Cal Poly students find ways to travel the world in a dire economy

Omar Sanchez
SPEAKS TO THE MUSTANG ONLY

When the train showed no sign of stopping, Benjamin Thompson and his two friends had no choice but to jump. They were in a small town in Croatia thousands of miles from home with only a backpack full of essentials to sustain them for the next three weeks.

As the economy worsens and college costs continue to augment, student like Thompson are finding methods to travel cheaply. Some methods, such as hotels and hitchhiking, have been used for years but with the advent of the Internet, couch surfing is gaining popularity worldwide.

So when Thompson's friends Anthony and Adria Tigoich invited him on this trip to Croatia, he knew hotels weren't an option. Instead they relied on the hospitality of strangers.

"It looked like something out of the Cold War or Soviet Union. So we all looked at each other: Anthony, Adria and me like 'where the hell are we?'" said the Cal Poly psychology senior.

Waiting for them at the dilapidated train station was a young stocky man with a baby in a stroller and two small black and brown dogs grinning from ear to ear.

The man was Arbo Galant, husband of Klara and father of baby Maya. For the following week, this family would host them thanks to a Web site called the Couch Surfing Project.

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Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California Democrats and some government-reform groups are hoping the Legislature's months-long struggle to wipe out the state's $42 billion deficit will persuade voters to dump the two-thirds majority requirement for a two-thirds vote to pass budget bills.

"We have to do something," said Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael. "I think anybody who's watched this slow-motion train wreck over the last three months ought to agree that this system no longer works, if it ever did.

California is one of only a handful of states that require more than a simple majority to pass budget bills. Rhode Island, like California, requires a two-thirds vote. Arkansas requires three-fourths votes to pass most appropriation bills and simple majorities to approve a separate bill that sets the state's spending priorities.

Democrats have had majorities in both the state Assembly and Senate for most of the last 50 years, but usually have needed at least a few Republican votes in both houses to reach the two-thirds threshold.

The deadlocks have often left the state unable to pay some of its bills, including payments to businesses that supply prisons, state hospitals and other facilities. The latest stalemate, to enact a midyear budget fix because of declining revenue and set the budget for next fiscal year, also held up state income tax refunds.

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Lawmakers then spent months haggling


A half dozen other states require supermajorities in some circumstances, such as when spending would exceed a cap, when lawmakers fail to meet a budget deadline or to fund one-time projects.

Fifteen states, including California, require more than simple majorities to raise taxes, at least in some circumstances, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The two-thirds vote requirements have made California's budget negotiations drawn-out affairs almost annually. Lawmakers have missed the June 15 constitutional deadline to approve a budget in 26 of the last 32 years.

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Travel
continued from page 1

They served us spaghetti and we drank wine while we discussed politics,” said Thompson. “They hated Bush, but we were crazy about Obama so I gave them this Obama pin I had and they were crazy,” he added.

For three college students on a budget, couch surfing was a cheap way to learn another culture and have a place to eat and sleep for free.

The Web site serves as a place where couch surfers can congregate and accommodate each other with housing for a set number of nights while they travel.

As of February 2007, Thompson was one of 943,790 couch surfers and hosts worldwide, according to the Couch Surfing Project Web site.

With their host family, the Galants, they toured towns and ruins on the Istrian peninsula. Sometimes the host even served as personal guides of their native land, Thompson said.

Guests can give back to their host in many ways including giving them U.S. currency, or as Thompson did, prepaid memorabilia.

“I had these California state quarters that I would give away to the people I thought were cool. So that they would have something to remember me by,” he said.

When it came time to leave the Galants, the group went online to find another host in Croatia. But the system isn’t fail-proof, Thompson said. In some cases, the host never answered their phone or replied via e-mail.

“You have to have a back-up plan in this situation,” Thompson cautioned. “We ended up staying at a hotel.”

After he left Croatia, Thompson reflected on what he could have done and brought to make his trip better.

“Couch surfing doesn’t require you to bring a lot of things with you, but whatever you bring to them goes a little helps if you have a guitar, bring that. One of the people I hosted had a surfboard with him, so I took him surfing.”

He suggests packing three pairs of under- wear, a couple of shirts and pants, jackets, socks, sleeping pad and a good book. “I made the bad choice to bring my laptop with me. It was dumb because everyone there had Internet access.”

He also had safety tips for people new to couch surfing. Surf in small groups like he did and stay with hosts who have a good reputation and use common sense.

“IT was a little sketched out; you just have smart about things and be alert,” Thompson said.

“After my trip to Europe, I definitely was more cautious of where I keep my money,” Silvey said. “We got warned the last day we were there.”

Silvey didn’t have as much luck with strangers as Thompson did. A man presenting himself as a Good Samaritan offered to exchange euros when there was no official location to swap currency and Silvey pretty much kept like, 18 out of the 20 euros that I gave him,” Silvey said.

Benjamin Thompson (right) and his friends couch surfed in Croatia for the first time to save on travel expenses.

“IT’s best that people travel in pairs because it’s safer that way,” Silvey said, echoing Thompson’s advice.

By trip’s end, Silvey had gone a few hundred dollars over budget, with food his biggest expense.

“We would eat out a lot, and food (in Europe) is expensive. They even charge for a glass of water,” Silvey said. He said people wanting to save money on food while traveling can eat the cheapest meals before cafeterias offer their guest.

Both Thompson and Silvey said they have traveled to Europe, but back in the U.S., another Cal Poly student traveled with just a gesture of his hand.

Journals senior Dave Meyers hitchhiked his way to visit friends working at Denali National Park in Alaska and also down to Peru.

Hitchhiking while free or the cheapest way to commute, is also the most time consuming, unreliable and dangerous. But for the adventurers Dave Meyers was right up his alley.

So he packed his bag for the long trip with clothes and camping fundamentals along with a mini-foot-long skateboard and a digital camera.

Initially he was going to hitchhike to and from Alaska. Instead he ended up riding with a friend up to Canada to meet his then-girlfriend.

Along the way they stopped at different locations in Northern California, Nevada, Utah and Wisconsin to rock climb and see the sights.

He started hitchhiking once in Canada with his girlfriend and found her presence made hitchhiking easier.

The wait to get picked up can take as long as a day and a half or just 30 seconds.

“If you have a pretty girl with you, people just trust you so much more,” he said. “It’s definitely harder without (the) girl, but you just smile and try to look clean... sometimes I would wear a collared-shirt.”

That formula worked well and even families picked him up. “I would have kids on my lap and sometimes they have these old gays that tried to me and moms that tried to mother me.”

As a journalist, Meyers used the people he met hitchhiking as material for stories he wrote.

“The type of people that pick you up are hilarious. I’ve met some interesting people that I met in my life hitchhiking,” he said.

Meyers even hitchhiked with semi-truck drivers that didn’t speak a word of English to a man zooming past him on a motorcycle, he was willing to get a ride.

“I’ll never been on a motorcycle before, and here I was trusting this stranger, riding with him for about 45 minutes, averaging 80 mph until his tire went flat,” he continued.

Eventually he arrived in Alaska and met up with his friend. The visit was short lived however and he, now with his friend in tow, were soon back on the road.

Tents were their homes and oatmeal and tortillas were their meals for the majority of the trip. Meyers even recalls fishing for food and the best meal in his life was Alaskan salmon he caught.

Money was not abundant but every now and then, kind strangers gave them a treat.

Several times people offered their homes for the two to stay and eat. When Meyers and his friend arrived at the Canadian border they only had a dollar between the two, an insufficent amount that caused problems with Canadian border police.

Another time in California kids denied entry to Canada because we didn’t have the $100 needed to cross the border,” Meyers said. Just stories from being turned away Meyers called his father to wire him the money so that he could cross the border.

But Meyers didn’t save any money from the trip, he made money. The photos from the trip continue to foot that $500 bill every time he sells them.

College Based Fee Initiative

The Provost and College Deans have submitted a proposal to increase the College Based Academic Fee. The need for these fees is a result of the severe cuts in State support over the last decade and Cal Poly’s desire to continue to offer high quality academic programs and provide students with the classes they need to complete their degrees.

The proposal would bring all students to the same fee level of $362 per quarter for full time students and $181 per quarter for part time students regardless of major or college affiliation effective Fall 2009. The proposal calls for the fees to be increased by another $100 per quarter for full time students ($50 per quarter for part time students) effective Fall 2010 and an additional $180 per quarter for full time students ($50 per quarter for part time students) effective Fall 2011.

The College Based fees would continue to be used to help meet the needs of the colleges and student fee advisory committees would continue to provide input on the use of the fees.

Three General Open Forums have been scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for students to get additional information about the proposed fee increase. All forums are open to the entire student body regardless of major or college affiliation.

All students will be asked to cast their electronic advisory vote on March 11th and 12th.

The Forums

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<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb 23</td>
<td>7:30-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sierra Madre Hall Main Lounge</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb 24</td>
<td>6:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Poly Canyon Village Knowledge Center Conference Room</td>
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LOS ALAMOS, Calif. (AP) — An SUV filled with foreign students swerved off a highway, slammed into a tree and burst into flames, killing six of the seven people aboard, officials said Friday.

The students — four from France and one each from Russia and Turkey — were heading to the Los Angeles area when the vehicle veered off Highway 101 on Thursday night and crashed near this community about 140 miles northwest of their destination, officials said.

The driver, 19-year-old Joanna Ostowski of France, was the only survivor. The names of the victims, including a 30-year-old U.S. citizen from San Francisco, were not released.

CAMBRIA, Calif. (AP) — Some ex-workers at a sanctuary in San Luis Obispo County say animals are being euthanized to save money, but operators of the nonprofit say deteriorating health is to blame.

Laid-off workers at the Sanctuary in the Pines, which has about 1,000 former racehorses and cattle, said they were told last week that animals would be euthanized to save about $30,000 a year. The sanctuary is on a 400-acre ranch near Cambria.

In a statement released Friday, sanctuary co-founder and President Jane Morrison said the decision was based on deteriorating health in the herds of horses and burros.

San Luis Obispo County says animals are being put down to save money, but operators of the nonprofit say deteriorating health is to blame.

District Judge Samuel Kent will be making judicial history when he enters the courtroom Monday — but it won’t be the kind he’ll want to remember.

Kent will join the handful of federal judges who have taken part in a trial as a defendant, and he will be the first to face trial on a sex crime charge.

A 54-year-old judge is accused of fondling two female court employees as he tried to force them to say yes on the witness stand.

Kent faces up to life in prison and a fine of up to $250,000. If convicted, he doesn’t know what happened. His name was not given.

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii, the state that adopted the nation’s first “defense of marriage” constitutional amendment a decade ago, has now become the latest battleground in the fight for same-sex civil unions.

It would become the fifth state to legalize the alternative to gay marriage if the Democrat-dominated Legislature and Republican governor approve a civil union bill. The measure was passed by the state House this month but it now faces the Senate, where a divided committee is to vote Tuesday.

Republican Gov. Linda Lingle has declined to comment on the issue and it’s unclear whether she would veto the bill.

Gay rights organizations argue that civil unions would promote basic equality in the nation’s most ethnically diverse state, but opponents fear the erosion of an island culture that values conventional family ties.

HOUSTON (AP) — A US District Judge Samuel Kent will be making judicial history when he enters the courtroom Monday — but it won’t be the kind he’ll want to remember. Kent will join the handful of federal judges who have taken part in a trial as a defendant, and he will be the first to face trial on a sex crime charge.

Afro-Caribbean islanders — most of whose forbears toiled in the sugarcane fields under the yoke of slavery more than 160 years ago — not only resent France’s handling of the global economic crisis, they have long resented that France’s demands for lower prices and higher wages: For demonstrators they are no less than a battle for their respect and dignity.

Rescuers wearing headlamps and oxygen backpacks carried dozens of miners to safety Sunday after a gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China killed at least 74.

The blast at the mine, which had for years boasted an exemplary safety record, highlighted the perilous conditions that make China’s mining industry the deadliest in the world.

Survivors described how they tried to flee along tunnels to escape the choking carbon monoxide, but were overcome by the fumes.

“When it happened, I felt a big wave that blew me over,” said one of the miners. “When it happened, I felt a big wave that blew me over.”

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FBI: 4 activists arrested over UC incidents

Marcus Wohlsen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four animal rights activists connected to incidents targeting University of California biomedical researchers at their homes have been arrested, federal authorities said Friday.

The FBI arrested the four on suspicion of violating the federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act for allegedly using force, violence or threats to interfere with animal research.

Members of the San Francisco Joint Terrorism Task Force on Friday arrested Maryam Khajavi, 20, of Pinole, and Joseph Buddenberg, 25, of Berkeley, in Oakland.

Federal agents arrested Nathan Pope, 26, of Oceanside, and Adriana Stumpo, 23, of Long Beach, on Thursday in Charlotte, N.C., as they returned to the US from Costa Rica.

"It is inexcusable and cowardly for these people to resort to terrorizing the families of those with see Activists, page 4.

Human Rights
and Freedom in
the Middle East

Aryeh Green
Regional Democracy
Activist and Former
Advisor to Natan Sharansky

Wednesday February 25
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Philips Hall
Bldg 06 Room 124

Come hear a radical approach to bringing real peace to the Middle East:
Encouraging greater freedom in the Arab world for the benefit of all the residents of the region; promoting democracy as the only real guarantor of security and peace in the Middle East.

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It's a falcon for wildlife eponym
Stephen Colbert

It helps to have fans in high places. Just ask Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert, who has just had a peregrine falcon making its nest atop San Jose City Hall named after him.

The male falcon was dubbed "Esteban Colbert" by San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, an admirer of Stephen Colbert's. Like the human Colbert, Esteban is comfortable before cameras, he and his new mate, Clara, have their rooftop rendezvous beamed throughout the world by way of a FalconCam installed on the city hall.

Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert has just had a peregrine falcon making its nest atop the San Jose, Calif. City Hall named after him.

Budget continued from page 1
over how to deal with the red ink that began showing up just weeks after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the budget on Sept. 23. The problem was crafting a plan that would generate the needed two-thirds support.

They didn’t agree on a combination of tax increases, spending cuts and borrowing to eliminate the deficit until early Thursday morning, after nearly a week of almost around-the-clock sessions in the state Senate.

Even then, the two-thirds majority was reached only after Democrats made concessions to Republicans. Sen. Abel Maldonado, including ballot measures that would create an open primary system and freeze lawmakers’ pay when the state runs a deficit.

“Now the minority party has the dominant voice because they are holding us hostage," said Sen. Lori Harckock, a Berkeley Democrat who chairs the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee.
Garance Burke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the first week after her only daughter disappeared, grief hit Susan Levy so hard she could not move from a fetal position on the living room couch.

By the time Chandra Levy's skull and bones were found in a park in the nation's capital a year later, her mother had found enough strength to dial Washington police detectives to ask why it was taking so long to find her daughter's killer.

Now, eight years after Chandra's death, Susan Levy said the sudden news late Friday that police planned to arrest a second immigrant in the slaying may resolve the crime but it will do nothing to stem her family's heartache.

"This helps a little," said Levy, standing in the den of her central California home. "But we still don't have our daughter and we have a lifetime sentence without her. Grief is like a marathon. You don't get over it. It recycles itself."

Chandra Levy was 24 and had just completed an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons when she disappeared in May 2001 after leaving her Washington, D.C., apartment.

Authorities questioned her congressman, Gary Condit, in the disappearance and revealed his affair with Levy, media from around the world descended on the family's split-level home amid the orchards of Modesto, a sleepy city 90 miles east of San Francisco.

Susan, her husband Bob and their son Adam retreated, and drew the blinds hoping to cope with their anguish in peace.

Another mother, Donna Haley rang their doorbell to offer support, and said she found Susan wasn't eating.

Chandra Levy's mother Susan Levy, left, and her father Adam Levy, right, react as they watch police officers remove items from their daughter's home in Modesto, Calif., Monday, May 21, 2001. Authorities were questioning their daughter's congressman, Gary Condit, over the disappearance and revealed his affair with the 24-year-old Levy, who was found dead in D.C. on May 1, 2001.

In another incident, video surveillance connected Pope and Budenden to flyers found at a Santa Cruz cafe in late July listing the home addresses and phone numbers of 13 UC Santa Cruz researchers, according to the affidavit.
Joshua Radin performs at Downtown Brew on Friday Night.
Radin played much of his set without a microphone due to a noisy crowd.

Cheleba Bieker
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A sea of fans chanted and cheered at Downtown Brew. Friday night in an effort to coax Joshua Radin back to the stage for one more song. After a good amount of this, long past the moment the musician usually comes back out to play another tune, faces dropped with the realization that it just wasn’t going to happen. And why should it? He didn’t even play a whole show to begin with.

If the name Joshua Radin doesn’t immediately ring a bell, you have probably heard him before without realizing it. His breathy, emotional songs have made their way onto each movie soundtracks as “Garden State,” and “The Last Kiss,” as well as shows like “Scrubs” as “Grey’s Anatomy.”
Radin’s career has been coming right along, having just played at Elcsy DeGeneres’ wedding last summer amongst other things. Now on tour with his sophomore album, “Simple Times,” he told CNN reporter Shannon Cook that it is based on his life, and that the lyrics are a kind of journal entry.
Radin’s songs cover most every area of day-to-day human emotion, touching on topics such as falling in love, falling out of love, friends, family and politics. Each song perfectly incorporates a catchy tune laden with dripping sentiment. It is the sort of music that is easy to relate to each of his songs telling a familiar story.

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With this in mind, it was a bit of a shock when Radin abruptly directed a not-so-nice sentiment to a few concert attendees. “Fuck off” was not exactly what anyone expected from the sweet-faced romantic’s mouth, but “fuck off” is what everyone got. There was also a “douchbag” thrown into the mix, as well as one or two statements leading the idea that he wouldn’t be coming back to San Luis Obispo anytime soon.

So why did this happen? What could have made the night go so sour?
Dye, page 8

Radin performance turns unexpectedly dramatic

Cheleba Bieker
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joshua Radin performs at Downtown Brew on Friday Night.

Located at 817 Palm St. Downtown near the mission

The Reader
Fri: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45
Mon-Tues & Thurs: 4:00, 6:45
Wed: 4:00

Slumdog Millionaire
Fri: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45
Mon-Thurs: 4:00, 6:45

The Wrestler
Fri: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45
Mon-Thurs: 4:00, 6:45

General Admission: $7.20 Matinee: 4:30
Student Matinee: $5.00
Student Frontrunner: $5.00

Monday, February 23, 2009
Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emilie Egger
Arts and Entertainment Designer: Milena Krayzkulh

You’ll Dye laughing

Kriza Torres
SENIOR EDITOR

Comedian Jeff Dye will come to Cal Poly’s Chumash Auditorium tomorrow night, fresh off his comedy tour with the Season 6 final five of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing.”
“I haven’t been to Cal Poly before. I have never heard of the school before. I’m going into it blindly. I hope no one shouts racial slurs at me and throws bottles at me on stage,” Dye joked.
This past summer, the 26-year-old Washington native competed on “Last Comic Standing” against thousands of aspiring comedians and placed third. In order to be on the comedy reality show, more aspiring comedians have to go through an audition process. Dye was the only person in the history of the show not to audition.
“I was hand-chosen by Bill Bellamy, the host of ‘Last Comic Standing,’ in Seattle,” he said. “He saw me. They were doing a thing originally on NBC where Bill Bellamy would go from town to town and surprise comedics to go on (the show).”
Dye’s comedic material originates from everyday life observations. He jokes about working out at the gym, Starbucks, Coffer and Campbell’s Soup.
“If I think of a lot of comedics just joke about sex a lot I watch TV or I read the paper. I see homeless people, my jokes are pretty much from everything in life that’s not dirty. I feel like I have a whole plethora of things to joke about,” Dye said. “I feel like there are a lot of other funny things that happen. I could go to a restaurant and find a lot of funny things to observe.”
Ever since “Last Comic Standing,” Dye’s career has been taking off with recent TV and movie offers.
“More people know who I am (now),” Dye said. “But as far as my family and personal life, it hasn’t really changed. I still joke about anything. (But when it comes to) my comedy career, it took me a few years to get to a different level that I’m really grateful to be at.”
Dye’s comedic career started when he was young, always proving around and being the funny guy at school.
see Dye, page 8
From slums of Mumbai to the Academy Awards

By Beth Harris

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The youngest stars of "Slumdog Millionaire," Asharuddin Moosa Ali (left), Rubina Ali (pardon), and Ayush Mahesh Khedekar arrive at the Academy Awards yesterday.

It's fantastic. It's beyond our dreams," said Tariq Ganeel Loknar, who played the "middle" age protagonist, Jalal, as he glanced around at the gaggle of famous faces jamming the long red carpet outside Hollywood's Kodak Theatre.

Loknar is one of the six actors who play the three lead characters in three stages of their lives. The group chanted happily away to reporters sticking microphones and cameras in their smiling faces.

Asok, a police officer, was the only actor to give the press a quick sound bite. "Slumdog Millionaire" is "the story of the underdog," he said.

The two youngest were plucked from ten Oscar winners claiming, "All Indians can dance." For Rubina and Azhar, there was a frenzied scramble this week to get visas, passports and tickets after their parents decided at the last minute they wanted to accompany them to the ceremony.

"It's everything. It's the real climax to it," said Bo Hi, one of the film's popular songs, was heard ringing out.

In the tiny, bubble-gum pink shack that Ali's home, her mother Mumna Qureshi watched the awards on TV as her other children slept on the floor next to her. She couldn't believe it. "How does it feel to be up there on the red carpet outsides Hollywood's iconic Mann plaza?" asked Bo Hi.

"We're all very happy. It seems like brightness is filling the sky," said Rubina Qureshi, a neighbor who had told him she had heard Rubina grow up.

"She's like a daughter to me," Rubina Qureshi told the Associated Press. "This is a big day for us, a fairy tale for two to three comedic performances per quarter.

"It is by far the most highly regarded thing students ask for so much. It's just something we want to be able to bring something of the best students they deserve."

"He's a funny guy. We're happy to have him, especially since it's something students ask for so much. It's just something we want to be able to bring something of the best students they deserve."

Director Boyle was grateful for students' efforts. "It's everything. It's the real climax to it," said Bo Hi. "That song is a huge hit, and the academy isn't even talking about it."

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Romance dies, desperation lives on the Internet

That's What She Said by Rachel Newman

Suffice to say I got about three posts overnight, all creeps, and I suspect that even if the incident I posted happened in reality and not just in my mind, the real guy wouldn’t have replied and anyone who did would only be e-mailing me because I would appear desperate and easy.

On the opposite end of the desperation spectrum, much closer to missing your old friends with benefits and girls gone wild, lurks a new kind of monster. Onlinebootycall.com is a new Web site that prides itself on having what every college-aged person dreams of: a dating Web site that doesn’t set up couples for marriage or long-term happiness, but the opportunity to get woken up at 3 a.m.

Apparently, Onlinebootycall.com thinks Eharmony.com has always been for saps, and Match.com is for people who want to get married. I guess all we have been needing is a good old fashioned Web site to become a 21st-century Missed Connections is here to save you from a life of loneliness and desperation.

If you’re shy and have trouble talking to guys, maybe you thought you were destined for an adulthood spent with 12 cats and stacks of newspaper, but with the advent of Missed Connections you can put yourself out there just enough to not have to risk your pride or anonymity.

You’re unfamiliar with Missed Connections? Allow me to fill you in. Craigslist doesn’t just sell you on a job at a toaster or a seat in your Chrysler LeBaron anymore; it now picks men and women who you may have barely noticed. Just post a random and practically non-existent meeting you had with a completely stranger, or confess that you have been stalking the guy at woods that Powell’s book, and maybe they’ll reply. Or for a bevy of creepy stalkers who may or may not have a mental illness will, but at least you aren’t alone.

Didn’t I think of this? It’s a gold mine.

I took the liberty of posting my own Missed "come-see-me" yesterday. I studied for the hours deciding how I would structure my own post and after reading about missed connections at McDonald’s and the movie theatre, I knew just what to do. Of course, this is completely in jest, but still I felt myself wanting to check my e-mail every 10 minutes hoping to get a response. Who knows if this was because of the excitement of having news to report back to you all, but a dark part of me thinks the simple act of posting a Missed Connection shoved me right into the kind of desperation that I believed

One political party shouldn’t hold all power

For the past eight years the system that the general populace has been up with the government. Bush held low approval ratings, and the only acceptable opinion one could hold was one completely opposed to Bush. I propose that Bush was not responsible for our recent lack of faith in the government’s approval ratings. The real culprit here is that Republicans held the Presidency, House and Senate simultaneously.

Our government was implemented with the idea of checks and balances. The House, Senate and executive office prevent each branch from holding too much power and becoming (more or less) corrupt. Unfortunately, party lines have become rather distinct. Democrats and Republicans follow party values based strictly on what their party stands for, allowing very little room for compromise. Consider the state budget crisis and the economic stimulus in Washington D.C. Both parties refused to give much in both cases since both sides do not like to give the 'out party’ the win. America was upset at Bush because he was a figurehead for the government, but the real problem was Republicans controlling all of the executive and legislative branches. Corrupt projects, such as the bridge to nowhere in Alaska, resulted from this dominance.

Now we have the reverse problem: the left now completely contests those branches (with a rather significant majority too). For America to truly function we cannot allow one group that has very rigid values to control all branches of government.

Sometimes more than a will is needed for a way

In response to Eric Baldwin’s letter to the editor, I would like to apologize, on behalf of civilized society, for placing mandates on you and others to prevent murder, theft, rape, and all those other things that we decided people should abstain from. We are sorry for forcing people to behave in ways they would not otherwise.

The purpose of having those who attended Focus the Nation vote was to encourage institutional change. For your argument that change should come from the little people and not just the large players, you are correct. Just missed the point. Everyone who voiced their opinion, including you, is a "small player" at this institution. The idea which got the most votes was forwarded on to the larger players here on campus to show them that there is a wait out there for change. Sometimes it takes a mandate because not everyone is willing to change for the collective better. For example, the recent financial crisis has resulted in thousands of people losing their jobs, pensions, homes, and quality of life. Talk to someone affected by this and I think the majority would demand changes in how financial institutions function. In Cal Poly’s case, the campus community is simply saying that they would like to get more "education and opportunities" via a G.L.E. class. I encourage you to take any and all educational opportunities you can throughout life to learn more about sustainability since you will miss the opportunity here.

Rachel Newman is an English, bulletin "That’s What She Said" takes a fresh and lighthearted look at issues at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo.
Help Wanted
Lifeguards - Avila Beach Port San Luis Harbor District has seasonal part-time opportunities for high school graduates (or enrolled seniors age 17+) with certification in First Aid and CPR. Title 22 (or ability to obtain same) to serve as lifeguards in Avila Beach. Candidates must be able to pass a 500 meter ocean swim test in 10 minutes or less, provide safe conditions for users of public beach by watching over beach activities; advise public of dangerous sea conditions and provide lifesaving assistance; use emergency equipment; keep logbooks of incidents/injuries; and maintain cleanliness of beach areas. Prior experience desirable. PAY RANGE: $11.96 - $15.26/hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) SWIM TESTING: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Avila Pier at 9:00 a.m.) Obtain application at the Harbor Office, 3950 Avila Beach Dr., in Avila Beach. Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m., or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P.O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA, 93424 or online at www.portsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 595-5400 x11.

Houses for Sale
Now is the time to buy a house! Take Advantage of Huge Discounts and Historically Low Mortgage Rates. Free List! SLO Houses/Condos for Sale. Nelson Real Estate 546-9900.

Help Wanted
Survey Takers Needed: Make $5-$25 per survey. GetPaidToThink.com

Announcements
Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services Stop by UU Room 217! or call 805-756-5584
Raise the Respect presents International Flea Market in UU Plaza on February 26th from 11-12!

The New York Times Crossword
Across
1. Prolonged attack (14)
6. Place
11. Used a stool (7)
14. Counting everything (7)
15. Pigeon’s perch (6)
16. In favor (5)
17. “Splendor in the Grass” actress (6)
19. Always, in verse (5)
21. Finish from the shower (7)
23. One of 100 in the D.C. (7)
24. “Hold on to ___!” (7)
25. Bleaked (7)
26. Telecommuter’s need (11)
31. Remove a fastener from (6)
33. Enamel (7)
36. Tampa Bay baseballer (7)
39. Six years, for a 23-Across (7)

A NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD BY WILL SHORZ

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0119

61. Happen as a consequence (15)
1. First person’s reaction to having a cold (7)
3. Consumed (14)
4. Happy (9)
5. A work that can be packed away (8)
6. Pack away (13)
7. Long-distance number starter (7)
8. Of too minds (6)
9. Word that can be parceled out (8)
40. “Splendor in the Grass” actress (6)
41. Odds (7)
42. Fixed parts of motors (10)
44. Denier (7) (latest fashion)
46. Dirty old men (9)
48. Drink with a communication (8)
51. Sound asleep? (9)
52. Word that can be hit with the lyric “What was ___?” (8)
53. What wagon wheels may make you (9)
54. Pond gunk (6)
55. Pack away (6)
56. Long-distance number starter (6)
59. Exhale, with gasp (8)
60. “What was ___?” (8)
61. Happen as a consequence (15)
62. Critic Ebert (7)
63. Kind of car seen in the movies (7)
64. Most kilts wearers (6)
65. Stockholm (7)
66. “The Fall of the House of Usher” (7)
67. Bled (7)
68. Dernier (7)
69. “What was ___?” (8)
70. It may be written “Stein” (5)
71. Happen as a consequence (15)
72. Eggs, what you have a cold (7)
73. For short (6)
74. “What was ___?” (8)
75. “What was ___?” (8)
76. “What was ___?” (8)

64. Penched on (9)
65. With the lyric “What was ___?” (8)
66. “What was ___?” (8)
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Across
1. Propped up (9)
2. Dream (7)
3. Kind of car seen in the movies (7)
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**Game one**

continued from page 12

his second run on a well-executed safety squeeze, before being re­warded with a 10-0 lead after the seventh inning. M au­ldin to hit a towering homerun as every phiyer either scored a run or was driven home during the first four innings.


**Round-up**

continued from page 12

Game two

continued from page 12

in was pretty good so hopefully I’ll continue to have confidence when I step out on the field.”

The Owls struck first with runs in both the second and third innings. The Mustangs were able to tie up the score at two runs a piece by taking advantage of an error by Rice’s shortstop Chad M ozringo and a wild pitch from their starting pitcher Mike Oylas in the bottom of the third inning.

The Mustangs brought in senior right-hander Eric M assingham with one out in the fifth inning. The Owls then strung together a series of hits and capitalized on an error to score four times after the pitching change, which widened the scoring gap to 9-2.

Junior catcher Sara Kryza came up big for the Mustangs, driving in two runs in the victory over Kansas (3-1) on Sunday at the Oregon State-hosted DeMarini Invitational, Feb. 27-

March 1 at Anderson Family Field.

**Basketball ShootOut**

is BACK !!!

March 4 - 7:00 pm at the Recreation Center

FREE TO STUDENTS

Participants get a free t-shirt

Co-Ed Division champions win trip to Anaheim for chance at $5,000

then see CP Men’s Basketball

Cal Poly versus Long Beach State

Thursday, March 5 at Mott Gym - 7pm

Sign Up At

www.bigwest.org
Cal Poly sophomore guard Shawn Lewis throws down a dunk during the Mustangs’ 66-62 win over South Dakota State on Saturday night.

**GAME ONE**

Clinton McGee

The Cal Poly baseball team jumped on Rice early and often, beating the 2003 national champions 10-7 Saturday afternoon at Baggett Stadium.

Following a difficult 10-7 loss Friday night against the Owls, the Mustangs stumped over freshman left-hander Taylor Well, who gave up five earned runs in three and one-third innings work, in the first game of a double-header.

Cal Poly scored at least two runs in each of the first four innings, giving the Mustangs a 9-1 cushion.

Setting the tone early, senior center fielder Ryan Lee hit the first pitch Cal Poly saw for a base hit. After a sacrifice bunt and a stolen base, Lee was sitting on third with one out and a chance to score. Junior third baseman Adam Buschini took advantage of the opportunity, hitting a sacrifice fly to center field to bring in the first run of the game.

Those guys in front of me are doing great,” Buschini said of driving in the first run. “With them always getting on, it helps me out a lot.

Buschini had a game-high three RBIs on 1-2 hitting. He bunted in Cal Poly freshman second baseman Matt Jensen slides home scoring a run against the Owls in Saturday's first game.

In what turned out to be a better’s duel, the Cal Poly baseball team beat No. 3 Rice University in the last of a season opening three-game series. The Mustangs were able to rally after being down 6-2 in the fifth inning to beat the Owls 7-6 Saturday night at Baggett Stadium to complete a day-night doubleheader sweep of the 2003 national champions.

The Mustangs were 1-1 coming into the game, having lost the season opener Friday 10-7 and winning in a 10-9 extra inning game of Saturday’s double-header 10-3.

According to Head Coach Larry Lee, the team had to first put Friday’s loss behind them in order to be successful in Saturday’s games. “It was a good chance for us to respond after losing Friday night,” Lee said.

Lee acknowledged that beating team’s like Rice can only add to Cal Poly’s early season confidence. “Rice is a very, very good ball club and their expectations are high,” he added. “We came out and were able to put Friday night’s game behind us. We played extremely well in the first game, and then today we got sloppy defensively in the fifth inning. We put see Game one, page 11

**GAME TWO**

Cassandra Kuye

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**WEEKEND**

women's basketball

**CAL POLY 74, PACIFIC 64**

Senior forward Megan Harrison became the second-leading scorer in Cal Poly history when she scored 19 points in helping the Mustangs down Pacific in Stockton on Saturday night.

Harrison paced Christine Rodness (1991-95) as Cal Poly’s second-leading scorer on a free throw with just more than five minutes remaining. With 1,342 career points, she now trails Laura Buchung (1,843 points, 1979-83) for the program’s second-highest career total.

The Mustangs (17-8, 9-4 Big West Conference) have already guaranteed themselves a winning record, the program’s first in 17 years, and with the win on Saturday guaranteed the programs highest win total in 27 years.

Cal Poly, which led by 11 at halftime, blew the game open early in the second half leading by as many as 19 points. A run by Pacific cut the lead to six with just over five minutes remaining, but the Mustangs closed the game out at the free throw line.

Senior guard Lisa McBride also had 19 points for Cal Poly. Harrison narrowly missed another double-double, grabbing nine rebounds.

Pacific’s Jane Young led all players with 26 points and 16 rebounds. The Mustangs return home at 7 p.m. Thursday to host conference rival Cal State Northridge in Mont Gym.

**men’s basketball**

**CAL POLY 66, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 62**

Sophomore guard Shawn Lewis continued his recent strong play leading Cal Poly with a game-high 21 points on route to a win in the ESPNU BracketBuster game in Mont Gym on Saturday.

The Mustangs (7-17) roared out of the gate, taking an early 23-3 advantage before a late first half run would allow the Jackrabbits (12-17) to within seven at the break. South Dakota State would continue to build the momentum culminating in a five-point advantage with just over seven minutes to play.

Cal Poly would counter and take the lead for good on a putback by sophomore forward Wes Dippsey with four minutes remaining.

Senior guard Chaz Thomas (18 points) and senior forward Titus Shelton (10 points) were also in double-figures for Cal Poly.

Forward Kai Williams led South Dakota with 19 points and six rebounds, while guard Dale Mass added 18 points and nine rebounds. The Mustangs play their final non-conference matchup of the regular season when they host Cal State Bakersfield at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Mont Gym.

**NO. 60 UC IRVINE 4, NO. 71 CAL POLY 3**

Despite securing the doubles point with wins by junior Brenton Blalock and Steffi Wong and the tandem of junior basen Matzenauer and sophomore Amy Markhoff, Cal Poly fell to UC Irvine in Sunday’s doubleheader sweep of the Mustangs.

The Mustangs (4-2, 2-1 Big West Conference) would win just two singles matches as Blalock defeated Brooke Bartlett 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 singles and Whitney Peterson beat Claire Ferrin 6-4, 6-3. UC Irvine’s Stephanie Hammel and the tandem of Buehning and Matzenauer in a tight match at No. 1 singles, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

UC Poly will return to the courts at 10 a.m. Saturday when they travel to face UC Riverside.

see Round-up, page 11