Poly graduate earns test pilots' highest honor
Siebold advances goal of space tourism

Will Taylor
SUNOY DAILY

A Cal Poly aerospace engineering graduate and flight test pilot earned an international award last fall for his role in developing aircraft for the fledgling space tourism industry. The award put him in a select group that includes famous pilots John Glenn and Neil Armstrong.

Peter Siebold, who completed his degree in 2001, received the Iron Annie award at the 53rd Annual Symposium for the International Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP). The award is given after aeronautical companies nominate pilots whom they think have made a significant contribution to flight test through development, performance and testing.

"It's without a question the most prestigious award a test pilot can receive in his career," Douglas Shum, president of Scaled Composites and Siebold's boss, said. "It's likened to a Heisman Trophy in football!"

Siebold won the yearly award specifically for his role as chief test pilot and on the Model 34S WhiteKnightTwo plane, from the first flight through subsequent testing and modification processes.

"I'm humbled to be in the company of significant contributors to flight testing," Siebold said. "It's hard to see yourself as equal to some of those folks that have received the honor previously."

Siebold may feel humble, but his work speaks for itself. WhiteKnightTwo is part of billionaire Sir Richard Branson's dream for the potential space tourism industry. WhiteKnightTwo would act as the carrier and take-off platform for Virgin Galactic's space tourism ships. Siebold said it's seen as a way for space tourism to be a more affordable and accessible option to the masses.

"Richard Branson's dream is a very similar place where we're going to have space tourism," Siebold said. "With WhiteKnightTwo, the concept is to exceed expectations." Siebold's confidence and success with WhiteKnightTwo might be attributed to his experience and versatility. He flew his first solo flight at 16, the youngest age that a person can do so. He later taught flight classes at the San Lucas Obispo Airport, while a student at Cal Poly and has now logged about 2,500 hours of flight time in 40 different types of fixed-wing aircraft.

Siebold is not only an experienced pilot, but also a capable engineer. "Engineer and pilot are a perfect combo of those two interests," he said. "As a test pilot, you need to understand the engineering as well as how things work."

Siebold said employees of Scaled Composites are encouraged to be multi-talented and work in different areas. Siebold has, for instance, worked with computers managing avionics and simulation developments. The mid-size company focuses on innovative designs and technology within the industry. Terry Tomeny, president of SETP and director of flight test operations at Cal Poly earlier this year, said that the Scaled Composite philosophy is admired throughout the industry.

"They're very unique company that does a lot of groundbreaking work with very new airplanes," Tomeny said. "They're very confident and efficient compared to the big companies who develop slower and spend more money!"

Siebold said he believes his Cal Poly education prepared him well for work at a unique company like Scaled Composites. "My education gave me two things: a toolbox of knowledge to do the work and, more importantly, it fostered the creative spirit and can-do attitude," he said. "Scaled is a very similar place where we're always looking for people who try something new and learn from their mistakes."

Mustang Daily's beer columnist broke in the new year with Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale.

Mustangs battle the Tigers Friday at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.
Immigration

continued from page 1

increase in immigration and border patrol incidents, the Bush administration, and greater emphasis on prosecuting cases that are often cases to prove.

There is ample doubt that criminal enforcement can put much of a dent in the nation's illegal immigration problems. And critics say that many confiscated immigration matters are being transformed into federal felony charges with much longer legal sentences. There is also concern about a disproportionate impact on Mexican nationals. A San Jose Mercury News review of 52 immigration cases filed in the San Jose federal courts between January and October found that every defendant was from Mexico. "It's riding and walking while Hispanic," said Rori Boroson, the Bay Area's federal public defender, whose office typically represents immigrants too poor to pay for their own lawyers.

Supporters of the tougher enforcement approach say the prosecutions are needed to target illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds. The results are largely anecdotal, and thus the review of the San Jose cases shows these defendants are often unrepentant. The have typically been deported numerous times, and they carry with them that the same drug and robbery changes to domestic violence.

In some instances, they have even been prosecuted before in federal court, serving time for immigration crimes before being deported, only to return to the United States again. One San Jose defendant charged this year, Esquivel San- davel-Ramos, has been deported eight times and was convicted four separate times in San Diego federal court on illegal re-entry charges before his most recent arrest here.

mustdailydaiy.net

The story here is that the system will see him again. And then, the Bush administration and the U.S. government prepare to shift their strategy in the drug war. From military and police operations, the aim is now to focus on the problems that have left generations of Mexico's young vulnerable to unemployement and membership in the criminal underworld.

Immigration represented a key part of the Bush administration's "strategy" for dealing with illegal immigration. After Bush's "war on terrorism" failed to bring an end to drug cartels, the administration turned to "tougher" immigration laws in an effort to combat illegal immigration. This shift in strategy was influenced by the growing drug cartels in Mexico, which were seen as a threat to national security.

The Bush administration's approach was characterized by harsher punishments for illegal immigrants and a focus on securing the border. This included the implementation of the Secure Fence Act, which authorized the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico.

Despite these efforts, illegal immigration continued to be a problem, and the administration faced criticism for not doing enough to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into the country. The administration's approach was seen as a failure by many who argued that it did not address the root causes of illegal immigration.

After the Bush administration's departure, the Obama administration took a different approach to immigration. Instead of focusing on border security, the Obama administration prioritized reforming the immigration system to address the needs of both the United States and Mexico. This approach included efforts to increase legal immigration, reduce family separation, and provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Since then, the issue of immigration has continued to be a major concern in the United States, with debates over border security, the treatment of immigrants, and the impact of immigration on the economy.

**Slums are front lines in Mexican drug war**

Alfredo Corchado

**The Dallas Morning News**

Dania VillalobosJacquez, a resident of the Barrio Azteca neighborhood of Juarez, Mexico, shows a picture of her 10-year-old son,CDATA, who was shot dead by gunmen, during an attack on a rehab center in September 2009.

"It's in neighborhoods like Barrio Azteca where President Felipe Calderon's war could be won or lost," said Pedro Reyno Diaz, 46, whose two spouses were among those swept up in the drug cartel warfare waged in this neglected neighborhood. "An entire generation was lost.

As the U.S. government prepares to shift their strategy in the drug war, from military and police operations, the aim is now to focus on the problems that have left generations of Mexico's young vulnerable to unemployment and membership in the criminal underworld.

"It seems to me like we're spending billions of dollars on a gesture than a meaningful attempt to deal with the immigration problem," said attorney Mark Kriko, director of the criminal division of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates stricter immigration laws. "We need to have these prosecutions, but they are not the solution. The problem is that the system will see him again.

In recent years, the drug war has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, including children. This has led to a growing demand for a more humane approach to immigration enforcement, one that focuses on addressing the root causes of illegal immigration rather than simply criminalizing it.

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18, watching from behind a steel fence. Others watch them themselves, in the courthouse, not in the barracks, not in the streets.

Slums like Barrio Azteca represent fertile ground for recruiting cartel foot soldiers. The neighborhood is a microcosm of the city's social ills, with poverty and rampant crime. In recent years, cartels have reaped the fruits of a drug war that began in 2006, including El Peso, La Reina and Brownsville.

Kids grow up to become thugs, and many end up in cheap cell-tons.

"It's all gone," Reyno said, "a whole life disappeared, as people die in the streets." Two blocks away, young kids play soccer on an unpaved street, staining it with blood. It's all gone; the barrio is now a desert of crime.

"You hear it on the streets that a cop was shot in the line of duty," said Antonio Loza, who runs a debt collection agency in Juarez. "And that's literally what they're doing; setting the city on fire, baring everything from vehicles to businesses, homes, to even people alive. Slums like Barrio Azteca represent fertile ground for recruiting cartel foot soldiers. The neighborhood is a microcosm of the city's social ills, with poverty and rampant crime.

Among the thousands of people who fled violent neighborhoods like Barrio Azteca for El Peso or other U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Albuquerque and Dallas-Fort Worth, they include the family of Ricardo Bolivar, 42, who sells pirated CDs and DVDs near the international bridge. A few months ago he sent his wife, Angelica, and four children to live in North Texas, joining their older son, 19-year-old Richi, who was born in Fort Worth. Bolivar hopes that Richi, an U.S. citizen, can "fix our papers so we can all live in Texas."
Once riding high, Democrats now see disaster looming

Steven Thomma and David Lightman

WASHINGTON — What a difference a year makes.

Last January, Democrats — now streaming into Washington eager to celebrate not just the inauguration of Barack Obama as president but also their party’s ascendancy from coast to coast.

They’d gained ground in once-Republican turf such as the Mountain West and the Border South, added to their majorities in Congress and topped it all by seizing the presidency.

"Yes, we can," a triumphant Obama trumpeted, and the country seemed to cheer in agreement.

Now, the country seems to be saying back, "No, you can’t," and putting the Democrats on the defensive heading into this year’s elections, when the entire House of Representatives, 37 seats in the Senate and 39 governor’s offices, are up for election.

The president’s poll numbers have dropped. The party’s top domestic agenda item, health care, is unpopular. Its candidates lost key statewide races in New Jersey and Virginia in November, and now high-profile Democrats such as Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter and Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd say they’ll retire rather than risk losing in the fall.

Whether it’s caused by a backlash against the Democratic agenda or the natural swing of the pendulum against the party that’s in power at a time of economic struggle, the result is the same: trouble for the Democrats.

“The fact that we’re seeing Democrats bailing, in an election year, suggests maybe it’s a tide that’s turning,” said Gary Ross, a professor of politics at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. "People are starting to feel promises were not fulfilled. Expectations were high, but what have we really seen?"

Clifford Young, a pollster for Ipsos Public Affairs, sees a normal turn against the party in power, saying the Democrats overrated the significance of the 2008 election results.

“It was basically an election for change, so it favored the party out of power,” Young said. “But it didn’t say anything about a major shift in values. We didn’t see a huge shift in values that would favor the Democrats in the long term.”

Either way, the Democratic Party’s push to build a durable political majority is stalling.

That’s evident in national polls, such as a recent Gallup survey that found an average of 49 percent of Americans calling themselves Democrats last year, the first time in four years that the party has dropped below the majority level. That was still better than the Republicans, but the Democratic edge was shrinking, not growing.

It’s also clear in battleground states.

Colorado, for example, was one of the places Democrats highlighted as proof that they were gaining support in swing states, as well as in regions such as the Mountain West, that once were friendlier to Repub-licans. The Democratic National Committee held its 2008 convention in Denver to showcase the success.

Ritter stumbled in office, however, and voters have turned on the Democratic and his party. Polls also suggest that Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., is at risk of losing his bid for re-election.

One reason, Denver pollster Floyd Cirilli said, is that voters are weary of the recession and blame the party in power. Another is that they don’t like the Democratic proposals to overhaul health care, a plan that he said had energized Republicans and turned off independent voters.

“The collapse of Colorado ... demonstrates the immense shift that has taken place over the last year in the fortunes of national Democrats and the impact it’s had on this swing state,” Cirilli said.

Colorado isn’t the only state in which Democrats have lost support among independents.

In Virginia, where Democrats see Democrats, page 5

“Saturn, because everyone always talks about the rings and how beautiful it is. It looks peaceful.”

Donna Meno, architecture sophomore

"Oron’s Belt, because you can’t talk what’s behind it."

Nathan Phillips, aerospace engineering junior

“Id go to Mars and see if there are any aliens there.”

Kyle Mohamed, construction management sophomore

“Mars, because they did it in ‘Total Recall’ and that’s an awesome movie.”

Ryan Mazzucca, agribusiness senior

COMPiled AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER TITCOMB

WHAT’S YOUR RANT? YOU WRITE IN. WE INVESTIGATE.

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Wire Editor: Jennifer Titcomb

sec Democrats, page 5

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SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge in San Francisco said Wednesday that he wants the federal trial over the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8 to be videotaped and distributed over the Internet.

"This certainly is a case that has sparked widespread interest," U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn R. Walker said during a hearing Wednesday. The nature of the case and its importance warranted "widespread distribution," he said.

If Walker’s view is endorsed, as expected, by the chief judge of 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the federal trial over same-sex marriage in nine Western states will become the first federal trial in nine Western states to be video-taped in its entirety for public viewing, according to Thomas Burke, a media attorney.

"It is a rare day and a lot of decades in coming that a federal court allows cameras in the court — even its own camera," Burke said.

In addition to running the entire proceedings on YouTube hours after they occur, the court videotape would be broadcast live at several other federal courthouses, Walker said.

Supporters of Proposition 8 opposed public dissemination of the trial video and argued that witnesses would be intimidated by having their testimony watched by millions of people. The Proposition 8 campaign also objected to live feeds at other courthouses.

Walker noted many of the campaign's experts who will testify are "academics — people who stand up before classrooms all the time."

"But Michael Kirk, representing the campaign, said a classroom talk was substantially different from being asked to testify across the county and across the world" in a "contentious and highly politicized" case. Kirk said that supporters of Proposition 8 have been harassed.

"The risk is just unacceptable," he said. Kirk later refined to say whether the campaign would ask a higher court to overturn Walker’s decision.

Opponents of Proposition 8 favored courtroom cameras. Thoro­ dore Boutrous, a lawyer for two same-sex couples who have challenged the decision, said it was important for the "pro­ cess to be completely under the court's control." The judge said he would be able to stop the video at any time.

Although the members of the media did not get what they want­ ed, Burke called Walker’s decision "historic" and "a really important first step" to televising federal trials.

The trial is scheduled to start Monday and is expected to last two to three weeks. Walker’s decision on Proposition 8’s constitutionality is expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The California Supreme Court already has upheld Proposition 8 as a valid amendment of the state constitution. The federal case is based on federal constitutional challenges. The videotaping of the trial is part of a pilot project launched by the 9th Circuit last month. The Jud­ icial Council of the 9th Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the West, approved the use of cameras in civil, non-jury cases on an experimental basis.

"We hope that being able to see and hear what transpires in the courtroom will lead to a better public understanding of our judicial processes and enhanced confidence in the rule of law," 9th Circuit Chief Alex Kozinski said when he an­ nounced the project.

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**RNC chairman criticized for remark**

Republican National Committee (RNC) chairman Michael Steele attends a post-election news conference in Washington on November 4, 2009. He has come under fire for his use of the word "injun."

Dawn Turner Trice
*Chicago Tribune*

CHICAGO — Some consider the word "injun" to be offensive as the N-word, but apparently Republican National Chairman Steele didn’t know that when he tried to underscore a point earlier this week by saying, "Honest injun on that."

Steele was on Sean Hannity’s Fox News show Monday night promot­ing his new book, "Right Now: A 12-Step Program for Defeating the Obama Agenda."

"Our platform is one of the best political documents that’s been writ­ ten in the last 25 years," Steele told Hannity. "Honest injun on that. It speaks to some core conservative principles on the value of family, faith, life, economics. Those principles don’t change."

Susan Power, 85, the last liv­ ing founding member of Chicago’s American Indian Center, said she was offended by Steele’s comment.

see Remark, page 5
Suicide bombing in Russia's Dagestan kills 5 police officers

Megan K. Stack

MOSCOW — A suicide bomber targeted a traffic police headquarters in the restive Russian region of Dag­ estan on Wednesday morning, killing five police officers.

As the Russian-Made SUV careered toward the building at about 6 a.m. a team of police rammed their truck into the bomber’s vehicle. The explosives went off on impact, killing all of the policemen in the truck but preventing the bomber from reaching his target.

The death toll would have been much higher had the officers not intervened, officials in Dagestan said. They said the bomber had hailed as heroes.

"He was spotted by a special op­erations group at the last minute," an internal security official said. "The measures taken by these police­men stopped the terrorist from reaching the officers who were preparing for duty."

The bomber struck just at 6 a.m. traffic police officer Vladislav Gasanov said that the bomber was still at last summer’s police headquarters in nearby Ingushetia, another Russian republic racked by insurgent violence.

"When I woke up, 'Bam! Bam!'" neighbor Patimat Abyeva told Rus­ sia 1 television, imitating the sound of the blast. "I couldn’t find my children. They were screaming, ‘Mama. But I didn’t see them because the house is filled with dust and there’s glass under my feet.”

Mukhida Abyeva, the president of the small republic, ordered budget funds set aside to compensate the families of the slain police. He also ordered the purchase of 15 new police vehicles.

Escalating bloodshed in the Cauc­ asus has remained a soft and vulna­ rable underbelly to Russian efforts to portray the country as a stable, cent­ rally controlled hub of investment and tranquility. Russian officials have threatened, denied and fired officials and vowed to do better in response to the string of attacks — but the blood­ shed keeps coming.

A flare of shrapnel injuries and kill­ ings in Chechnya, which suffered through two wars between 1994 and the early 2000s, and a swelling Islamist rebellion and raging clan warfare in Ingushetia and Dagestan all threaten to destabilize Russia.

The threat appeared particularly acute in November, when a bomb detonated a train on a popular route running between Moscow and St. Petersburg, killing 26 people and rais­ ing the possibility that violence would spill deep into the heart of Russia.

"I don’t think he did it on pur­ pose,” said Power. "But now that he does know, he should apologize.”

Steele's comment.

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MUSTANG DAILY

Thursday, January 7, 2010
Veritas Forum comes to campus searching for truth

Zach Lantz

The Veritas Forum returns to Cal Poly next week, event organizers said the event will inspire discussion around issues like truth, life and religion. The annual event has been at Cal Poly since 2007. The Veritas Forum, which gets its name from the Latin word for truth, brings in educated speakers from all walks of life to pose their theories and questions to students to be scrutinized and examined.

Aerospace junior and Veritas Forum club president Josh Cecarelli said that Veritas has earned an honest reputation when it comes to life’s deepest questions. “Students from any worldview and any kind of background in general can just come and have discussions on what it means to live a true life and gives them the chance to pursue some of that knowledge,” he said. “There are so many difficult questions out there and (at Veritas Forum) those questions can be discussed in a safe, intelligent environment.”

Discussion topics will range from an art exhibit to an origin of life debate, and will also include a documentary on modern-day dervishes. After each event, audience members will have the opportunity to learn more in a 45-minute question-and-answer period. Cecarelli said this would ensure fair discussion.

Monday will feature an art exhibit titled “Exploring Truth through Art” in which art will be submitted by current or former Cal Poly student. Tuesday will feature a presentation by Kelly Monroe Kullberg titled “Finding God Beyond Harvard.” Kullberg is the founder and director of project development of The Veritas Forum, which she first organized as a graduate student at Harvard in 1992, according to the Veritas Web site. She also co-authored the best-selling “Finding God at Harvard: Spiritual Journeys of Christian Thinkers.”

A creationist, assisted evolutionist and atheistic evolutionist will debate the origin of life Wednesday. “In the past, when we’ve had a creationism versus evolution debate, I haven’t really liked them because I think there is more of a spectrum of what people believe. I think it’s important to talk about that spectrum in a discussion,” said Chelsea Morrell, biomedical engineering senior and Veritas Forum vice president. “Instead of there being a God or there is no God and maybe he is involved, in parts of evolution or not at all.”

All three speakers are professors

Veritas Forum volunteers pass out flyers Wednesday on Dexter Lawn. The event begins on Monday and lasts all week.

Photographer name: Melodie Daily

veritas forum: students for the back- ground,' and I was like, ‘I’m in!’”

Although Marshall realized her passion for theatre early on, many Cal Poly students aren’t as fortunate. Students end up switching majors because they must declare their intent when they are 18.

“I think that something this show really says is that you should find what you like to do, but you

Melanie Marshall plays Claudia Shear in the autobiographical one-woman-play “Blown Sideways Through Life.”

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Last year saw record music sales in U.S.

The Black Eyed Peas had two of four songs ("Boom Boom Pow" and "I Got a Feeling") that broke 4 million sales in a single year.

Todd Martens

Overall, U.S. music purchases hit an all-time high in 2009, as sales of singles, digital tracks and music videos topped 1.5 billion for the second consecutive year, according to year-end data released today from Nielsen SoundScan. Total music sales were up 2.1% over those of 2008, but the figures capture an industry still in transition.

Album sales took another double-digit drop in 2009, down 12.7% to 373.9 million. Meanwhile, digital track sales reached another milestone, up 8.3% from 2008 to more than 1.1 billion in 2009.

What's more, Nielsen SoundScan reports that 80 digital songs exceeded the 1 million sales mark in 2009, compared with 71 songs in 2008, and 2009 marked the first time a song broke the 4 million sales mark in a single year. The latter was achieved by four singles -- "Boom Boom Pow" and "I Got a Feeling" from the Black Eyed Peas, Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" and Flo Rida's "Right Round." Vinyl continued to be an industry bright spot, although overall vinyl sales are minuscule in the grand scheme of the industry. Sales of vinyl were up 33% in 2009 to 2.5 million, a new vinyl record. Though vinyl has seen a resurgence in recent years, there are signs that even that market is maturing. For instance, vinyl sales experienced a nearly 90% increase in 2008.

Retailers also took a hit in 2009. Sales at mass merchants accounted for 36% of all album sales, down 9% in 2008. This is, however, the third year in a row that sales fell at mass merchants. Nielsen SoundScan reported last year that mass merchants experienced year-to-year growth from 2002 to 2006. Elsewhere, chain outlets comprised see Music, page 8

Celebrating the new year with a pint of Celebration Ale

Hoppin' New Year! Get it? Hopp­py? Yes, well anyway, welcome back to another exciting quarter at Cal Poly. Now, I don't usually have a New Year's resolution, and of course when I do I rarely follow it, but this year is different. I have resolved to try at least one new beer every week of the quarter and then share my experiences with you, the reader of this article. Sounds awesome, right? But wait, there's more! Not only will you be able to taste vicariously through me, but I will also teach you a little about each beer and style I try. I'll be touring the local breweries and letting you know what is going on in the beer world. Before all that, if you were like I was last year, or if this is your first year at Poly, you're probably wondering what justification there is for letting a column about beer into a respectable publication such as this. How could it be at all important?

I've put together a list of seven fun fact about beer -- fun facts that would be perfect to whip out at a party, or to use in order to convince your parents that beer is really OK to consume three or four or seven nights a week. These are just a few of the reasons why beer is worthy of being written about:

1. Beer is the oldest, most popular beverage on earth (possibly dating back to the 6th millennium B.C.).

2. In ancient Babylonia, beer was brewed by priestesses, and some types were used in religious ceremonies (Babylonian gods approved).

3. Monasteries were among the first organizations to brew beer as a business (it's good enough for the monks, it's good enough for me).


5. I heard once on TV that the American people will elect the presidential candidate that they "can sit down and have a beer with." (Just like Nixon, oh, wait, the '80s)

6. You may have been concerned with the help of beer (it doesn't mean they don't love you).

7. Beer makers were among the first to feature minorities in their television commercials (Making truths for equality).

If these don't convince you that this column is worthy, then how about this: They let that other dude talk about pale-shaving and that conservative fellow has on everything that isn't God. It's only fair.

Also, as this is the first article, I will give you a little more knowledge about beer, namely a brief description of how it is made and the different types. First off, all beer contains water, hops, yeast and some sort of starch, usually malted grain. Many beers also have a clarifying agent that clumps together the solids from the brewing process for removal.

The two main types of beer are lagers and ales. Lagers are brewed at lower temperatures using slow-acting yeast, while ales are brewed at high temperatures with fast-acting yeast.

Lagers are crisper and lighter than ales and encompass most of the more popular U.S. beers, such as those produced by Budweiser, Miller, Coors and if I do have to mention it Pabst Blue Ribbon. Ales are more often local-styles, such as those produced by Budweiser, almost any local brewery and most beers by Sierra Nevada. Speaking of which, this week's beer selection is Sierra Nevada's Celebration Ale. According to Sierra Nevada's site, the Celebration Ale is "Wonderfully robust and rich... dry-hopped for a fresh, intense aroma."

The "intense" hoppy flavor is from the process of dry-hopping, which is when the hops are added to the wort (the sugary liquid that the yeast ferments into beer) after it is boiled, thus allowing the hop­py flavor to be much more prominent in the final product.

In order to give you a better idea what the beer is like, I decided to do a side-by-side comparison with the more popular pale ale. If you couldn't tell by now, I'm not your professional, but I'll try and describe the beers from a layman's perspective.

Obviously the Celebration is much "hoppier" than the pale ale. If you try it, don't judge it. It is extremely hoppy and if you enjoy a flavorful beer, I highly recommend it.

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Obviously the Celebration is much "hoppier" than the pale ale. If you try it, don't judge it. It is extremely hoppy and if you enjoy a flavorful beer, I highly recommend it.

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Beer
continued from page 7
ales, seasonal beers to go out and try. And if you like it, look for other IPAs, like Firestone’s Union Jack IPA or the many, many others that can be found at our local liquor stores.

Next week, along with the general beer talk, I’ll be sampling an undetermined pilsner, a pale lager style beer, for those of you who prefer to stay away from the ales and darker beers, ending with a porter, which happens to be my favorite style of beer.

If you too are a lover of beer, which you must be if you made it this far, I encourage you to try the beers I do and let me know what you think by commenting on the posted article at mustangdaily.net.

Well, as we near the end of the beginning, I want to leave you with a few final thoughts. I would like to thank the Internet, Wikipedia, org specifically, for furthering my knowledge about beer.

And as Montell Jordan does on Friday nights when he feels alright, the party is here on the west side, if you’re going to drink, then be responsible. “So I reach for my 40 and I turn it up, designate a driver or take the keys to my truck.”

And finally, if you’re under 21 years of age, please do not read this article; for I do not want to be the cause of temptation to break civil and moral law.

Adam Placke is a business administration senior and Mustang Daily’s new beer columnist. Beer Me! will run every Thursday.

Music
continued from page 7
29% of all album sales, compared with 33% in 2006, and independent retailers amounted to 6% of overall album sales, down 1% from in 2006.

Customers also stuck with the familiar. The top-selling album of 2009, Taylor Swift’s “Fearless,” was one that was released in 2008. Of 2009’s top five sellers, only Susan Boyle and Andrea Bocelli released their albums in 2009, and both benefited from holdover-released release dates.

Though Swift’s “Fearless” was 2009’s top-seller, it didn’t take that title by much. The album tallied 3.2 million sales, just 100,000 more than Susan Boyle’s “I Dreamed A Dream.” Boyle can boast that her “Dream” was the best-selling album that was released in 2009 and was the year’s top-selling “Internet album.” The latter denotes that it sold the most physical copies from digital retailers (405,000), as opposed to digital downloads.

Swift was 2008’s top-selling singer, and she would have repeated this year were it not for the sudden death of Michael Jackson. The King of Pop racked up a total of 8.2 million album sales in 2009, making her 3.6 million more than Swift’s 4.6 million. But Swift was still on the rise. Last year, she sold slightly more than 4 million copies.

Jackson’s “Number Ones” was the year’s third-best album with 6.2 million sold. The year’s other top-selling albums were as follows: Lady Gaga’s “The Fame” (2.2 million), Bocelli’s “My Christmas" (2.2 million), “Hannah Montana: The Movie” soundtrack (1.8 million), Black Eyed Peas’ “The E.N.D.” (1.78 million), Eminem’s “Relapse” (1.73 million), Jay-Z’s “The Blueprint 3” (1.7 million).

After Jackson and Swift, the Beatles were 2009’s top-selling artist, moving more than 3.28 million total units and benefiting from the much-hyped re-release of its catalog. Rounding out the year’s top-selling artists were Rihanna, 3.1 million; Lady Gaga (2.8 million), Bocelli (2.6 million), Michael Buble (2.28 million), Eminem (2.1 million), Carrie Underwood (1.8 million) and the Black Eyed Peas (1.86 million).

Fashio-conscious pop star Lady Gaga was the year’s top-selling digital artist. She sold more than 15 million tracks in 2009. Last year, Rihanna won the honor, having sold more than 9.9 million tracks. Lady Gaga’s “The Fame” was the top-selling digital album of the year, moving 461,000 downloads.

On the airplay front, Swift’s “You Belong to Me” and Kings of Leon’s “Only By The Night” were the two most-played songs of 2009, according to Nielsen BDS. “You Belong to Me” was also the most streamed song over the Internet, accruing more than 10 million streamings. But Kanye West may be pleased to know that Beyonce’s “Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)” was the most streamed-video of the year (3.2 million), topping Swift’s “Love Story” by 1 million.

Show
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“Blown Sideways Through Life” is also an honest look at the life of many of us. During and after college, many people have jobs, not careers, working to make money necessary to live. A job has minimal impact on a future work life, while a career provides experience and learning to fuel one’s future. Shear makes no apologies for the meandering work path she has chosen. Marshall instead retells Shear’s seemingly trivial jobs with dignity and insightful humor.

“We all need jobs, and they’re not there. I think this play explores what we are willing to sacrifice to keep the job we need. How much of yourself are you willing to put away and smile with sad and shut in your mouth to have this job that sustains your livelihood and when it is just not worth it?” Marshall said.

One lesson the playwright has learned from all those dead-end jobs is that nobody is just a busboy or just a cashier; everyone has “at least one story that will stop your heart.”

Following the play’s rehearsal, senior theater major Ashley Merchak was drawn to the minimalism and the strong word choice for a monologue.

“She can be simple and bare. The stage is awesomely one-sided, focusing your attention more on her words than the scenery,” Merchak said.

On stage, Marshall emphasizes self-empowerment. Through Shear’s voice, she finds joy in her everyday jobs. Theater assistant professor Virginia Anderson agrees the message is less about the visual aspects of the play and more about finding yourself through what you do and despite what you do.

“Blown Sideways Through Life” will begin at 7 p.m. tonight and will run until Saturday. Tickets are available for $5 by phone: (916) 803-4530, email: nikmarsha@calpoly.edu and a select few at the door.

Veritas
continued from page 6
at different universities; the forums, organizers wanted to feature people of similar scientific backgrounds and intellectual levels.

The documentary titled “Call and Response” will be shown in Chumash Auditorium at 8:45 p.m. on Thursday. The documentary aims to indicate that “there are more slaves today than ever in human history” according to the Veritas Web site. The documentary spans from India to Cambodia portraying modern-day slavery like child brothels and slave brick kilns.

“A lot of people will say this shouldn’t be happening, but then it’s like what do we do about it?” Ceccarelli said.

The last presentation of the week is a speech titled “Why Does a Good God Allow Suffering?” that will be given by Greg Jesson, Ph.D.

Computer engineering senior and Cal Poly Brights club president Nichola Urschig said that students will probably want to debate the topic all night. “It’s a lot of fun, and that’s always a good debating topic, and I expect the questions to run long past the allotted time on that topic,” he added. “It’s a novel question that’s been going on for centuries.”

All events are open to the public.

At the documentary showing, priority will be given to students. Although the event promises to draw strong opinions, organizers said it will be a positive learning experience for all.

“It’s not something where different religions are going to be pushed or different ideas are going to be proven right or wrong but just a place where dialogue can be had,” Ceccarelli said.

Show
continued from page 8
shouldn’t be expected to know what that is right away,” she said.

“That’s it. Okay to try things that don’t work out and fail.”

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Democrats need to adjust strategy to win in 2010

It's been almost a year since President Obama took office, and almost a quarter of his first term has passed. But for better or worse, we also wave goodbye to a decade. Some are calling it "The Decade from Hell" — and perhaps rightly so. Whatever your politics, the period from 2000-2009 was certainly littered with difficult issues and controversies, which will flow into the upcoming election season.

The beginning of the previous decade and the Bush administration brought a new economic policy of trickle-down economics. The previously untouchable image of President Bush became the first black President of the United States. The election of the first black President may not have changed the treatment of every minority in the United States or changed the hearts of racists, but the clear departure from the status of discrimination on American history is certainly a milestone.

However, when I reflect on 2009, which brought so much hope and promise in the sweeping, ambitious agenda of Barack Obama, I don't see it as the year of change that I thought I would. Nor do I view the actions of the Democratic Party — health care reform included — as reasons to celebrate.

2009 was dominated by the voices of the far right, despite the fact that Democrats currently control all three branches of government. This is mostly because, as Washington Post's Harold Meyerson said in his Wednesday opinion piece, the conservatives managed to scramble together something liberals weren't able to as social movement. The Tea Party, led by FOX News' Glenn Beck and Sean Hannity, as well as Rush Limbaugh, are doing their politicians' work to deconstruct the previously unattackable image of President Obama, and paint the Democrats as weak.

And, to some extent, I agree with that assessment of Democrats. The Democrats' liberal agenda of Barack Obama, I don't see it as the year of change that I thought I would. Nor do I view the actions of the Democratic Party — health care reform included — as reasons to celebrate.

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However, Democrats may lose the 2010 midterm elections for the opposite reason. If Democrats fail to adhere to their agenda of real health care reform including the public option, and if they do nothing to significantly lower the unemployment rate which is currently around 10 percent (new numbers, which are projected to be more hopeful come Fri­day), they deserve to lose Senate and House seats.

Referring to the pundit and media response to the attempted Al-Qaeda attack on Christmas Day, New York Times columnist David Brooks said last Friday on PBS's News Hour, "We should have some sort of steady, level-headed response. That is the sign of a resilient nation. We don't have it. We have had the last week of the whole country going — or at least the punditocracy — going into semi-hysteria over this. And it's just not the sign of a serious country.

I think David Brooks is right. The President may have failed to adhere to their agenda of real health care reform including the public option, but they have a chance to do better come Friday.
It was on this stage five years ago where the Longhorns came of new age as a program. Brown said Texas victory over Michigan in the 2005 Rose Bowl game "validated that we were going to be around awhile."

Alabama (13-0) will win the national championship because it’s the better team, and anyone who thinks fate is involved probably believes in flying saucers and sorcery.

Football games aren’t won with inspiring pregame speeches or because “wouldn’t it be neat if Colt McCoy won four years after Vince Young?”

Football games are won when gigantic men and serious coaches implement meticulous plans. Alabama Coach Nick Saban is king of “you’ve got to go through your checklist.”

Saban doesn’t care if you like him he may not fancy himself. Disneyland to him is “clutter,” and that goes for three of the seven dwarfs.

Saban’s idea of fun would be putting barbed wire up around the practice field.

High-strung Urban Meyer very briefly resigned from Florida to take care of his health and spend more quality time at home.

Saban fits the mock headline once suggested for workaholic Tom Coughlin: “Coach quits family to spend more time with team.”

What Saban has done successfully in Tuscaloosa is what he didn’t do for the Miami Dolphins: make the NFL blueprint work.

Alabama is an NFL team without a salary cap. It was built from scratch, on a cinder block. The Tide rolls by running the ball and stopping the run. The Tide won three games this year without quarterback Greg McElroy throwing for a touchdown.

You want to make things simple for the players,” Saban said Wednesday.

Ask Alabama senior nose guard Terrence Cody what it’s like to allow an opposing runner 100 yards and he couldn’t tell you, it hasn’t happened in his two seasons.

Alabama isn’t a Hollywood’s "Lean on Me" it’s "Lean on You."

You side with the Crimson Tide because it will exact Texas. It is the hungrier "organization." having not won a national title in 17 years.

Alabama is still fed up over last season, when it was No. 1 before closing with losses to Florida in the Southeastern Conference title game and Utah in the Sugar Bowl.

The Utah loss was a rude awakening.

“We looked at a Utah team, and we were like, ‘it’s Utah,’ and we weren’t really ready to play,” All-American linebacker Rolando McClain conceded.

Alabama vowed it would never happen again.

Texas or Alabama, so which is it going to be?

The odds favor Alabama and a kicker being named MVP. The big fear is the two offenses won’t combine for 100 … yards.

What’s it going to sound like when Alabama’s Heisman winner, Mark Ingram, hits a Texas chum saw defense that allows a nation-low 52 rushing yards per game?

When you crunch all the back-of-the-jersey numbers, what gives?

Texas has some nerve taking that shaky running game against an Alabama defense that tolerates 11 points a game. Moving Alabama’s defensive front is as tough as air-lifting an elephant.

Nebraska’s Ndaniukong Suh, by himself, blew up Texas’ offensive game plan in the Big 12 title game, and Alabama’s defense is probably better.

So what are we looking at here … 3-0?

Probably not, because crazy things can happen, interceptions, fumbles, kick returns, safeties.

OK, let’s make it 10-3, or 18-17 or 21-19. Let’s say Texas wins but not believe it.

Maybe fate can carry the night for Texas. Or maybe it will be Alabama, as a matter of facts.

In Texas’ last bout in the Rose Bowl, Vince Young led the Longhorns to a 41-38 victory in the National Championship game in 2005.

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At the end of the day, the national title game is up for grabs

Chris Dufresne
ASSOCIATE CHIEF BUREAU
LOS ANGELES — Texas will win the national championship because, in La-La land, people like scripts that come full circle, having their fortunes told and Jupiter aligned with Mars.

There are too many coincidences to think it can go any other way, at least that's what the palm reader said.

Four years ago, at the Rose Bowl, Texas defeated USC to win the national title.

Before trotting onto the field to lead Texas on the game-winning drive, quarterback Vince Young turned to a skinny redshirt freshman holding a clipboard and told him to pay attention because he was going to be in this position someday.

"Watch what I do," Young told Colt McCoy.

And then Young went out and won the game.

Having paid close attention, McCoy has led Texas back to the national title game at the Rose Bowl.

"I tried to soak that all in," McCoy said this week.

One thing McCoy learned: "Your team has to trust you. The team has to want the ball in your hands."

Young was 30-2 as Texas quarterback; McCoy is 45-7, 13-0 this season.

"What both of them have done is given us a spark," Texas Coach Mack Brown said. "They've given us the 'it' factor."

Another parallel: Young was inspired after losing the Heisman Trophy to USC running back Reggie Bush and got the chance to make his case against Bush's team in the title game.

This year, McCoy lost the Heisman Trophy to Alabama running back Mark Ingram and will get the chance to make his case against Ingram's team in the title game.

Texas will beat Alabama Thursday night because its coach also has the "it" factor, as in: He gets it. Brown knows how to work the room and enjoy the festivities. His eloquent answer to Wednesday's final news conference question, "When you're not sleeping tonight, what will be racing through your mind?" was the before-game football equivalent to Rockne's halftime speech.

On the awesome responsibility of setting the right tone with his players in the pregame meeting, Brown said: "I'll have 122 sets of eyes looking at me."

The Mustangs have 19 wins to show for their past two seasons. Last season alone, Pacific notched 21 wins en route to the Big West conference tournament championship — a milestone Cal Poly hasn’t reached since the 2007-08 season.

Cal Poly has reached the championship twice but hasn’t tasted a Big West championship victory in its 13 years in the conference.

This Friday, Cal Poly (4-8, 1-0 Big West) will host Pacific (8-5, 1-0 Big West) in a Big West hardwood showdown in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs look to build off their first Big West win and Pacific looks to build off a career performance by senior forward Joe Ford, in a 52-43 win against Cal State Northridge to open its conference schedule. But Cal Poly senior guard Lorenzo Keeler is coming off the game of his life as well, putting up 38 to lift the Mustangs over UC Irvine, 93-81, Monday night. His backcourt teammate Kyle Odister added 23 points, a season high for the freshman.

In their first season under new head coach Joe Callero, the Mustangs posted a 6-5 record to start the season on a five-game road trip. Cal Poly streaked with three-consecutive wins following the winless drought, but was derailed by another skid, losing three games that started with a 90-42 loss to Big Ten powerhouse Wisconsin.

Big West conference play is its season.

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