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FRIDAYS WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
High 70° Low 49°

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True Life series looks at abortion

Chumash Auditorium was three-quarters full Wednesday night to hear Scott Khlasendorf (left), president of the Life Training Institute, square off against Nadine Strossen (center), president of the American Civil Liberties Union. Strossen argued that abortion should be safe, legal and rare and that the government should stay out of Americans' bodies and their bedrooms. Khlasendorf challenged Strossen to prove that unborn babies are not human and argued that body size does not bestow value. Right: Hundreds of students lined up outside the auditorium for the event. Check Friday's paper for the full story.

No Tuesday class next week

Those who hate their Tuesday or Thursday classes are in luck. Next Tuesday, May 27, Cal Poly's class schedule will be switched to the Monday schedule for the day. After skipping Monday for Memorial Day, students will attend their Monday classes on Tuesday and normal scheduling resumes on Wednesday.

Seismologists detail impact of 'The Big One'

LOS ANGELES — The "Big One," as earthquake scientists imagine it in a detailed, first-of-its-kind script, unrolls California's mighty San Andreas Fault north of the Mexican border. In less than two minutes, Los Angeles and its sprawling suburbs are shook like a bowl of jelly.

Bush signs anti-discrimination bill


Ben Feller

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday signed legislation to protect people from losing their jobs or health insurance when genetic testing reveals they are susceptible to costly diseases.

Bush praised the bill for protecting "our citizens from having genetic information misused."

Sponsors of the legislation call it a groundbreaking protection of civil rights. About a dozen of them gathered in the Oval Office as Bush signed the bill, but not Sen. Edward Kennedy, to whom the president paid particular tribute.
Only about 700 of those people are victims of building collapses. Many others are lost to the 1,600 fires burning across the region — too many for firefighters to tackle at once.

A team of about 300 scientists, government, first responders and industries worked for more than a year to create a realistic crisis scenario that can be used for preparations, including a statewide drill planned later this year. Published by the U.S. Geological Survey and California Geological Survey, it is to be released Thursday in Washington, D.C.

Researchers caution that it is not a prediction, but the possibility of a major California quake in the next few decades is very real.

Last month, the USGS reported that the Golden State has a 46 percent chance of a 7.5 or larger quake in the next 30 years, and that such a quake probably would hit Southern California. The Northridge quake, which killed 72 people and caused $25 billion in damage, was much smaller at magnitude 6.7.

“We cannot keep on planning for Northridge,” said USGS seismologist Lucy Jones. “The science tells that it’s not the worst thing we’re going to face.”

USGS geophysicist Kenneth Hudnut said scientists wanted to create a plausible narrative and avoided science fiction like the 2004 TV miniseries “10.5” about an Armageddon quake on the West Coast.

“We didn’t want to stretch credibility,” said Hudnut. “We didn’t want to make it a worst-case scenario, but one that would have major consequences.”

The figures are based on the assumption that the state takes no continued action to retrofit flimsy buildings or update emergency plans. The projected loss is far less than the magnitude-7.9 killer that caused more than 40,000 deaths last week in western China, which excludes possibilities such as fierce Santa Ana winds that could whip 1,600 fires that would destroy 200 million square feet of housing and residential properties worth between $40 billion and $100 billion, according to the scenario.

Major fires following the quake would cause the most damage, said Keith Porter, of the University of Colorado, Boulder, who studied physical damage for the scenario.

“Fire is the biggest challenge,” he said. “The scenario is that we’re going to have to think about out-of-the-box solutions.”

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Facebook preparing for redesign in effort to clear site's clutter

Michael Liedtke

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Having nearly tripled its audience and added about 20,000 new applications over the past year, Facebook Inc.'s popular online hangout is about to undergo housecleaning.

Visitors who can't stand the clutter that's been piling up may be glad to know that the site's new look sweeps disparate bits of information into categories marked by tabs at the top of each user's customized home page.

Basic personal background and interests will be filed under an "info" tab, pictures will be corralled in a "photo" section and applications will land under a "feed" tab, for instance, said Mark Slog, the Facebook product manager overseeing the facelift.

"Change is difficult for our users, even when they want it," Slog said. "But we are pretty confident that we can walk everyone through this so they will be engaged with the changes and enjoy them."

Facebook has had to quell two user rebellions since Mark Zuckerberg started the site a little over four years ago while he was still an undergraduate at Harvard University. In 2006, users railed against a feature called "news feed" as too intrusive because it shared information about their shopping habits and purchase history with friends.

In April, users railed against a feature called "define friends" that lets users refine their contacts list and add or remove friends without their prior approval. "Define friends" was designed to help users separate their friendship list from coworkers or other people they don't want to be Facebook friends with.

Despite the efforts of a 350-member product management team to keep the site organized, Zuckerberg has warned that he expects the user-base to continue to grow. "We think there will be more long-term gains," he said.

Bill

continued from page 1

genes, and abnormal results can mean that someone has an inherited disorder.

The test looks for signs of a disease or disorder in DNA taken from a person's blood, body fluids or tissues.

Researchers have supported the bill because Americans have been reluctant to take genetic tests, for fear that the data gleaned from such tests will be used against them.

A 2001 study by the American Management Association showed that nearly two-thirds of major U.S. companies require medical examinations of new hires.

Each person probably has six or more genetic mutations that place them at risk for some disease, according to the National Human Genome Research Institute.

The House voted 414-1 for the new legislation. The Senate passed it in a 95-0 vote.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican and long-time advocate for the legislation, said the signing of the bill "is a landmark moment in our ongoing effort to fight discrimination."

Genetic testing can lead to early treatment for a wide range of diseases with hereditary links such as breast and prostate cancer, diabetes, heart disease and Parkinson's disease.

Yet increasingly, people fear that the data gleaned from such tests will be used against them.

"Facebook turned into a potential gold mine as it extended beyond its initial goal of allowing college students swap information about each other. The site now has 70 million users worldwide, up from about 24 million a year ago."

Zuckerberg's decision to open Facebook to outside applications last year has played a key role in the site's rapid growth. Since then, developers have contributed 20,000 applications that make it easier to distribute photos, share media and combat spam.

But all those programs were starting to make Facebook look jumbled — a problem that also has plagued the Internet's largest social network, News Corp. Myspace.com.

"Facebook is trying to address the situation without alienating the outside developers who helped fuel the site's success."

"There may be some short-term pain, but I think there will be more long-term gains," predicted Ben Ling, Facebook's director of platform product marketing.

JavaScriptEnabled

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Nichiren Buddhism: small but strong following at Cal Poly

Angela Marie Watkins

Remember back in 1996 when Gwen Stefani was crying out “Don’t Speak” with a bindi bead on her forehead and all of a sudden everybody wanted to be Hindu or Buddhist? Unfortunately, since the Hollywood Buddhists forgot about the religion, the popularity of Buddhism has dwindled (while Kabbalah has provided themselves and other Buddhists a place to go to share their beliefs and views and it’s nice to have a solid population of students who are often hesitant to check it out, they are trying to arrange activities (to) start a dialog.”

“The only a few of us that practice (Buddhism) at school,” said Kevin Sewell, the Soka Club’s vice president.

“In reaction to this, seven students founded the Soka Club last year to provide themselves and other Buddhists a place to go to share their beliefs and views and it’s nice to talk to people with similar views.”

Soka is short for Soka Kyokou Gakkai, which in Japanese means Value-Creation, Education and Society. Soka is a branch of Buddhism that engages in community-based programs to promote a non-violent, exchange understanding among people to improve the world around them.

Soka Gakkai International is the umbrella organization of Soka Kyokou Gakkai-affiliated groups that work as a support network.

“We focus on the laws of cause and effect and we really devote ourselves to becoming one with the universe,” said Kevin Sewell, the Soka Club’s vice president. Although the Soka Club is based around a religion, the members insist that Buddhism isn’t about who you worship despite what people may think.

In fact, Sewell says the club is meant to bridge gaps in society and that despite the purpose of the club is not to exclude members of other faiths. “Everyone has their own faith and we don’t have a monopoly on what someone should believe,” Sewell said. “I think Buddhist ideals are common throughout lots of other religions.”

Right now, the group of five is trying to increase their membership but has been struggling to find more members. They also fear that they’re often out there in the real world, and to start a dialog.”

The club hopes to eventually have a solid population of students in order to become more connected with the campus and host a variety of events.

Members agree that the group is common about education than religion and even with just five members, they are trying to arrange activities that include bringing a Victory Over Violence event to campus.

Soka Club meetings are at 7:10 p.m. every Wednesday in building 10 room 115, and there is a special meeting tonight in building 22 room 315.

State Briefs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Northern California biotech company announced Wednesday that it will clone the dogs of the five highest bidders in a series of online auctions. Some ethically condemned the offer, fearing it could lead to human clones.

Opening bids start at $100,000 for the service being offered by MillValley-based BioArts International.

BioArts chief executive Lou Hawthorne formerly ran Genetic Savings & Clone, which offered to clone pet cats for $50,000 but folded in 2006 because few were willing to pay so much.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Boeing Co. will lay off 750 Southern California employees after losing a lucrative military satellite contract and seeing a dip in demand for the technology, the company said Wednesday.

The cuts involving engineers at plants in El Segundo and Seal Beach will take the title of "Bronze, Space and Intelligence Systems," the company's satellite division, from 7,200 employees to about 6,450.

CHEROKEE (AP) — On Mother's Day, Jodie Carrigan stared heartbreak in the face. Inside her house lay the bodies of her daughter and the young man she'd been dating, dead from multiple stab wounds.

Hours later came the second blow. 

Rushing home, Carrigan's son, Billy, lost control of his pickup truck and crashed into a stand of trees, sustaining injuries that killed him two days later.

"I just couldn't believe it — a woman having that much suffering in one day," said longtime neighbor Larry Mayes. "Oh, it's terrible."

The deaths — and the arrest of a local teenager in the crimes they were among the estimated 10 couples invited. McCain often hosts friends and political acquaintances at his compound. The Republican nominee-in-waiting said more than a month ago that he was in the "embryonic stages" of selecting a running mate for the fall.

POLLOCK PINES (AP) — Authorities found the body of a 24-year-old Placerville man who appears to have drowned in a Northern California lake.

Divers with the El Dorado County Sheriff's department found the body of Matthew Sinclair on Monday in about 10 feet of water at Jenessen Lake.

Investigators believe Sinclair died of head injuries after jumping off rocks the evening before at Sly Park Recreation Area, about 45 miles east of the state capital.

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Diversity and Inclusion: Engaging Employees

A Conversation with Desiree Dancy
Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion
The New York Times

Thursday, May 22, 2008
1:30 p.m.
University Union, Room 220
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

What is Diversity and Inclusion? The New York Times Company is committed to diversity in its most inclusive sense, so it’s not simply an issue of race or ethnicity. We seek to attract, develop and retain people from a rich variety of backgrounds and cultures. In a rapidly changing world, our diverse workforce strengthens our competitive position in the marketplace and helps us achieve our Company’s Core Purpose, which is "to enhance society by creating, collecting and distributing high quality news, information and entertainment."

Desiree Dancy was named vice president, diversity and inclusion for The New York Times Company in October 2006. In this position, Ms. Dancy is responsible for developing, recommending and leading the implementation of diversity and inclusion program initiatives. Before joining The Times Company, Ms. Dancy spent 12 years in corporate diversity with major investment banks in New York, including Credit Suisse and Goldman Sachs. Desiree is a member of the Executive Leadership Council and sits on the Executive Committee of the American Advertising Federation’s Mosaic Council. She is also a member of the Newspaper Association of America’s Media Diversity Networking Group.

As a thank you to Cal Poly SLO for their support, The Times is providing a free raffle for event attendees. Win an Apple iPod, iTunes gift cards, New York Times t-shirts and other great prizes!

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**International Briefs**

WASHINGTON (AP) — California Democratic Sen. Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, along with six of their colleagues, are asking Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to intercede with Thai officials to prevent deportation of ethnic Hmong refugees back to Laos.

In a letter, the senators asked Rice to request Thai Prime Minister Sanuk Sandharam’s help urgently to prevent the mass deportation into what the senators fear might be persecution by Laos’ communists.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel and Iran have secretly met Wednesday to discuss ways to improve ties with the US and end its international isolation.

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — U.S. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon heads to Myanmar on Thursday for the diplomat’s biggest challenge of his lifetime — persuading the ruling generals to let in a torrent of foreign assistance for cyclone victims.

He urged the junta Wednesday to focus on saving lives, not on political issues.

Chrisopher Wills

Barack Obama criticized likely general-election rival John McCain on Wednesday where it could hurt most — the Arizona senator’s reputation as a champion of ethics, Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile, raised the possibility she might carry her fight to the Democratic convention floor.

With more superdelegate endorsements after Kentucky and Oregon primaries the night before, Obama was just 64 delegates short of the 2,025 needed to clinch the nomination.

The Illinois senator confidently demurred from the three remaining Democratic primary states — Puerto Rico, Montana and South Dakota — to campaign in Florida, a crucial state in the November election. He also kept his focus on McCain, the Republican’s certain nominee in the fall.

Obama said the Arizona senator has lost faith with his own good-government principles.

Ten years ago, Obama said, McCain proposed barring registered lobbyists from working for candidates’ campaigns.

“John McCain then would be pretty disappointed in John McCain now, because he hired some of the biggest lobbyists in Washington to run his campaign,” Obama told a crowd of 15,000 at a Tampa arena.

McCain recently instituted a new no-lobbyist policy on his campaign, forcing out some top aides.


Obama questions Sen. McCain’s ties to lobbyists

Christopher Wills

And when he was called on it, his top lobbyist actually had the nerve to say the American people won’t care about this,” Obama said.

With McCain fundraising in California, campaign spokeswoman Tucker Bounds responded: “Despite his own rhetoric, Senator Obama still refuses to disclose the list of lobbyists advising his campaign. What is Senator Obama hiding?”

“We challenge Senator Obama to meet our standard for keeping lobbyists out of the campaign organizations, Bounds added.

Clinton, too, was in Florida, pressuring to narrow her gap with Obama by having delegates counted from its renegade January primary.

Democratic rule-makers are to meet May 31 to decide whether to count delegates from Florida and Michigan, the states were stripped of their delegates as punishment for holding early primaries in violation of party rules. Clinton won both states, but Obama had his name removed from Michigan’s ballot and neither candidate campaigned in those states.

In an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, Clinton said she is willing to take her fight to states like Florida’s and Michigan’s delegates to the convention if the two states want to go that far.

Asked whether she would support the states if they appeal an unfavorable rules committee decision to the convention floor, the former first lady replied: “Yes I will. I will, because I feel very strongly about this.”


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**Respect SLOBRO**

Good Neighbor Tip of the Week:

Don’t Trash Your Neighborhood! Be kind to the environment and your neighbors... bring your trash cans in after pick-up.
Missed your shot at love?
Try Craigslist!

Have you ever had a flirtatious encounter with someone and then kicked yourself later for letting such a golden opportunity slip between your fingers? Yeah, me neither...

But let's just say that you did have one of said chance encounters and you never used the opportunity to make your move. Short of watching "Hope Floats" and crying into your Care Bear pillow, there isn't a whole lot you can do... so you thought.

You might attempt to stake out the location of your first meeting (what are the chances of him rear-ending my car with his Tacoma again?), or you might try Craigslist. I'm serious. Of course I don't mean the "I'll trade my Care Bear pillow, there isn't a whole lot you can do..." kind of Craigslist. I have found a whole new world just suited to your passive-aggressive romantic whims. It's called "Missed Connections."

Sandwiched between "Causal Encounters" and "Rants and Raves" in the "Personals" section, "Missed Connections" is a safe place for creepers and hopeless romantics alike. Depending on your preference(s), you can post a listing on "men for women" and "women for men," "men as men for men" and "women for women." Or you can simply be mildly amused (and amazed) by what people are willing to put on the Internet.

Although I've had I have been disappointed in the volume of postings, a few individuals made up in quality where quantity was lacking. For example, the poor man looking for Tara (the girl shopping at Ross with her mother that called his shoes "neat") will probably not hear back from her. Not because he compared her to a thimble, button and a baby spoon (small, attractive and useful), but because he posted looked like verbal diarrhea. (Note to man seeking Tara on your board, probably on the right upper hand side is a "dietet" key — maybe you should consider using it next time. That's what the Internet is for pretending to be socially competent and avoiding phrases like "it was great that you paid with cash" and "despite my occasional aversion to feet..." Thank God for anonymity."

By writing about "Missed Connections," I hope to spread the awareness of this phenomenon. Not because I hope to one day get a post about me (a girl can dream), but because I hope to see more postings of good content. They are usually somewhat creepy, sometimes sweet and always pretty funny to read about, especially when you're pretty sure the "hot brunette walking chocolate lab in park on Sunday" is your roommate. Do yourself (and me) a favor and post your own "missed connection" so I have something to do tonight while I'm watching "Hope Floats."

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

Trivia Snuffs Out Character Development

Supriya Sinhababu
Chicago Sun-Times (IL-Chicago)

To date, Chuck Palahniuk has made 73 people faint just by reading them his short story "Guts," a tale of worst-case scenario situations. On the book tour for his novel "Snuff," the "Fight Club" author might just break his own record.

In fact, record-breaking is something of a theme in "Snuff." The novel chronicles the last day of porn queen Carrie Wright's career, which the community is trying to stop by setting off a serial formation record. We see the revenues of the day, all made up calling castle tallied through the eyes of four narrators—Skeet, Carrie's personal assistant, and the actors numbering 723d, 137th and 600th in line, etc., help Carrie achieve her goal.

Like "Guts," "Snuff" will not even the strongest-stomached of readers. Palahniuk takes the world of porn into high definition—or, it is, B-list, Bala-Ray—refusing to forgo any description of odors, fluids, and skin. This is a book of the worst kind, but it isn't sexy. The typical reader's reaction on any given page is going to be some variation on revulsion.

While it would be a stretch to call "Snuff" a pleasant read, there's no denying that it's an interesting one. At times, the novel reads like an encyclopedia of erotic trivia. If Hitler's intention of the sex doll and the X-rated collection of scupltural gonads infuriate your interest, then "Snuff's" collection of anecdotes on sex, death, and show business is probably its biggest selling point. One can almost imagine Palahniuk working from alphabetized lists of punning porn titles and sexually charged epithets.

Palahniuk has said that all his books are about lonely people trying to make connections, and "Snuff" certainly fits that mold. The novel traces the back stories of its pathetic characters, getting to the bottom of whatever went so wrong that they ended up here, at the world's biggest gang bang.

Each chapter centers on an item that seems to encapsulate his personality. Sinister porn veteran Mr. W.K. wears a bouquet of white roses for his would-be mother that serves as a tidy loss-of-innocence metaphor. And Mr. 137, an ex-

prime-time star on the verge of a Viagra overdose, clutches a canvas autograph hound for Cassie to sign, hoping that her star power will revive his scandal-marred career. The characters are united both in their lust for Cassie and in their on again-off again desire to kill each other. The problem with "Snuff"'s characters is that they're more than colorful than they are compelling. Palahniuk's constant trivia references are partly to blame; while they set the tone of the author's signature nihilism, they come at the expense of the characters' own voices.

Sure, for example, start strong. Her academic observations and feministic musings may have some readers hearkening back to Ali Dawe, author of the hilarious and insightful web diary "Three Acts of Stewardship," but the resemblance is short lived, as we quickly lose Sheila's story in a endless sea of her bitchy attacks about celebrity makeup tricks.

We do reach some level of understanding of each character. We see the exact moments when they become outcasts, and we find out just what makes them tick in their particular offbeat ways. But our empathy is short-lived—the monotonous impulses end, and we're back to the onslaught of trivia references and explicit imagery. But Palahniuk manages to dodge up even a shred of character development for these wretched personalities is quite a feat of writing skill, so it's unfortunate that he chooses to push these dudes right back down as soon as they surface.

"Snuff's" strength lies in its originality and, to a lesser extent, in the amount of research that went into its creation. What's disappointing about the novel is that it seems to confirm many critics' impression that Palahniuk is just a shock writer.

In fact, Palahniuk's first novel proved that making people faint and making them care aren't mutually exclusive goals. Tyler Durden doesn't say he wants to wipe his rear end with the Mona Lisa just for the shock value—there's a compelling ideology built up behind that statement. "Snuff"'s characters, on the other hand, are either uncomplimentary motives like lust or carnalism, or by some inexplicable raison d'etre that just comes off as depravity. We sympathize with Cassie for much of the novel, but by the end it's hard to remember why we thought she was worth saving.

In other words, "Fight Club" is still king. But if you can stand for an occasionally fictional research paper on the
These aren't your stereotypical 'A Tear in the Fabric' uses quilts as political

The word "quilt" is sewn together with images of elderly women gossiping on a sunny afternoon with needlework in hand and iced tea by their sides — not exactly the bastion of edgy social commentary. However, the University Art Gallery's new exhibit, "A Tear in the Fabric," is a collection of 25 conceptually driven quilts that tackle topics such as the Iraq war, materialism and capital punishment.

To put it simply, these are not your grandma's quilts. "The focus was to get material that was dealing with a subject matter, something that showed creative thinking and dealt with a concept. The medium is not as important as the message," gallery director Jeff Van Kleeck said.

That being said, the time and effort that goes into the medium makes the messages even more powerful. "You can take it in at first glance and appreciate the beauty and skill that went into it, but when you look back, you can appreciate the detail and notice something completely different," Van Kleeck said.

Guest curator Carolyn Mazloomi, a member of the African American Quilters Association and a nationally recognized author, artist and curator, chose the pieces from more than 350 applicants. "She is an elder stateswoman in terms of what she has done to establish quilting in the art world. (She is) phenomenal mentor, phenomenal scholar and phenomenal quilter," said Denise Campbell, a comparative ethnic studies professor and fellow member of the African American Quilters Association.

The quilts combine traditional fabrics with unusual materials such as a mirror, beads, men's ties and plastic army men, making the aesthetic value of the quilts fascinating. The artists had no limit to their creativity and were allowed to sew with a machine or by hand. The level of detail and shading can fool the viewer into thinking the artwork is painted until a closer examination reveals every stitch.

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granny quilts
and cultural commentary

A "food for thought" selection.

The quilt is one in a series of Cochran's entitled "Food for Thought" and caught the eye of gallery attendant and art and design sophomore Xander Pollock.

"It's my personal favorite. I just think it's interesting all the meals people choose on death row," Pollock said.

Cochran, in his artist statement, describes the piece as "neither pro nor con but hopes it will cause one to pause and think about this ritual."

In conjunction with the exhibit, students in Kathy Friend's liberal studies class have been giving guided tours to local elementary students this week.

The tours include a walkthrough of the exhibit as well as an art workshop where students can practice collage and quilt-making skills.

"It's been great fun to see what the kids come up with, and they're making great connections with my students. Two hours is a long time to hold a second grader's attention, but after long days, everyone is walking away with a smile on their face," Friend said.

"A Tear in the Fabric" will be on display until June 14.
In the second installment of "The Chronicles of Narnia" series, the Pevensie children aid Prince Caspian in his quest to reclaim his rightful spot as the king of Narnia from his evil uncle, the usurper-king Miraz.

Andres Miguel
THE PETT NEWS (L. PITTMORE)

Since the release of the first modern "Lord of the Rings" adaptation, there has been a strong push to adapt other canonical fantasy series into epic adventure films. While the lion's share of them have been laughable (see - or better yet, don't see - "Eragon"), 2005's "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" attained a level of fanfare on par with the Tolkien adaptations.

Now the adaptation of the second book in the Narnia series, "Prince Caspian," director Andrew Adamson's ability to match his initial success. Unfortunately, while "Caspian" is certainly as epic as any of the "Kings" films, it eschews the emotional poignancy that made "Wardrobe" so exceptional in favor of heavy-handed religious allegory.

A year after the four kings and queens of Narnia are unexpectedly returned to their dull teenage realities, they are suddenly sucked back into their fantasy realm. It is Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes), an exiled prince of a Narnia-conquering human empire called the Telmarines, who summons them. He is assembling an army of Narnians - mythical beings of all shapes and sizes, from centaurs and minotaurs to swashbuckling mice - to fight against his uncle, the usurper-king Miraz (Sergio Castellitto).

While the plot is somewhat darker than that of "Wardrobe" - there is a great deal more violence and death - the core of the film is essentially unchanged. The dwarf Trumpkin (Peter Dinklage) assumes the required role of sassy Narnian sidekick, and even the previous film's villain, the White Witch (Tilda Swinton), makes an appearance.

Ultimately, however, "Caspian," just like "Wardrobe," is still all about the growth of the four central characters through their adventures together in Narnia, and here is where the film is unfortunately at its weakest. The two main conflicts between the siblings, Peter's (William Moseley) difficulty in leading the army alongside Caspian, and Peter and Susan's (Anna Popplewell) lack of faith in absent lion-god Aslan's return take center stage.

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How to play the Daily Dots

1. Find a playing partner.
2. Each person takes a turn drawing one line connecting two dots. Only horizontal and vertical lines can be drawn.
3. The first person to close a square, wins that square. To keep track, place winners initials in the box.
4. Once one square is closed, that player gets to go again. They continue until no more squares can be closed.
5. Player with the most squares wins.

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Latest Ditch Effort by John Kroes
Are humans the next endangered species?

Lee Barats
No, thank you again. Second Amendment.

Oh please. We humans rule the planet. If you were to pick one species to be "Captain of the Planet," we'd be it. And like any good captain, we're going down when the ship goes down.

The world isn't going to end when God finally burns Earth and sends us all to hell for our sins. You know who won't make it to the rapture? The bald eagle, the timberwolf and 586,000 other species of plants and animals.

Entire countries may be wiped out, but we've prepared ourselves too well to be completely exterminated. Humans invented endangered species. Since day one, we've done everything in our power to secure our own survival. We killed off the woolly mammoth, the dinosaurs and even those goddamn dodo birds to make sure no other animal could overtake us. That's just the start. As soon as we were smart enough, we started building factories to level the physical playing field. The pollution from these factories made all the animals sick and weak. Know what factories did for humans? They gave us guns. Now we can kill to our heart's content.

What animal could possibly take us all out? Bengal tigers? Bring it, bitch. The tigers of the world might be able to tear a few throats, but that will only last until our elected leaders press a button halfway around the world and make the shit out of those striped bastards. Humans are so in control, we've started messin' with animals for fun. Watch a snake charmer, the running of the bulls, or a bass fishing competition and tell me we aren't the most badass animals on the planet.

Scratch that. We're the most bad-ass beings in the universe. Ever seen "Independence Day"? Those aliens went from planet to planet killing everyone form life until they ran into us. And who was the guy that stopped 'em? Will Smith. Will Smith is an actor. He has no military experience, yet he was still able to outsmart those aliens and upload a virus into their mothership. Imagine what a Navy Seal could do to those aliens.

Welcome to Earth, indeed.

So don't listen to alarmists like Sean Michetti. Humans aren't going anywhere but up. We're smarter, we're organized and we have freaking guns.

Until kittens can assemble a well-run army, we have nothing to worry about.

The Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. The Mustang Daily welcomes all points of view, but reserves the right to decline any letter. Letter writers must include their full name, phone number and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: mustangdailyopinion@gmail.com
By mail: Letters to the Editor Building 26, Room 226 Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

People, now I'm not saying I'm ready to quit just yet. I've never been one to muck about, empty my bank account, and live lashily like it was the end of the world. The only exception was during Y2K, and I've since kept an improvised bomb shelter as a reminder to avoid hasty decisions. But last month was particularly destructive, with more than 150,000 people perishing in natural disasters.

Now the human population is feeling the pressure to reproduce quickly to replenish our losses. But we can't, because if we all do ship work trying hard to concieve the world economy will be in greater financial trouble than Charles Barkley.

What humans need to do is follow the polar bear, and seek protection under the Endangered Species Act. This is the only way to prevent the total annihilation of mankind. Because once we are officially recognized as endangered species, we will receive defense from our top three predators: Mother Earth, bonobos and our clumsy selves.

Now, protective services should have taken us away from our violent Mother Earth centuries ago. From volcanic eruptions in Pompeii to killer tsunamis in southern Asia, thousands of humans suffer domestic abuse annually. Aside from loose predictions, there is no way to predict when or how large Man's heating will be.

This is why I am in favor of global warming. Finally, humans are fighting back. Our pollution is nuking the monstrous iceberg that claims the lives of innocent sailors. But the fight is hardly fair. Endangered protection will allow us to replenish every life ever lost to the fury of Mother Earth just as the Wynn Las Vegas casino will replenish the $400,000 it looted to Charles Barkley.

If humans become extinct, who will take our place? Answer: our closest relatives, the bonobos. This ape looks similar to a chimpanzee but in social behavior more closely mirrors humans. Here's proof when two bonobos argue and fight, they don't attack each other like chimps, instead they have make-up sex. They're usually been observed fouws moppets, patiently waiting until their irration. These sex-crazed tree huggers are set on being the dominant species on Earth. Only problem is, they're also endangered. But the rulebooks say nothing about one endangered species destroying another. So with our endangered protection, the hugging of bonobos will be tolerated until their luck runs out — like Charles Barkley at a crap table.

How often do you stub your toe? Bang your head? Light yourself on fire? If you're like me, the answer is daily. We are more dangerous to ourselves than 180 mph winds or sex-starved bonobos. If humans are serious about existing, then our efforts must start at the grassyton level. We have to check ourselves, before we wreck ourselves. If we create a positive home for our children to grow up in the human race will procreate successfully and fight through any adversity. Because as you all know (pay attention Charles Barkley), the house always wins.

Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalist senior. Barats and Michetti are Mustang Daily humor columnists and can be contacted at TfrayTfat@gmail.com.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

San Luis Obispo hikers: be wary of burglars

Head up to those who enjoy hiking around San Luis Obispo. While enjoying the wonderful weather we’ve been having, my car was broken into and my wallet was stolen out of my trunk on Monday. This occurred at the trailhead of the Irish Hill Natural Reserve one mile down Perfumo Canyon Road.

After talking to the sheriff, I informed him that in the past couple of weeks, there has been a rise in car break-ins at certain trailheads in San Luis Obispo, particularly those in Perfumo Canyon and the Bob Jones Trail in Atascadero. Just an FYI to be cautious of your belongings when hiking around those areas. Happy hiking!

Nicolle Miller
Environmental horticulture senior

Show some humanity for victims in Asia

Hello students. As I’m sure you’ve heard, while most of us were sleeping last Sunday night, an earthquake of magnitude 7.9 hit China’s Sichuan province, killing at the time of this writing, 400,000 people, and leaving 5 million homeless. Before the earthquake happened, cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar and left 78,000 dead, and 56,000 missing.

With this devastating loss of life, you might be thinking, “Man, that sucks” and continue on with your day. Well, I would like to congratulate you for getting out of that mindset, and spend some time with many of your classmates in remembrance of what happened all the way around the world.

There is a candlelight vigil being held tonight from 8 to 10 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come or leave at any time, and it will be both informational as well as a time for reflection. There will also be opportunities for students to donate to WorldVision, an organization already actively working in Asia.

Many of you may also be asking, “Well, what can I do? I’m just a poor college student.” It might sound like a cliché, but every little bit DOES help. It’s equivalent to about 7.5 yuan in China, which is enough to buy seven bottles of water.

So, please show your solidarity with the rest of the human race by coming out on Thursday night.

PS. If you are a Christian, I would advise you to look up 1 John 3:16-18.

Daniel Bo
Electrical engineering senior

Column a disgrace to Republican club, party

I am sure I am in no way surprised that you wrote such an awful, unintelligent article under our column for the College Republicans. In fact, I think what misrepresents our party more than McCain ever will, is you — with your immaturity and disrespectful toward your fellow colleagues. McCain has said he regretted opposing the Bush tax cuts, and has promised if elected, will make them permanent. He has been one of, if not THE strongest, advocate of curtailing warrantless government spying on the American people; and he has experience that amounts to much more in every way than our current president’s ever will.

And most importantly, he supports the doing the right thing and respecting our ally Iraq, while making sure it dignifies and respects the men and women serving bravely overseas, including the 300,000 who have already lost their lives. While it is true that a lot of Republicans did not back McCain during the primary, mostly all of them — excluding the stubborn, non-team-players like yourself — have rallied behind him for the good of not only our party, but our country.

How dare you use our space in the Mustang Daily as a platform to write an article of dissent from our candidate, John McCain? How dare you write this article in the College Republicans’ column and voice the fact that you aren’t taking part in your alleged greatest — the power to shape our nation’s future. It is not THE new treasurer of the Cal Poly Republicans, I hope I have a chance to rest this column to this article in this space again. With the type of group you are, I am sure that a setback and a liability to the chance we have to bring new members to the club. That supports them and their mission, and if they don’t, that’s perfectly fine with me.

Matthew
Political science freshman

LETTERS

So you think you can do it better?

Want to be a part of the team that produces this award-winning newspaper you’re reading? Think you have what it takes to be a section editor, designer or photographer for the Mustang Daily next year?

We are now accepting applications for the following positions for 2008-9:

News Editors
Arts Editors
Sports Editor
Designer and Layout Editors
Wire Editor
Photographers
Online/Multimedia Editor
Copy Editors

Experience is strongly preferred, and enthusiasm is a must. Applications are due Friday, May 23rd and can be picked up in the Mustang Daily newsroom, Building 26, room 226.

The daunting decisions of a USB drive

Mustang Daily correction

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions per 24-hour email response.

Wednesday: “The Right Wiki” column by Ian Nachreiner titled “Conservative first, Republican second” incorrectly stated Nachreiner’s title is treasurer of the Cal Poly College Republicans. However, Nachreiner is no longer the treasurer of the club and a new treasurer has since been selected. The Mustang Daily apologizes for this error.

March 17

Response to “Politics, music help Roch”

This was an amazing day. To see local families and students gathered on a warm Sunday afternoon enjoying the music and registering to vote. Congratulations to Cal Poly’s political science students who were so enlightened to reach out to the community. Bravo! I just wish there was more room — it was standing room only! What a great tribute to the hard working passion and their passion for politics.

— Anne Clifford
Response to “Fraternity house could need to peer文件”

This is great. Hopefully local developers will take their cue from this project and see more sustainable development in the long run. A financial report with actual cost savings over the next few years would be great toward promoting the economic value of going green.

— Dave Flannery
Response to “Fraternity house could need to peer文件”

It is this how you feel, then I suggest you go change your voter registration post haste so as not to burden the Republican party with not only such a pathetic excuse for a true conservative, but someone who clearly does not have the true well-being of the American people at heart. I sincerely hope not to see your name in this column next year.

— Sarah
Response to “Conservative first, Republican second”

Wow, good thing you’re not a Republican or this would be truly embarrassing, bashing your own candidate for president. But seriously, Mr. Nachreiner it seems to me that you are perfectly willing to vote for a Democrat, who I should mention was your own party’s lead candidate for a limit on free speech, but against amnesty for illegal and advocate environmental radicals, to which all Republicans would be for, or at least be on these subjects as McCain. Oh yeah, they won’t even try for a consensus either. It also disturbs me that you would willingly throw away the lives of our men and women of the armed forces who have died in Iraq because McCain isn’t conservative enough for you. I think there is no need to sacrifice warning support. The only candidate for president that supports them and their mission. In short, you’re not only betraying your own party, but by not supporting McCain, you’re wasting the lives of Americans. Hope you sleep well at night.

— Taylor
Response to “Conservative first, Republican second”

As a member of the College Republicans, I feel this article isn’t promoting a good person, but other Republicans about our club and the Republican presidential candidate. Some conservatives feel McCain isn’t the best pick for our party’s ticket, but that is a personal opinion not the Republican club views. I’ll be honest he wasn’t my first pick, but I will stand by my party’s ticket. Although I’ll let him at election time because he is a Republican. I feel that this article may discourage Republicans and conservative readers from voting for McCain and in turn will make them reconsider which party they will be supporting for this election which is not what our club is trying to do. I am truly disappointed that our party’s candidate has been so publicly bashed by one of our members.

— Nicole
Response to “Conservative first, Republican second”

This article was forwarded to me by friends because I am one of the former Surfer editors (actually there were four of us) and I am a Cal Poly alum! Their enthusiasm to my communication this! I have been an art director for The Surfer’s Journal for 17 years, and I owe my longevity in part to the excellent design training I received at Cal Poly. Beyond that, I have some of my earliest surfing memories on the central coast (Morro Rock, South Jetty and Pico Creek) and still surf whenever possible.

— Jeff Grand
Response to “Surfboard shaping program recognized”

The Mustang Daily apologizes for the error.
Mendes
continued from page 16

doll leading up to his December victory over Wanderlei Silva. "Sameer worked with Chuck getting back to few wrestling things," Azevedo said.

Like the UFC, which is patented to larger competitors, the WEC, formed in 2001, merges jiu-jitsu, judo, karate, boxing and kickboxing, in addition to wrestling.

Mendes, Azevedo said, will likely compete at 145 pounds, the barrier between the featherweight and lightweight classes.

Key in Mendes' training, Henson said, will be Sacramento's Urijah Faber, a UFC Featherweight who went on to become a 145-pound WEC champion and the world's top-ranked featherweight, boasting a 20-1 MMA record.

"He's kind of taking Chad under his wing," Azevedo said of Urijah, the co-owner of Ultimate Fitness.

To Henson, Faber is the perfect mentor for Mendes, who couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday.

"The guy's doing right now what Chad was doing," Henson said. "Who better to go to?"

In light of San Luis Obispo's growing ties to MMA, both Azevedo and Henson expressed interest in eventually starting a local multi-purpose training facility akin to the one Mendes is bound for.

"We'd like to start a gym where people could come in and work on grappling and submission, and also Muay Thai," Azevedo said. "We could keep some guys here who want to go into fighting. We'd like to do it as soon as possible."

Regardless of where Mendes ends up, those closest to him seem to think he has a bright future.

"He should do really well," Azevedo said. "He's a great athlete, very powerful and athletic. I think he's going to do very well in MMA, and hopefully, we see him being a champion in the next couple of years."

Henson praised Mendes' ability this past season to stay focused in light of the mounting pressure he faced by staying undefeated for so long.

"I think Chad's upside is unbelievable," he said. "Cal Poly's not an easy school to go to. He did well in school, stayed on track with everything he did. I'm making lifelong friends from that was second in the nation. If he can do all of that, he can do anything he wants."

Clubs
continued from page 16

sports club on campus — says he believes clubs provide students with unrivaled opportunities for fun and recreation. He said they allow students who played sports in high school but could not continue to do so at the NCAA level to keep playing in college.

However, that's not to say many of the club teams at Cal Poly don't compete at a high level.

Booth, the men's and women's water polo club teams are defending national champions, the rugby club team finished ranked sixth in the country by the American Rugby News and the women's lacrosse club team won seven consecutive national championships prior to coming in second this past season.

Business senior Addie Schopp, who belongs to the field hockey and triathlon club teams and serves on the Associated Students Inc. Sports Clubs Board, said she is grateful to be able to continue playing field hockey after high school and for the opportunities the clubs give her to meet students from different backgrounds and majors.

"It's a way for me to keep up with a sport I love," she said. "And I'm making lifelong friends from my sports."

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to noon.

Lakers
continued from page 16

following a turnover to make it 85-81. The Spurs outscored the Lak­ ers by 12 to start the third quarter for a 63-45 lead, drawing gasoline from the crowd of 18,997 at Staples Center, where the Lakers haven't lost since March 28.

Suddenly, the Lakers came to­ gether, scoring 14 straight points in a span of 3:05 to cut the deficit. Bryant had seven points and two assists during the run.

Goudelock's 3-pointer ended a four-minute scoreless drought, and the Spurs led 72-65 entering the fourth quarter.

Duncan dominated the inside in the first half, getting 16 points and eight rebounds as the Spurs took a 51-43 lead.

Shadowed by Bowen wherever he went, Bryon scored only two points in the half, making one of three shots and going without a free throw. He averaged 33.3 points and 13.4 attempts from the foul line in the Lakers' previous 10 playoff games. Lakers coach Phil Jackson joked after the third quarter that Bryant had been on vacation.

Backcourt mate Derek Fisher, averaging 11.9 points in the play­ off's, went scoreless until the fourth quarter, when he scored four.

Radjmovics, averaging 8.2 points in the postseason, made five of seven shots and going without a free throw in the first quarter before didn't at­ tempt a shot after that.

The Lakers are 52-7 when win­ ning Game 1 in a best-of-seven se­ ries, and have beaten the Spurs in seven of their previous 10 postsea­ son matchups, including all three in the conference finals.
Guerrero leads Angels to win over Jays

TORONTO — Two big wings by Vladimir Guerrero provided all the offense Wednesday for the Los Angeles Angels.

Guerrero hit two home runs, Jon Garland held the Blue Jays to one run and the Angels won their third straight game, edging the Blue Jays 4-3.

It was the 34th career multihomer game for Guerrero, who came in batting .260 with just four home runs, his lowest career totals after 45 games.

Guerrero quickly set about erasing that slow start, clubbing a solo shot to center in the first and adding a three-run drive into the second deck in left in the third.

"He's got hands as quick as anybody's I've ever seen in the batter's box," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He went out and got a body who's ever been in the batter's box. He's got his hands through and killed it."

"We did just enough to win," Scioscia said. "Our bullpen was on the edge again.

Blue Jays right-hander Shaun Marcum (4-3) worked on two days' rest after just one inning because of a rain delay in Sunday's seventh inning. He walked three and struck out seven, giving up four runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out two and walked one, winning for the first time since April 25.

Bobby Crosby broke a scoreless tie with a two-run double in the third. Jack Hannahan hit a solo homer in the fifth and Cashe added a two-run shot to make it 6-3.

Andy Sonnanstine (6-2) struck out a season-high six and had his five-game winning streak snapped.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

DENVER — Omar Vizquel doubled twice, starting a game-tying rally in the ninth inning, then drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th, leading San Francisco to a 3-2 victory over Colorado on Wednesday.

Brian Wilson struck out Omar Quintanilla looking for the final out in the 10th to pick up his 14th save in 16 chances.

Tyler Walker (2-2) got the win after setting down the Rockies in the ninth.

Ray Durham led off the 10th with a single and Rich Aurilia drew a walk off Matt Herges (2-1) after a fielder's choice. Vizquel lifted a fly ball to left.

The Giants scored twice in the ninth off closer Brian Fuentes to tie it on Bengie Molina's RBI single and pinch-hitter Steve Holm's run-scoring double.

— Associated Press
MUSTANG DAILY
Mendes set to take on new challenge, embarks on mixed martial arts career

After finishing No. 2 in country at 141 pounds, wrestler prepares to head to Sacramento to learn tricks of WEC trade

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY
Chad Mendes has always been a fighter. Now, instead of fighting on a mat, he’ll do it in a cage.

For Mendes, who said Tuesday he’d signed a contract to pursue mixed martial arts, the transition from a one-loss Cal Poly wrestler to World Extreme Cagefighter may not be too extreme, after all.

“It’s one thing to wrestle and be caught in a head wrench, and it’s another to have a guy trying to knock you out,” said Cal Poly wrestling assistant coach Sammie Henson. “But one thing wrestlers have is that mentality. The mentality of a wrestler is already a fighter’s.

Mendes, an All-American and the Pac-10 Conference Wrestler of the Year, was 30-0 and ranked No. 1 in the country at 141 pounds before being upset March 22 at the national championship in St. Louis by Ohio State’s Jeff Jaggers.

After being named the Cal Poly Male Athlete of the Year on Tuesday night at Embassy Suites, Mendes announced he’d begin training at Ultimate Fitness in Sacramento soon after graduation for a career beginning in September.

The transition won’t be too unnatural for the senior from Hanford, Mustangs head coach John Azevedo said.

“A lot of successful fighters have a base in wrestling,” Azevedo explained. “They know positioning, and if a fight goes down to the mat, wrestlers are going to be in control most of the time.”

Henson agreed Mendes will be served well by a built-in sense of surroundings.

“Being on the mat as many years as Chad has, he’s going to have a constant awareness of where the back is,” Henson said. “He’s going to know where to be in the cage, and how to use it. The cage actually benefits wrestlers — they’re more in tune with their bodies. A wrestler can close distance and tie you up, and you’re in trouble.”

Of course, Mendes’ adjustment will require some fundamental adjustments particular to cagefighting.

“He’s working on his striking, and the submission part of it, too,” Azevedo said.

To draw extra inspiration for his new pursuit, Mendes won’t have to look far.

Chuck Liddell, another former Cal Poly wrestler, became an Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champion, but has maintained a relationship with his alma mater, from donating to attending matches and participating in fundraisers.

“He loves Cal Poly, and he’s had a relationship with Chad,” Azevedo said.

Henson even helped train Liddell, who helped Mendes has always been a wrestler, and if a fight goes down to the mat, you’re in trouble.

Bryan Belick
MUSTANG DAILY
Former Cal Poly wrestler Chuck Liddell, shown Feb. 12, became world-famous through MMA.

Cal Poly’s Chad Mendes (left), shown March 21 at the national championships in St. Louis, has signed a contract to compete in World Extreme Cagefighting.

Bryant leads Lakers to comeback victory in series opener against Spurs

John Nadel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers waited until the third quarter to get going. Once they did, the San Antonio Spurs couldn’t stop them.

Bryant scored all but two of his 27 points after halftime, including a go-ahead, 10-foot jumper in the lane with 23.9 seconds remaining, and the Lakers rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat the Spurs 89-85 on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

Game 2 will be played Friday night between the best-of-seven series shifts to San Antonio for the third and fourth games.

The Lakers are 7-0 in the postseason at Staples Center, where they’ve won 13 straight games overall.

Bryant’s jumper put the Lakers ahead for good after two free throws by Manu Ginobili with 1:22 remaining and a follow shot by Tim Duncan with 41 seconds left tied the game at 85. Ginobili then missed a 3-pointer, and Sasha Vujacic made two free throws with 7.3 seconds remaining to complete the scoring.

The Lakers outscored the Spurs 24-13 in the fourth quarter, when San Antonio shot 4-of-18.

Bryant also had five rebounds and nine assists. Pau Gasol had 19 points and seven rebounds, and Vujacic and Vladimir Radmanovic scored 10 points apiece for the Lakers.

Duncan led the Spurs with 30 points, 18 rebounds and four blocked shots. Tony Parker added 18 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, Bruce Bowen had 12 points and Ginobili scored 10 for the Spurs. Ginobili shot just 3-for-13.

Two straight baskets by Bryant cut San Antonio’s lead to three points with eight minutes remaining. Bowen made a 3-pointer with 7:38 left, but the Spurs went stone cold at that stage, going scoreless for nearly 61/2 minutes.

The Lakers took advantage, scoring 10 straight points to take their first lead of the game. Bryant put them ahead for the first time by making two foul shots with 2:42 left, and added a jumper 24 seconds later to complete the scoring.

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