Obispo Lindy Exchange.

Have a swingin’ good time

Shannon Boren
MUSTANG DAILY

Those looking to jump and jive this weekend are in luck, as the third annual San Luis Obispo Lindy Exchange will take place in various locations around town for the enjoyment of students and community members alike.

Beginning Friday, the Cal Poly Swing Dance Club and the SLO swing dancing community will host dancing events, competitions and games for both dance-sawy and novice movers. The largest event will be a vintage-themed dance held in Chumash Auditorium Saturday night, according to Swing Dance Club president and political science junior Mary Freitag.

“Swing dancing comes from the '20s to the '40s,” Freitag said. “It’s a vintage dance, so we’re having a more formal, dressier theme for it based on the 1939 World’s Fair. It will have different exhibits and pictures to help create the atmosphere.”

Tickets for the event will be $15 for the general public, and $12 for Cal Poly students with identification. A free, beginning lesson will be available from 7 to 8 p.m. for those who purchase a ticket and will immediately be followed by dancing festivities until midnight.

Prior to Saturday evening’s events, the club will host swing games in Mitchell Park from 1 to 4 p.m., including competitions like the “doughnut dip,” which requires dancers to eat a doughnut while being dipped by their partners in an effort to finish first. Prizes ranging from gift cards for local restaurants and stores to T-shirts and even a jar of granola will be awarded to winners throughout the day.

“Swing dancing is going to be a lot bigger this year,” Freitag said. “We already have a lot more people registered than we’ve had before; there are more DJs, and a lot more people coming from out of town to dance with us. It’s going to be pretty awesome.”

Dancing will also take place in Chumash Auditorium from 8 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Sunday, as well as a free dance at Mother’s Tavern from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Prices for the individual dances range from $7 to $15 and can be paid at the door.

Those who pre-register online, however, can purchase admittance to all the weekend’s events for a flat fee of $35 and receive a free T-shirt. According to Freitag, more than 100 people have already pre-registered, and the club is expecting more than 150 people to attend throughout the weekend. More details about the event can be found at sloswing.com.

“It’s a time for students, the swing community and jazz lovers from all over California to come together and dance,” Freitag said.

“If you want to learn to dance, if you already know, if you’re a senior and you can’t dance but you just want to listen to the music and watch — then you should come. There will be something for everyone.”

—Mary Freitag
Swing Club president

new book glorifies bathroom graffiti

Sara Torel
DAKOTA STUDENT (U. NORTH DAKOTA)

When most people head to the restroom, their main objective is to get in, take care of business and get out as quickly as possible. Occasionally, a bathroom will have something for a person to read, such as a few words someone took the time to write on the stall between chemistry class and English or advertisements for cars, classes and other campus happenings.

Doug Rice is someone who decided to collect the former and turn his findings into a 145-page “From the Stall” showcases some of the graffiti Rice has discovered in mainly university campus and bars — all the places where one would expect to find humorous and pseudo-intelligent thoughts.

Although Rice has only been collecting graffiti for a year and a half, the idea came to him when he was attending Oakland University as a student. “It was finals week, and I was in the library, and I had to ‘swing by the office’...” So I go to the basement floor bathroom and in front of me I read ‘Rick Moranis has enormous horse balls,’ and at this very moment I was inspired to make a home bathroom reading book of a compilation of all of the unbelievable public bathroom-stall graffiti people write.”

Rice visited six colleges in Michigan, a few restrooms in Boston and “God knows how many bars. I found most of my material from the colleges because I think people are more likely to have pens when they shit,” Rice said.

see Graffiti, page 10
Kory Harbeck

For students whose idea of cooking is grabbing the phone or finding the keys, help with a little Cal Poly twist is out there.

Jackie Oliver, mother of Cal Poly architecture sophomore Sophie Oliver, recently published a cookbook, "I've Found the Kitchen, Now What?" aimed toward a younger audience on their own for the first time and lost in their new environment.

When Sophie and her friends complained about the gap between the book they were reading and tool, Jackie decided to create a guide her daughter could use. As she progressed, the material became detailed and comprehensive.

When Sophie and her friends complained about the gap her daughter preparing to head off to college, she decided to do it alone. She looked into using Create Space, an online service through Amazon that allows individuals to self-publish books at a much cheaper price by publishing the material only after it has been purchased online.

While the books that have recipes, its most valuable contribution to the kitchen is a reference guide. It is meant to be a little encyclopedia, a guide focused less on the recipes and more on teaching the things other cookbooks assume," Oliver said.

The material is simple to digest, and the book is thin enough to fit into any nook or cranny. As far as aesthetics go, the pictures are salivating, which, as any late-night Food Channel addict knows, makes all the difference. The glossary of terms covers equipment, utensils and cooking terms, including definitions for techniques such as "braising" or "sauté." The ingredients section is an extensive list of fruits, herbs and vegetables that includes preparation and quantity tips.

The herbs section is especially helpful for those who do not know the difference between arugula and arugana.

"The objective is for it to be a go-to resource that you can use to solve complicated recipes from family or other cookbooks," Oliver said.

Some of the most valuable information "I've Found the Kitchen, Now What?" provides are grocery shopping tips. Even the most Novice chef will find comfort in picking out the best available fruit, vegetables and meat.

It also gives advice on staples to keep in your pantry, fridge and freezer that gives the reader plenty of options to make quick, easy homemade meals from scratch.

The recipe section is divided into two parts: basic and easy but detailed instructions. All recipes include preparation and cooking times as well as detailed instructions.

"I've Found the Kitchen, Now What?" can be purchased at the following online sites:

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble
- IndieBound

For more information, visit www.hestekitchen.com.

Make sure to check out the Mustang Daily cookbook section every week for a new recipe. This week's recipe is a simple and easy grilled cheese sandwich. To make it, simply heat a pan on medium heat and place a slice of bread on it. Once the bread is heated, place a slice of cheese on top and let it melt. Flip the bread over and repeat with the other slice. Enjoy your delicious grilled cheese sandwich!


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Place a classified ad at www.mustangdaily.net click on Ads to Classify it.

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Crazy Jays
For his book "From the Stall," author Doug Rice collected graffiti from bathroom stalls at universities and bars. According to Rice, the book is "incredible on many different levels — a showcase to the mindframe of humans when they are doing their business."

Rice also said that the book serves as a sort of portal into the minds of members of the opposite sex. "If you are a guy and interested in what the girls write in their stalls, or vice versa, this book is for you." Maybe this book is the answer to the always daunting question of how the other sex thinks and acts.

One neat aspect of "From the Stall" is that the end is filled with pictures of non-graffiti-filled stalls in which the owner of the book can legally express their thoughts and feelings. This is an area where the reader can get their "feelings out about an annoying roommate or just draw a picture of their dick." Speaking of... private information, if this book were to have a rating it would be "R." The book includes many swear words, derogatory slams and numerous naked drawings — pretty much the things that go on in the mind of an average college student.

Don't let this fact cause you to overlook or ignore the book though. It is human and at times touching, although the touching moments and thoughtful ponderings sketched on the wall of a dirty stall are often countered and belittled by Rice's commentary appearing on the side of every page. As one man from Oakland University wrote in a stall, "I can't help but wonder if all the wisdom of the world is etched on some bathroom wall."

Graffiti
continued from page 8

Interestingly enough, Rice has never personally written on a bathroom stall. Maybe this will change as he visits more schools and bathrooms in preparation for his second book, which should be on shelves in the next two to three years. "I encourage people from everywhere to send photos that they take to the Web site (www.fromthestall.com) to get their school on the map and in the next book."

When asked about the purpose of his book, Rice responded, "I think this book is incredible on many different levels. It is a showcase to the mindframe of humans when they are doing their business. It is a form of expression that is very dirty, stinky and fucking hilarious!"

Feeling like crap?
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A gift a mother would love

You may be struggling through your classes, trying to keep on task during the beautiful spring weather, but May probably brings one of the biggest challenges: buying a present for your mother or another maternal figure for Mother's Day. Mothers always say the same things: "You don't have to get me anything," or "I'll love whatever you get me." You also know both are not true; the flowers were nice but were cast aside after the newness faded, and she already had the latest Celine Dion CD. This said, take a look at the ideas below to help jumpstart your search for a decent gift that isn't too impersonal, impractical or unoriginal.

— Sam

1.
Give gifts that give more

So your mom already has everything she wants? Don't waste your money and time giving her something she won't need — give her the gift of humanitarianism. Lots of charities and non-profits give people the opportunity to give to a needy cause in someone else's name. For instance, I went to hungersite.com, which raises money for world hunger and other such causes, and bought a month's worth of food for an Rwandan family as well as a teddy bear for an African child with AIDS. My mother was much happier to receive the certificates with a picture of the Rwandan family than she would if she had gotten a box of candy.

2.
Take her to a restaurant

Your mother certainly shouldn't have to cook on Mother's Day. Take her out; she would love to spend more time with her little snookums anyway. Ask her where she wants to go or surprise her by taking her to your favorite eatery. There's no real prep or clean-up you need to worry about either, unless you need to make reservations. However, you might want to cook her a meal yourself, if you dare, to avoid the Mother's Day busyness at restaurants.

3.
Hire a babysitter

If you have a little sibling who sucks the life out of your mother, give her a break and hire a sitter for the night. You might even want to include a free massage or other pampering treatment for her to enjoy on her night out while you're at it.

4.
Take portraits with your siblings or other members of the family

Mothers love photos of their little babies but they probably haven't been updated since you were a baby. Make an appointment with your siblings at the JCPenney studio, or even include your mom in the mix by making an appointment for later that she can join in on. Just remember that you get what you pay for; try to find a legit photographer who will take a memorable, quality portrait. Also, make sure to get a nice frame to go with it; don't just pick one up at the dollar store.
The term “bread basket of the world” has long been used to describe parts of the U.S., such as the Midwest and California’s central valley. Based on the recent worldwide food shortage, this image of America is definitely called into question.

Most of us are already aware of rising prices of certain items — a gallon of milk or a loaf of bread, for example — but this shortage is hitting way closer to home than most of us can imagine.

Major stores on the East and West coasts are already rationing food. The demand for flour, rice, cooking oil and grain are surpassing the supply. Last month, a Costco in Mountain View, Calif. only had half a pallet of one type of rice left, and the store posted a sign that read, “We are limiting rice purchases based on your recent purchasing history. Clerks were reclaiming bags from customers who did not adhere to the policy. According to the New York Sun, spiking food prices have led to riots in Haiti, Indonesia and several African nations. Furthermore, India recently banned exports of all but the highest quality rice, and Vietnam blocked the signing of a new contract for foreign rice sales.

In regards to flour and grain shortages, some citizens are frustrated that the U.S. hasn’t put export controls on wheat. The logistics appear to be quite simple: the demand for flour is high because there is a worldwide shortage of wheat, and the United States is still exporting more grain. According to a recent CBS report, flour costs have tripled in the past year — it now costs more than sugar. Consumers can expect to pay 50 cents to $1 more per loaf of bread than they did a year ago, and it’s expected to get worse.

Now in terms of the U.S., you would think we could find some way to get relief, too, at the gas pump. Here’s one idea: let’s leverage a product that we farm and make into something of some energy-saving yet environmentally friendly solution that offers rising oil costs. Let’s call it “ethanol.”

Ethanol sounds like a fabulous idea. It can be used as vehicle fuel and has such a wonderful “green” image. After all, it is produced from corn kernels, logi­cally, really. And it’ll be a great way to stimulate the U.S. economy through extended opportunities for farmers, and of course, lower gas prices.

Unfortunately, this idea couldn’t be further from reality.

Dan Kehl, Business Manager for California’s Port of Stockton, tellsl Cybercast News Service, “I think very desperately there is a clear connection between our ethanol use and world hunger. The connection is becoming more evident and understood every day by the American people. And they understand that there is very little that’s being done to address the problem. Thank you, Ted. Now that we ‘under­stand’ the problem and know there’s nothing being done about it, now what? Unfortunately, Sen. Kennedy is correct, although it would have been nice if he and his constituents got it right the first time when ethanol was sup­posed to be the greatest thing since sliced bread (no pun intended).

The Energy Policy Act mandates that increasing amounts of ethanol be used to dilute gasoline.

According to the Washington Post, as the demand for corn has increased because of increased etha­nol consumption, the number of acres used to grow wheat in the U.S. has been limited, contributing to a shortage of wheat on the world market and an overall increase in world grain prices.

As if ethanol being one of the reasons for a major food shortage isn’t enough, it has serious environ­mental implications. Maize is one of the largest consumers of nitrogen-based fertilizer. The major problem with fertilizer is that it con­taminates our water supply with nitrates and phos­phates, which in turn harms drinking water and also removes the oxygen from the water in a process called eutrophication. Not only is groundwa­ter unsafe to drink now, the fish are dying due to depletion of oxygen. In fact, one of the largest dead zones in the world, in the Chesapeake Bay, has been created due to upstream runoff from our own Mississippi River. Can you guess what? Fertilizers used to grow the huge corn corps there. We already face a major fish shortage, and now the rest of our food supply is catching up.

I mention that fertilizer production uses thousands of cubic feet of natural gas, so ultimately any energy savings from biofuels like ethanol has become waste, and now our natural gas supply is being threatened as well.

The world is doomed over this crippling short­age. Where is the resounding “oops” from all the environmental organizations and politicians who agreed that ethanol is the corn gods’ gift to the United States? Perhaps Sen. Kennedy should actu­ally do something about it instead of pointing out the obvious.

Christina Chang is an on­line science writer and a con­servative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Growing old is not for sissies.

I have been retired from Cal Poly for about 16 years and I wanted to thank everyone for the dollars of letters from Daily reporters who did so some time ago on the basketball shooting contests in the Cal Poly Recreation Center. She then posted it on HubPages under “Don Morris’ Basketball.”

Recently, several Cal Poly student competitors have indi­cated that they have seen this story and videos and have challenged the basketball shooting skills in the Recreation Center. A huge number of people — and it has been lots of fun. Since the article was published in the Mustang Daily and Hub­Pages, I have gained another year of basketball experience and now look forward to my 70th year of life.

As stated in the HubPages story, it is my pleasure to give a prize of a Gonzaga to any Cal Poly student that can best me in three of five Se­nior Olympic Basketball Shooting Events. The events are free throw shooting, three point shooting, precision shooting, HORSE, and the two-minute drill. Each of these...
For the past few weeks, the national dialogue in this country has been a delusion. People have been talking about pastors, patriotism and elitism while ignoring the critical issues facing this country, such as the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the deteriorating U.S. economy. To be fair, I understand why certain groups (namely Republicans and the 24-hour news businesses) would prefer to divert attention toward Rev. Jeremiah Wright rather than focusing on the catastrophes they helped create. Nevertheless, when I read that April was the deadliest month in Iraq in more than seven months, I am reminded of Sagan's quote and the need to break this delusional debate. Ultimately, if we are to thrive as a nation, we cannot become immersed in side spectacles while ignoring the realities around us. We need to get back to discussing solutions to our problems, something this column will try to do regarding the Iraq war.

May 1 marked the five-year anniversary of the president's "Mission Accomplished" speech about Iraq; that same day, two suicide bombers attacked an Iraqi wedding ceremony, killing 35 people and wounding 67. The sad truth is, despite heavily investing U.S. blood and treasure, our nebulous mission in Iraq is far from accomplished. But the deaths of 50 U.S. soldiers and more than 1,000 dead in Iraq April alone deprives claims of "progress." Furthermore, Gen. David Petraeus's testimony last month gave little hope to the notion that the Iraq war has been won. "We haven't turned any corners. We haven't seen any lights at the end of the tunnel." Looking back, it is clear that the "peace" that existed in Iraq recently was not due to political progress or "the surge," but mainly because of the Bush administration opposed the idea. Furthermore, massive unemployment and crumbling infrastructure continue to feed the ranks of these militias and criminal gangs.

So what is the solution to all this? First we must accept the reality that there are no good options left (that ship has long since sailed) and that only Iraqis can achieve political reconciliation among themselves (it is their country after all, right?). With those two understandings, the "least worst option" for Iraq is to adopt Sen. Joseph Biden's plan, which received tremendous bipartisan support and was passed overwhelmingly in the Senate last September (73-25). Naturally, the Bush administration opposed the idea. Sen. Biden's plan calls for decentralizing political power in Iraq and allocating it among three self-governing federated regions: Kurd, Shiite and Sunni, which should mitigate the power struggle engulfing the country. The central government would be left in charge of common interests such as border security and the distribution of oil revenues, but the individual regions would be largely autonomous from one another in their day-to-day operations.

Although decentralization might seem radical, it is really not, as Iraq's constitution allows for the creation of federal regions. Furthermore, Biden's plan brings angry Sunni factions (once the ruling minority of Iraq) into the deal by guaranteeing them a proportional share of oil revenue (valued at billions of dollars). Each group would have an incentive to maximize oil production, making, as Biden says, "all the glue that binds the country together."

Some critics argue that this plan is a partition of the country, but the truth is that things are already heading that way because of the current massive ethnic cleansing of neighborhoods. By dividing the land along ethnic lines, it dramatically reduces the bloodshed by literally putting space between each group, allowing them to govern their own people as they see fit, as opposed to following a central government that is constantly in disagreement over regional policy.

If this plan sounds familiar, it's because it has been successfully adopted in other violent sectarian regions, the most recent being Bosnia in 1995. Thirteen years ago, Bosnia was being torn apart by ethnic Serbs and Muslims. Now, more than a decade later, a fragile peace still holds.

Patrick Mehl is a business junior and a liberal columnist for the Mustang Daily.

We finally agree

Not surprisingly, as the presidents of the Cal Poly College Republicans and Cal Poly Democrats, we are rarely in agreement. Our paths first crossed in middle school, back in the day when life was so much simpler, when student elections depended on who the nicest person was, or who was more popular, or maybe even whomsoever passed out more candy with the better trick-or-treat candy changed everything. Freshman year, we ended up on opposite sides of our dorm room, and ironically, four years later we're on opposite sides of a student government leadership challenge, including student safety and campus security. Today and tomorrow, you have the opportunity to elect a woman who is passionate, knowledgeable and a leader. She bleeds green and gold and is determined to provide a student government that promotes the student voice above all else. We believe in creating an ASI that we can all take pride in, and that's why we're voting Angela Kramer for president.

Christina Chappè is a social sciences senior and the president of the Cal Poly College Republicans. Erica Janoff is an industrial engineering senior and the president of the Cal Poly Democrats.
Let it out!

Post a comment or send a letter to the editor.

only at
www.mustangdaily.net
Bryant has said this was his best regular season and his most enjoyable — very different from his feelings last spring.

First, he challenged the Lakers to upgrade their roster, then demanded a trade.

Things quieted down and Bryant said all the right things during training camp until Lakers owner Jerry Buss said he would listen to trade offers. That upset Bryant again, but he promised he would focus on basketball once the season began.

And so he did.

After a 9-8 start, the Lakers put it together. The most obvious upgrades were Fisher and Pau Gasol, acquired Feb. 1 from Memphis. The Lakers already had Andrew Bynum, Jordan Farmar and Sasha Vujacic — all former first-round draft choices — when Bryant had his tirade last spring. All three, especially the 20-year-old Bynum, showed great improvement, but Bryant missed nine games late in the season because of a sprained ankle.

Through it all, led by their MVP, the Lakers kept winning. And now they appear to have as good a chance as any team to win another NBA championship. AP sports writer Jimmy Golden contributed to this report from Boston.
Bryant wins first MVP award

John Nadel  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Finally, an MVP award for Kobe Bryant.

Regarded as the NBA's best player for several years but never in its most valuable, Bryant earned the honor at last on Tuesday after leading the Los Angeles Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.

He called the award a blessing and an honor and emphasized that he wants another trophy this year.

"It's Hollywood, it's a movie script. The perfect ending would be for us to hold a championship trophy at the end of it," Bryant said at a news conference attended by his teammates, club officials, his wife and two daughters.

"This is an award I couldn't have won on my own. I can't thank these guys (his teammates) enough. These are my guys, these are my brothers. Let's get ready for tomorrow."

The Lakers try to take a 2-0 lead against Utah in their conference semifinal on Wednesday night. Bryant will receive the MVP trophy from commissioner David Stern before the game.

Bryant entered the season as the league's two-time defending scoring champion. He had finished as high as third in the MVP voting twice — after the 2002-03 season, when he averaged 30 points for the first time, and last year when Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki won.

"I don't know anybody who's ever deserved this trophy more. I don't know anybody who's ever worked as hard to accomplish what he's accomplished," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, who had five-time MVP Michael Jordan with Chicago and was at the Lakers' helm when Shaquille O'Neal won the award in 2000.

Bryant received 82-first-place votes and 1,105 points in the media vote. He was followed by New Orleans' Chris Paul (28 and 899), Boston's Kevin Garnett (15 and 670) and Cleveland's LeBron James (1 and 438).

"I've said since two, three years ago that Kobe Bryant is the best player in the league," James said before the Cavaliers faced the Celtics in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series. "He's been the best player the last five, six years. I'm glad he won it. His team has a great year, finishing first in the West."

This season, there was no denying the Lakers' 6-foot-6 star. Los Angeles rose to the top of the West despite key injuries and following Bryant's trade demands last spring when his team was eliminated in the first round by Phoenix for the second straight year.

Bryant averaged 28.3 points, 6.3 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 1.8 steals while playing all 82 games despite tearing a ligament in his right pinkie in February. He put off surgery until after the Olympics.

The knock on the 29-year-old Bryant had been that he didn't make those around him better — not anymore.

"He's deserving in this particular season, with all of the question marks and every­thing going on coming into the season and the uncertainty," teammate Derek Fisher said. "Not only did he statistically have an MVP type of season, everybody can reason­ably say they were better this year because of what he did. He met the so-called criteria, elevating his teammates' games."

Word leaked last Friday night that Bryant had won the award.

Bryant, second in the NBA in scoring and an honorable-mention nod as a rightfielder and a utility player. Maiden's recent accomplishments are especially impressive considering she entered the 2007 season with only five collegiate at­ bats.

"My love for this game has far exceed­ ed the struggles and triumphs I have gone through, and I'm so proud of the person and player I have developed into," she says. "Softball has helped me to become a stron­ ger person and deal with everything life has to offer."

Maiden started playing T-ball at age 5 — with boys, she wasn't allowed to play softball until she was 7.

Following a stellar prep career at Righetti High in Santa Maria, where Maiden was a four-year letterwinner and All-Pac 5 League First Team and All-San Luis Obispo County in the West last year when Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki won. She has been as valuable as any of those individuals.

"Many people were doubtful as to whether I would ever start another softball game again," she says. "I feel my hard work and re­ liability helped show what kind of softball player I really was."

While Maiden says the season thus far hasn't turned out as well as the Mustangs (22-21) may have planned, she thinks the coming years will put the program on a path toward winning a national championship.

"I am so impressed with the amount of hard work we have all put into this season," she says. "I feel that each and every one of us has a will and desire to win — individually, we have all done some great things."

Maiden, who hopes to use her experience at Cal Poly to coach softball in the future, has been an invaluable as any of those individuals to Condon.

"She definitely leads by example in how hard she works," Condon says. "I expect there to be lots of leaders next year, Jenna being one of them."