The Cal Poly women's basketball team travels to take on Fullerton tomorrow.

IN SPORTS, 12

New Congress opens pledging to rescue economy

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Capitol ring loud with vows to fix the crisis-ridden economy Tuesday as Congress opened for business at the dawn of a new Democratic era. "We need action and we need action now," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Republicans agreed, and pledged cooperation in Congress as well as with President-elect Barack Obama — to a point. On a day largely devoted to ceremony, new members of Congress and those newly re-elected swore to defend the Constitution. The Senate galleries were crowded: 100,000 people as the opening gavel fell in the House chamber as the winners were named to Obama's Senate seat.

In a scripted bit of political drama that began when he was nominated to Obama's Senate seat, the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a veteran of numerous Senate campaigns, was named to Obama's Senate seat.

The new administration was winded down. "We are ready to answer the call of the American people by putting the past eight years behind us and delivering the change that our country desperately needs," he said on the Senate floor. We are grateful to begin anew with a far more robust Democratic majority."
Congress
continued from page 1

At the same time, in common with directors at Republican and, he said, "we are in this together" when it comes to the economy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, health care and the country's energy needs.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, replied in a speech of his own, saying, "The opportunities for cooperation are numerous." He said Democrats should avoid a "reckless rush to meet an arbitrary deadline" to pass an economic stimulus bill that could reach $1 trillion, and he outlined possible changes in the approach Obama and congressional leaders have been considering.

Among them was a proposal to cut taxes by 10 percent. Another was to lend money to hard-pressed state governments rather than give it to them. "States will be far less likely to spend it frivolously," he said. Third was the pledge to improve the government's ability to respond to an economic crisis.

Obama spent much of Monday in the Capitol, conferencing with Republicans and Democrats alike on the economic stimulus measure he hopes to sign early in his term. The nation's consumer spending has plummeted, manufacturing has withered and job losses have grown in recent months, adding urgency to the legislative effort in contrast to the customary slug­
gests that start to a new Congress.

Strikingly, the war in Iraq drew scant mention during the day, a contrast to the weeks of debates that Democrats once had forced to try and maneuver Bush into withdrawing American forces.

Reid mentioned the fighting in passing when he noted the country was fighting two wars overseas, a reference to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pelosi was even more indirect, saying, "We cannot afford to wait to modernize and rebuild our military.

Like Reid, she focused her remarks on domestic issues, the economy chief among them. "We need action and we need action now," she said again and again, calling for help for "hardworking and still hopeful Americans," bearing the brunt of the economic crisis, for the states struggling to provide services, for families without health care, for a climate crisis and for energy needs.

Speechmaking and celebrations aside, House Democrats pushed through a series of rule changes, including one that calls for greater disclosure of earmarks.

They also repealed the six-year term limit for committee chairmen. It was a legacy of the Republican Revolution that swept through Congress in 1994, and in erasing it Democrats evinced confidence in the strength of their majority.

In all, 34 senators were sworn in, and apart from the controversy involving Burris, one other Senate seat was in limbo.

Democrat Al Franken holds a 22-vote lead over former Sen. Norm Coleman in Minnesota, a result certified on Monday by the state Canvassing Board. He has not yet received a certificate of election, and with Republicans threatening to protest, Democrats made no attempt to seat him.

Inevitably, it was a day for personal transitions.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware took the oath of office for a seventh term for a seat he has held for more than 30 years and will soon relinquish to become Obama's vice president.

Parade
continued from page 1
Ford was on the actual float and said she couldn't move her arms af­
ter waving at the crowd for over two hours.

"It was wild," she said. "It's pretty intense. It's a lot of fun and there's a lot of energy on the parade route." This was Ford's first year not watching the parade and she said it was a little weird because she felt like she missed the parade. It is also her last year at Cal Poly which she said makes her sad because she won't be able to participate in the float pro­
gram anymore.

"I'm going to miss it," she said. "I'm graduating in June, but I think I'll come back and help (with the float) in 10 years to come because it's been such a great program. I'd really re­
sad to ever see Cal Poly not have a Rose Parade float."
LA water cops go after wasteful faucets, sprinklers

DAMIAN DOWNSCYES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Run-off water drains into a street gutter from a Los Angeles home, where a violation of city regulations govern­ ing water use for landscaping and gardens.

Noaki Schwartz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The green thumbs who keep lawns lush and flora flourishing in the city have found a new foe among the aphids, white flies and other yard pests — the water police.

Just as some scofflaws keep an eye out for black-and-white panda cars, gardeners have learned to spot the white Toyota Priuses driven by Los Angeles water cops out to fight waste, a California struggle with an ex­tended drought. see Water, page 4

U.S., Iraqi troops get the picture

Chelsea J. Carter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Army Capt. Christopher Lof­tis took the scene: Iraqi soldiers raiding the home of a suspected insur­ gent wanted for participating in deadly attacks against U.S. and Iraqi troops.

An Iraqi lieutenant questioned three men found in the house about their brother. Was he home? No. Where was he? Syria. When did he leave? A year ago.

There were questions Loftis wanted asked, facts that needed to be clarified to determine whether they were lying. But under a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement that took effect hours earlier on New Year’s Day, Loft­is could only make suggestions and recommendations to Iraqi troops.

“We would recommend they try to find a picture of the guy,” Loft­is, an American liaison to the Iraqi forces, told the Iraqi lieutenant, who declined to be identified because of concerns for his safety.

Here, under the cover of darkness in an area known as the Sunni Tri­angle, it was a new year when they appeared in Contra­costa County, said a law­yer representing the five.’

United Nations, leaving the Presi­dent with the decision to sign or veto the legislation. There were questions over the overenforcement of the security agreement that took effect hours earlier on New Year’s Day, though, the court was not yet a final decision on who would fill the post.

January

How to Make the Most of Ag Showcase
Learn how to network with employees
Wednesday, January 7
3:10 - 4:10 pm, 10/100
Ag Showcase Resume Review Drop-In Hours
Bring your resume and receive feedback from the CARES Career Counselor
Tuesday, January 6
9:30 - 11:30 am & 1 - 3 pm, MAP Center, 10/134
Green Careers in Agriculture
A panel of industry representatives will share information about careers in sustainable agriculture
Tuesday, January 13
4 - 5 pm, 10/206
Interview Skills Workshop
Tuesday, January 20
11 am - noon
Career Services, 124/224
Working Lunch
“Network Your Way Into or Out of a Job”
Wednesday, January 21 (lunch provided)
Noon - 1 pm, Career Services, 124/117
Resume Clinic
Bring your resume and have it reviewed by a Career Counselor before the Winter Job Fair!
Thursday, January 22
11 am - noon, Career Services, 124/117
Engineering Careers in the Biomedical Industry
Wednesday, January 28
Panel: 3 - 4 pm, Network: 4 - 5 pm, 007/4TL
Inclusive Excellence:
The Power of Workplace Diversity
Recognizing selected employers for their commitment to diversity - to attend, RSVP to careerservices@calpoly.edu
Wednesday, January 28
5:30 - 7 pm, Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd.
Winter Job Fair
Wednesday & Thursday, January 28 & 29 in Chumash Auditorium
Network: 9:30 am - 2 pm, Interview: 2 - 5 pm, 3 - 5:30 pm
For all majors!
Careers in Sales
Panelists will speak about sales careers in various industries
Thursday, January 29
4 - 5 pm, UU 220

February

Green Job Fair
Tuesday, February 3
Network: 10 am - 2 pm, Interview: 2 - 5 pm, Chumash
Working Lunch:
“Yikes, What Do I Do Now in This Economy?”
Wednesday, February 11 (lunch provided)
Noon - 1 pm, Career Services, 124/117
Biotech Industry Career Day
Thursday, February 12
1 - 3:30 pm, Performing Arts Center
Architecture & Environmental Design Job Fair
Wednesday, February 25
Network: 10 am - 1 pm, Interview: 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Chumash & UU 220

March

Working Lunch: “Employee Benefits 101: Understanding HMOs, PPOs, 401Ks & More”
Wednesday, March 4 (lunch provided)
Noon - 1 pm, Career Services, 124/117
College of Liberal Arts: Preparing for the Education, Government & Non-Profit Job Fair
Thursday, March 12
5 - 7 pm, 26/104

All Quarter

Lagon to my.calpoly.edu and click on MustangJOBS to:
• Sign-up for On-Campus Interviews
• Find out about Company Networking Sessions
• View the list of employers coming to the job fair

See the job descriptions and RSVP for the event.

Career Services
Division of Student Affairs
Cal Poly, Building 124
805-756-2501
www.careerservices@calpoly.edu

WINTER JOB FAIR
Wednesday & Thursday, January 28 & 29 in Chumash Auditorium
Network: 9:30 am - 2 pm, Interview: 2 - 5 pm, 3 - 5:30 pm
For all majors!
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TRIP ONLINE

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Word on the Street

"Where do you get most of your music?"

"From friends mostly, I don't really buy anything."
- Griffin Taylor, physics freshman

"I download it from various Internet sites."
- Eriq Augustine, computer science junior

"I have to say that I steal it from my friends. I don't buy music very often."
- Michelle Graham, biological sciences freshman

"I actually do buy most of my music... CDs because I collect them."
- Rob Magorian, civil engineering sophomore

Compiled and Photographed by Emilie Egger and Lauren Rabaino

Water

continued from page 3

"They get to scattering when they see us," said Department of Water and Power officer Alonzo Ballengar. "I don't know what they call me, but I'm sure they have names."

Fifteen officers now prowl Los Angeles neighborhoods and respond to thousands of tips in their search for those who use sprinklers between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., clean driveways with water instead of a broom or otherwise waste the precious commodity.

Officials estimate that landscaping accounts for as much as 70 percent of household water bills.

Offenders can be cited with a warning or hit with fines that suit at $1,000 for homeowners and automatically appear on water bills.

Restrictions were expanded and penalties stiffened with the aim of seeing a 10 percent reduction.

Thus far, 763 citations have been issued.

The threat of a water shortage is deadly serious in the sprawling, thirsty city that owes its existence to the vast quantities of water piped in from the Colorado River and other sources.

In June, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought in response to two years of below-average rainfall, low snow-melt runoff, shrinking reservoir levels and court-ordered water restrictions to protect diminishing fish populations.

But getting the conservation message to sink in has been a challenge in the city where expansive lawns and tropical gardens have long been status symbols.

City officials first unveiled the "drought busters" patrol in the early 1990s. Their blue T-shirts and patches with images of crossed-out dripping faucets were reminiscent of the "Ghost Busters" movie logo.

Now, to be taken more seriously, the unit has been outfitted with gray uniforms and renamed the water conservation team. There are similar programs in some other U.S. cities.

"They're in fact educators and ambassadors to the public," said H. David Nahai, who renamed the team and oversees the agency. "They deserve to have a title that is reflective of the gravity of the situation."

Officials also learned blue was not the best color to wear in some neighborhoods.

"It's unfortunate but in Los Angeles red and blue are associated with gangs," said Nance Walker-Bonnelli, who oversees the team. "One team member just wouldn't wear his shirt if he went into certain areas of the city."

Ballengar, a patient man with an easy laugh, has endured his fair share of name-calling from customers who have yet to embrace him as a water ambassador. On loan from another department, he just shrugs it off.

"I have thick skin," he said. "My angular job is bill collections."

On more than one occasion, Ballengar has heard from gardeners that it's their employers who insist on watering during the day to maintain their yards and gardens.

"They want their yard taken care of a certain way," he said.
Getting crafty

Krizia Torres

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Maybe you're an engineering senior with a passion for surfing. Or you're investing your time studying animal science at Cal Poly, but also really enjoy the art of jewelry making. With heavy academic demands, how is it possible for a full-time college student to make time to fulfill these buried creative passions?

The answer lies within the ASI Craft Center. The center is located on the first floor of the University Union across from Poly Esports. It offers a variety of craft classes for students to explore their artistic interests and talents without ever having to leave campus.

"It's a different area of your college experience. Here you can get away from school and expand yourself," said industrial engineering senior and Craft Center skateboard shaping and ceramics instructor Matt Burch.

Here are some of the many classes offered:

**Bike Maintenance**

The Bike Area of the ASI Craft Center offers bicyclists a place to repair their bikes and buy supplies. Students can pay a one-time fee at the beginning of each quarter or pay for each use. Services include tool use and bike stations.

For many of you who pledge allegiance to your bikes or those looking to spruce up an old 1960 Schwinn Lady cruiser, there is a bike maintenance class available. There you can learn how to keep your bike in tip-top shape. Bike repair services are also available to students.

**Ceramics**

If you've never thrown clay and enjoy getting your hands dirty, pull up a seat next to a kick wheel and try a ceramics class. Classes range from beginning to intermediate.

"You don't need experience to take the classes at the center. A lot of amateurs come in and we teach them the basics," Burch said.

Apple cuts copy protection and prices on iTunes

Jessica Mintz

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc. is cutting the price of some songs in its market-leading iTunes online store to as little as 69 cents and plans to make every track available without copy protection.

In Apple's final appearance at the Macworld trade show, Apple's top marketing executive, Philip Schiller, said Tuesday that iTunes song prices will come in three tiers: 69 cents, 99 cents and $1.29. Record companies will choose the prices, which marks a significant change, since Apple previously made all songs sell for 99 cents.

Apple gave the record labels that flex-control pricing as it got them to agree to sell all songs free of "digital rights management," or DRM, technology that limits people's ability to copy songs or move them to multiple computers. Apple had been offering a limited selection of songs without DRM, but by the end of this quarter, the company said, all 10 million songs in its library will be available that way.

While iTunes is the most popular digital music store, others have been faster to offer more songs without copy protection. Amazon.com Inc. started selling DRM-free music downloads in 2007 and swayed most of the major labels to sign on in less than a year.

Schiller also announced that iPhone 3G users will be able to buy songs from the iTunes store using the cellular data network. Previously, iPhone users could shop for tunes when connected to a Wi-Fi hot spot.

The changes marked the high-lights of Schiller's run as a stand-in for CEO Steve Jobs, who used to make Macworld the site for some of Apple's biggest product unveilings. Schiller's name is well known in the Washington, D.C., scene. He also handled the spotlight for a time as Apple's "veteran salesman." Schiller is known for his "spot-on copy," which Schiller described as the ability to "nail the questions to rest." Jobs said Monday he is getting treatment for a hormone imbalance that caused him to lose weight, and urged Macworld attendees to relax and enjoy the show.

And after the Tuesday keynote, at which nothing purely new was disclosed, the company's decision to substitute veteran salesman Schiller for master showman Jobs seemed even less questionable.
Crafts
continued from page 5

Flameworking

If you’re a borderline pyro or really wondered what it’s like to create beads, pendants and other interesting pieces of art out of glass and fire, then don’t stop yourself from trying it out. You may just make a friend in the process too.

“Taking classes at the Craft Center is a great way to release stress and work the other side of the brain. It’s also a great way to meet other people,” said civil engineering sensor and Craft Center student manager Natalie Barthe.

Jewelry Smithing/Casting

For those fashionistas who get tired of seeing the same old jewelry trends, create your own. You will learn how to cast jewelry and set your own stones. Think of how cool you’ll feel when your friend asks you where you got your one-of-a-kind rhinestone pave hoop earrings?

Surfboard Shaping

Similar to the skateboard shaping class, there are several surfboard shaping classes available for those who set surfline.com as their homepage. For those surfers who own seven different boards and still haven’t found that perfect one, now is the time to make that happen. These classes allow students to shape their boards to fit their own individual needs and styles.

Many students have registered for classes at the Craft Center for winter quarter and are already showing newfound hobbies.

Skateboard Deck Shaping

If skating is a part of your lifestyle or if you know someone who lives and breathes the skating culture, then you might want to try a skateboard deck shaping class. Many students have registered for classes at the Craft Center for winter quarter. “I’m really excited to take a ceramics class this quarter. I’m really excited to take a ceramics class this quarter,” said recreation sophomore Erik Vorsatz. He is planning to make that happen. These classes allow students to shape their boards to fit their own individual needs and styles.

Some of these classes. The Craft Center is also a really friendly environment,” recreation sophomore Erik Vorsatz said. He is planning to take a ceramics class this quarter. I’m really excited to take a ceramics class this quarter. I’m really excited to take a ceramics class this quarter. I’m really excited to take a ceramics class this quarter.

Prosectors to Polanski: All’s not forgiven

Linda Deutsch
ASSOCIATE PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fugitive director Roman Polanski received a message from prosecutors in a sexually explicit court motion Tuesday that all is not forgiven and they will fight dismissal of a three-decade-old conviction for raping a 13-year-old.

The documents obtained by The Associated Press provide details of a sexual assault of a girl who was given a sedative and part of a Quaalude pill, was told to undress and was subjected to oral copulation, forced intercourse and sodomy by Polanski.

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Lauren Rabaino
Why I Love Comics
A Slightly Opinionated Article

So it was up in San Francisco a few days ago, as a final hour before the new quarter, with a couple dear friends of mine. On my visit I made it my goal to go to at least one of Frisco’s comic book shops. Now, before any of you Bay Area people flame me with hate-mail about calling San Francisco “Frisco,” you would only be wasting your time. I’ll call that city anything I darn well please. Maybe even San Fran. How do you like that? Luckily the place we were dining was a short hand-over-walk to the rather great Comix Experience. Let me tell you, I could have spent days in that place, and I would have too. My friends had to eat and get coffee, etc.

Anyway, while rummaging through their rather fine sale rack, I was wondering what the hell I was going to write about for my first article back from vacation. Then I thought to myself, “You know Jon, most people who read your articles are probably thinking that either comics are really lame or that you are a complete dork.” And you know, the latter may be true, but definitely not the former. So I think a bit of explanation is in order.

Most often, when you hear someone say comic book, you’re probably going to think of your classic Silver Age (roughly the mid-1950s to the late 1960s) kind of comic: the stereotypical super hero (Superman) kicking the crap out of super villains. And you know, a lot of the time, you might actually be right. I mean, hey I love to see a villain get kicked in the face, but the difference between comics now and, say, 50 years ago, is incredible. For one thing, the printing of comics has vastly improved. That old rough and color deficient paper of yore has been replaced with crisp, shiny and beautiful paper that allows for such a greater potential for spectacular artists to showcase their work. But even so, what comics really needed was a great awakening in writing. Don’t get me wrong, I love the work of Stan Lee, Gardner Fox and all those other legends, but writers like Geoff Johns are phenomenal in so many more ways by taking those original characters and actually making them interesting besides their super powers. I mean, if you compared the Flash to Green Lantern back in the ‘60s, they were entirely interchangeable, save their powers. And that’s just super-heroics. I’m pretty sure there is a comic book about pretty much anything imaginable. For example, do you like cats? You do? Well, I just bought a rather adorable comic called “Cat Getting Out of a Bag and Other Observations” by Jeffrey Brown. Basically, Brown loves his cat and draws a cat getting into littleanimal mischief around the house. It sounds really dumb, but believe me, it’s great.

Anywho, I should probably get to the point here. What I really love and appreciate about comic books, as an art form, is the means by which writers and artists are able to tell a story that is at once visually stimulating, but also leaves much up the reader’s imagination. You know how everyone always says that the book was better than the movie? Well, that’s mostly because in the movie you only see the perspective of the director, unlike the book. But you know, books can be really dumb and entirely too long. So with comics you truly have the best of both worlds.

On a more personal note, for those of you who might be wondering: my favorite super hero is Green Lantern (Hal Jordan, though, of course — has been since I was a kid); my favorite comic book artist is probably Mike Mignola (love his work, but it’s rather specific to the whole horror/pulp genre); and my guilty pleasure is definitely old Aquaman comics from the ‘50s/’60s (so good!). I also love drinking coffee, watching “The Office,” and in case any of you ladies out there were wondering, I don’t currently have a girlfriend.

Be sure to check in next week for my review of Hellboy — everyone’s favorite half-demon creature... thing.

Send us a letter to the editor!

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Winter Sale

Get it off your chest!

E-mail us at: mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
Global warming storm drowns out dissenting thought

by Jeremy Hicks

In the battle to prove or disprove the existence of anthropogenic, or man-made, global warming (AGW), a battle which often orbits along the cultural left and right, I must confess that I have little vested in furthering either side’s campaign. I contentedly join the ranks of elite weathermen everywhere in my unequivocal conviction that tomorrow’s weather will be the same or different.

But I must confide that I am unabashedly critical of many of the global warming theorists and their non-scientific apologists.

For starters, I am routinely disappointed by the stories that are uncloaked when some plucky soul dates to opine a cautious hesitancy regarding the political and media-driven cult of sweet innocence. This popular, if foolish, method utilizes the safety-in-numbers approach. This approach has global warming defenders citing the insurance of the ostensibly “scientific” community express their differences which is troubling. Even then, won’t it really be wise to trust the salvation of our endangered environment to someone unfamiliar with the UN into believing that an opinion piece by the UN testified to the truth of the study under discussion was authored and supported by an international panel on climate change? The very scope and severity of global warming is the best argument for not letting the government be any part of the solution. Just look around you. Observe the crumbling financial system, the failure that is our foreign policy, the cruel joke that is our healthcare system and on and on. These are government failures that occurred on. These are government failures that occurred. These are government failures that occurred. These are government failures that occurred. These are government failures that occurred.

But imagine that the doom of global warming were truly both imminent and undeniable. Even then, would it really be wise to trust the salvation of our endangered environment to the government? The very scope and severity of global warming is the best argument for not letting the government be any part of the solution. Just look around you. Observe the crumbling financial system, the failure that is our foreign policy, the cruel joke that is our healthcare system and on and on. These are government failures that occurred when government offered to help “solve” a problem. We can do better. Yes we can! (I borrowed that last line from Obama.)

Despite popular legend, there are many hurdles to accepting the soundness of global warming that any reasonable person is perfectly entitled to ponder and dispute. But suppose that these notions of universal and interlocking climate change which enjoys the consensus of all the world’s finest scientists. Of course, when the above acronyms is translated to its full, impressive length, the cause of this mistake of ours is a bit more understandable. The UN IPCC translates to the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change. The first two words alone might easily confuse the uninitiated that the doom of global warming were truly both imminent and undeniable. Even then, would it really be wise to trust the salvation of our endangered environment to the government? The very scope and severity of global warming is the best argument for not letting the government be any part of the solution. Just look around you. Observe the crumbling financial system, the failure that is our foreign policy, the cruel joke that is our healthcare system and on and on. These are government failures that occurred when government offered to help “solve” a problem. We can do better. Yes we can! (I borrowed that last line from Obama.)

John Overmyer is a 2009 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarians Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
The death of former Senator Claiborne Pell on New Year's Day after a 15-year fight with Parkinson's disease symbolized the sad, slow decay of the federal college aid grant program that bears his name, as well as the increased value of education and human capital in the United States.

Created in 1965, Pell Grants are awarded to college students who come from families making less than $45,000 per year. The grants have enabled millions of students to finance their education at a rate of $5,000 or less. We must substantially increase the budget for federal financial aid through programs such as Pell Grants and Federal Work-Study. The government has actually decreased over the past two years, and the federal government's commitment to the higher education of U.S. citizens, not only as a matter of national pride but also in order to promote educational excellence, must be reinvigorated.

We must make human capital a priority if we are to recover as a nation.

First, we must substantially increase the budget for federal financial aid through programs such as Pell Grants and Federal Work-Study. Universities across the country have dramatically increased tuition in recent years, but few have the resources to meet 100 percent of demonstrated need. Thus, every year, thousands of deserving students are shut out of higher education.

Additionally, the government should enact new service-oriented programs to enlist the next generation in our higher learning campaign.

Pell Grants have actually decreased over the past two years, and the federal government's commitment to the higher education of U.S. citizens, not only as a matter of national pride but also in order to promote educational excellence, must be reinvigorated.

We must make human capital a priority if we are to recover as a nation.
**Pop Culture Shock Therapy**

by Doug Bratton

I’ve done tours
In Germany, Korea, ‘Nam,
And Iraq. Seen a lot ‘a things, Ginger... bad, bad things...

After 60 years of military service, Beetle Bailey is finally discharged.

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**By Doug Bratton**

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37 Lake of TV/
56 "Dies ___"
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**Girls & Sports** by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

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**Announcements**

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A's closing in on deal with Giambi

Janie McCauley
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jason Giambi might just finish his career where it began more than a decade ago.

The free-agent first baseman was nearing a deal Tuesday to return to the Oakland Athletics, the American League's most treating player in the ECS.

Former Oakland Athletics' first baseman Jason Giambi holds the American League MVP trophy over his head on April 6, 2001.

Giambi won the AL MVP for Oakland in 2000, then left for New York following the 2001 campaign. He enjoyed each return visit to the Bay Area, seeing old friends and making trips to the popular California chain of In-N-Out Burger. He said he tried to open an In-N-Out in New York to no avail.

Giambi, a second-round draft pick by the A's in 1992, is a career .286 hitter in 14 big league seasons. He made his major league debut for Oakland on May 8, 1995. Giambi batted .247 with 32 home runs and 96 RBIs in 2008 for the Yankees, who missed the playoffs despite their $200 million payroll after a run of 13 consecutive postseason appearances. That's just one shy of the record set by the Atlanta Braves from 1991-05.

Giambi was a true dual threat, not only passing for 1,960 yards and 23 touchdowns with five interceptions, good for the third-best efficiency rating in the FCS. He also rushed for a team-high 821 yards and 11 scores. Hall, a junior fullback, rushed for 354 yards and two touchdowns this season.

Mustangs offense finished the season ranked eighth after an 8-3 season that included Cal Poly's first FCS home playoff game.

Giambi was a second big offseason acquisition by general manager Billy Beane, who made a trade with Colorado for star outfielder Matt Holliday back in November. Giambi, who turns 38 on Wednesday, spent the past seven seasons with the Yankees. New York declined its 2009 $22 million option for him after last season.

Former California running back Dally was a true dual threat, not only passing for 1,960 yards and 23 touchdowns with five interceptions, good for the third-best efficiency rating in the FCS. He also rushed for a team-high 821 yards and 11 scores.

Oakland announced in early November that Bob Aldojo would become its new director of strength and conditioning — a sign Giambi might be next to come back and return to his roots. Aldojo served as the A's strength and conditioning coach from 1993-01 and followed Giambi to the Yankees, working for Giambi personally and for the team during some years.

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Mustangs face first conference road test

Scott Silvey

Cal Poly women’s basketball coach Faith Mimnaugh knew it wouldn’t take long for Kristina Santiago to reach her potential.

With a Cal Poly career-high 26 points in the Mustangs 74-66 victory over Long Beach State last Sunday, the sophomore forward may be ahead of schedule.

“When we were recruiting her we knew it was just a matter of time,” Mimnaugh recalled. “She has tremendous potential.”

Santiago is just one of the reasons that Cal Poly (8-3, 1-1 Big West Conference) believes the team itself can reach its full potential this season.

“They really want a championship,” Mimnaugh said of the team’s ultimate goal. “We want to get better each day.”

The next step towards a Big West championship comes against Cal State Fullerton (4-7, 1-0) at 7 p.m. tomorrow in Titan Gym.

The Mustangs split the season series with the Titans last year, including a 70-55 loss in Fullerton last year.

This year’s Mustangs have improved their record by four games after 13 games from last season’s 9-4 start. A big reason for the turn-around has been the team’s ability to share the ball.

The Mustangs are sixth in the nation in assists (17.8 per game) and 17th in assist-turnover ratio (1.04).”

Santiago is just one of the reasons that Cal Poly senior forward Megan Harrison shoots over a defender in the Mustangs 77-60 win against Idaho on Nov. 29 in Mott Gym.

Along with six assists, Harrison added one more award to his overstuffed mantle after he was among four Cal Poly players named to the 2008 Sports Network All-American First Team on Tuesday.

With a Cal Poly career-high 26 points in the Mustangs 74-66 victory over Long Beach State last Sunday, the sophomore forward may be ahead of schedule.

“We love to move the ball around and we’re making baskets,” Mimnaugh said. “They’re unselfish, sometimes a little too unselfish.”

Cal Poly has six players averaging at least 1.8 assists per game, led by junior guard Ashley Stewart’s 2.2 average.

With so many able passers, the Mustangs can move the ball around despite pressure defenses.

“We punt teams when they do double-teams because it’s not just (four guards) who can pass,” Mimnaugh said. “We really do a good job of finding the best scorer on the court.”

Santiago has been a main benefactor of the quality passing, shooting 55.1 percent from the field, 30th best in the nation. She is also in the top 100 in free throw percentage shooting 81 percent.

“She is one of the most athletic players in the league right now,” Mimnaugh said. “She’s playing well offensively and defensively. I think she’s an all-conference performer.”

While Santiago leads the team in scoring (14.7 points per game), her starting frontcourt teammates, senior forward Megan Harrison (12.7) and sophomore guard Lisa McBride (10.8) are also averaging double doubles.

The Mustangs big frontline will have its hands full with Cal State Fullerton senior forward Toni Thomas, who is averaging 13.3 points in just 20.5 minutes per game this year.

Mimnaugh defined two specific areas that Cal Poly needs to improve on defensively.

“We need to work on our ability to defend penetration and we need to work on our help side,” she said. “We are there sometimes and not at other times. We’re improving, but we’re not always where we need to be.”

Thomas will provide a test for the Mustangs defense as she has the ability to work inside and outside. Not only is the Cal State Fullerton senior’s leading rebounder in school history, but Thomas also shoots 46.7 percent from 3-point range.

Four Mustangs among Sports Network All-Americans

Wide receiver Ramses Barden added one more award to his overstuffed mantle after he was among four Cal Poly players named to the 2008 Sports Network All-American First Team on Tuesday.

Barden joined punt returner Jeremy Gilchrist of Hampton and safety Lardarius Webb of Nicholls State as the only returning first-team selections.

As a senior, Barden compiled 67 receptions for 1,257 yards and 17 touchdowns. He finished his Cal Poly career holding virtually every major school receiving record including a 70-55 loss in Fullerton last year.

“This year’s Mustangs have improved their record by four games after 13 games from last season’s 9-4 start. A big reason for the turn-around has been the team’s ability to share the ball.”

Scott Silvey

Mustangs face first conference road test

Scott Silvey

Cal Poly senior forward Megan Harrison shoots over a defender in the Mustangs 77-60 win against Idaho on Nov. 29 in Mott Gym.

Source: Dodgers OF Jones restructures contract

Los Angeles Dodgers’ outfielder Andre Jones is likely headed for free agency after he agreed to restructure his contract.

Beth Harris

Los Angeles Dodgers’ outfielder Andre Jones is likely headed for free agency after he agreed to restructure his contract.

LOS ANGELES — Andre Jones, the Los Angeles Dodgers are close to parting ways.

The team has agreed to trade or release Jones in exchange for the center fielder deferring much of the $22 million remaining on his contract, according to a person with knowledge of the discussions.

The person spoke Monday night on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the deal.

The agreement is expected to cut $12 million off the Dodgers see Jones, page 11

Chargers’ Jackson arrested on DUI charge

Associated Press

San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson, left, shows catching a pass was arrested Tuesday.

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of drunken driving.

Jackson failed sobriety tests shortly after 2 a.m. on state Route 52 in San Diego, said California Highway Patrol Officer Ray Schroeder. He said the player had failed Jackson’s blood alcohol level.

Jackson was on probation for a previous DUI arrest, Highway Patrol Officer Brad Barke said. The player was taken to the San Diego County jail and released.

Chargers general manager A.J. Smith said he was aware of Jackson’s “off-the-field issue.”

“Obviously we’re disappointed,” Smith said. “We take these issues very seriously. Moving forward, we will encounter the situation and have no further comment.”

Jackson just had the first 1,000-yard season of his career, for a team-high 1,098 yards and seven touchdowns. He became the first Chargers wide receiver to have 1,000 yards receiving since Curtis Conway in 2001.

Jackson caught 59 passes, second on the team behind Pro Bowl tight end Antonio Gates, but didn’t catch any in Saturday’s 23-17 overtime playoff win over Indianapolis. San Diego visits Pittsburgh for a playoff game Sunday.

The Chargers have had their share of off-field problems.

In 2006, there were six run-ins with the law by Chargers players, including linebacker Steve Foley’s shooting by an off-duty Coronado police officer, who suspected him of drunken driving, and another player who was arrested for investigation of DUI.

Besides the arrests, linebacker Shawne Merriman was suspended for four games for testing positive for steroids, and linebacker Stephen Cooper was suspended for the first four games of this season by the NFL after testing positive for a banned stimulant.