Ken Macro (bottom left), who taught at three universities in Russia, was surprised by how similar his students were to those at Cal Poly. He said the major difference was their unfamiliarity with technologies like iPods and PowerPoint presentations.

From Russia with Love

Professor talks about teaching in a foreign country and how his college Russian language lessons paid off.

Hannah Croft
HANNAHCROFT.MD@M A I L.COM

"Russia isn't really that different," Ken Macro said as he leaned back in his chair.

Macro, a graphic communication professor who recently returned to California after a six-week stay in Russia, taught about the American printing industry at three universities.

Macro began his studies at Penn State where he majored in Russian technology translation, which began to nurture his love for Russia. But his college career took a different turn with the fall of Soviet Russia, and he wasn't really a need for the major, Macro described a day in which he sang out a student with an iPod. He was the only one in the room who had one.

"And he was so embarrassed when I called him out," he said.

"Over there, that puts you in a different class, and he didn't want his peers to think he had that kind of money," Macro said.

Macro also said his students were taken aback by the power of the Internet.

"It was a major culture shock," Macro said. 

"Consider this scenario: You are the driver of a vehicle and you come to a stop sign at a four way stop intersection, and you are going to make a left turn," Goodwin said. "Meanwhile, a bicycle riding on the sidewalk, on your side of the road, crosses from your left to your right in front of you as you prepare to make that left turn.

The driver of a vehicle has no expectation of a bicycle to come from the sidewalk in front of their vehicle from..."
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Honorees show engineering is not just a man’s world

Victoria Zabel
VICTORIAZABEL.MUSC@GMAIL.COM

The Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE) honored five women at its "Evening With Industry" awards banquet on Jan. 21 with the 2011 Outstanding Women in Engineering and Technology Award. This year’s honorees were Anne Beug, Sarah R. Clark, Lindy Hopper, and Jennifer Hughes.

Students and faculty that attended the banquet were joined by industry professionals from companies including Yahoo, Cisco and Lockheed Martin, said Helene Finger, director of the Women’s Engineering Program.

In order to be considered for the 2011 Women in Engineering and Technology Award, students must be nominated by a faculty advisor. Finger said. After initial nominations are made, students are then required to work in a group preparing their résumés, transcripts, a letter of recommendation, a personal statement and a form detailing their leadership experience. A committee comprised of faculty members from the College of Engineering then evaluates the nominees.

"To win the award you don’t have to be the student with the best GPA … the committee takes into account everyone’s strengths and weaknesses," Finger said. "We are really looking for individuals who are most likely to make a significant impact on the engineering profession."

Jennifer Hughes, a computer science graduate student, said she felt honored to be included with a group of such amazing women.

"Of course I wanted to win, but I would have been happy for anyone," Hughes said. "Every woman that was nominated was deserving of the award."

"I founded Women Involved in Software and Hardware (WISH) as a sophomore at Cal Poly. She said she started the group because there was a need for a female support system within engineering majors. It was accomplishments like this that helped her stand out among the rest of the qualified candidates, she said.

"This award is different than other awards. It isn’t just given to the woman with the highest grades, it’s more based on what you’ve actually done," Hughes said. "I founded WISH, I have been involved with a lot of outside research. I think that is more why I was recognized — because they saw my passion and potential."

Anna Hopper said the award was special because SWE looked outside of its club members when choosing the recipient of the 2011 Women in Engineering and Technology Award. Hopper was involved with SWE early in her collegiate career, but as time went on she became more involved with the College of Engineering Ambassadors and less involved with SWE.

"If I had time to do it all I would have," Hopper said. "But, like we all know, we don’t have time to be involved in everything. Unfortunately something had to give, and I was more passionate about Ambassadors. It was cool, though, that the award was not exclusive to SWE members, that my accomplishments were still recognized and applauded in a great feeling."

Award recipients were given $50 gift cards to El Corral Bookstore, but the recognition and satisfaction that comes with receiving an award like the 2011 Women in Engineering and Technology Award is the real prize, Finger said.

The award also helps to “break the stereotype” that people often associate engineers with in general.

“‘It’s critical that people see engineers outside of the typical engineer typecast,’” Finger said. “People think all engineers do is math, that they are antisocial, that they hole up in dark spaces with their work. Really what this award does is help present engineers in general, specifically women engineers, in a way that says ‘we are passionate about what we do, we enjoy it, we want you to see how great it is.’ That’s the only way we will continue getting women to join the profession.”

More information about the award, as well as more specific information about the recipients, can be found on the Cal Poly College of Engineering website.

Bikes

continued from page 1

that direction if that bicycle is following the rules of the road according to the vehicle code.”

Goodwin said in 2010, there was a total of 44 accidents, 42 of which involved injuries. In 16 of these accidents it was concluded that the bicyclist was at fault. So far this year, there have been five accidents, with four of the five being the bicyclist’s fault, including Pannin’s death.

Chad Reiley, an officer for the University Police Department, said there were only seven bicycle and car collisions on the Cal Poly campus last year, far fewer than other San Luis Obispo areas.

“I would expect more because of so many bicyclists and vehicles out there, but surprisingly there aren’t very many,” Reiley said. “I believe we have more reporting because we have bicyclists (versus) vehicles.”

Reiley also said there were more accidents around town because of the narrow downtown streets.

“I think it’s because the downtown area, you’ve got parking on both sides of the street,” Reiley said. “You’ve got bicyclists trying to be on the same road as vehicles, and it gets narrow on some of those lanes.”

Goodwin said the lack of safety equipment is also a huge part of why bicyclists get hurt.

“Helmets and gloves should not be considered optional equipment,” Goodwin said. “A properly fitted helmet is the simplest form of life insurance for a cyclist. In both of the most recent bicycle related collisions in San Luis Obispo, the riders were not wearing helmets and suffered significant head trauma, and one died as a result of his injuries.”

Goodwin also said bicycles are treated as vehicles according to California traffic code, and bicyclists need to pay attention to the rules of the road.

“While this may appear to show a need for a pedestrian crossing, it is exclusive to SWE members, that my accomplishments were still recognized and applauded in a great feeling.”

"Over the last four years, between 90 to 160 (citations are issued) per year," Reiley said.

"Goodwin said bicyclists can get punished for driving under the influence (DUI), just like a vehicle driver. You can go to jail, and lose your driving privilege for one year, just like a DUI in a car,” Goodwin said.

Along with general safety, bicyclists must also worry about bike theft. According to Goodwin, 241 bikes were stolen in 2010 compared to 211 in 2009, with 15 already stolen this year.

However, Goodwin said she did not know if this was a rising trend.

"While this may appear to show an increase, we don’t know if there’s an increased reporting due to awareness, if there’s an increase in bike usage due to the economy or environmental awareness or any combination of these factors,” Goodwin said. "Again, without researching long term trends it’s hard to draw any real conclusions and we certainly haven’t seen any dramatic spike in bike thefts reported."

Reiley said bike theft is the number one crime on campus and it happens fairly regularly. Yet, despite theft and safety, not only bicyclists should be aware of the road. Marcus said drivers should be more patient with bicyclists.

“Our small helmets and thin jerseys do not protect us nearly as well as a giant metal car,” Marcus said.

"When passing cyclists, drivers need to take a deep breath, relax and realize that the extra 30 to 60 seconds it takes to find a safe place to pass wouldn’t ruin their day, but might save a life."

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Republicans reject Obama's high-speed rail project plan

Steven Thomma
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

In a preview of the epic budget fight that will kick off in earnest next week, the Obama administration on Monday proposed a $53 billion plan for high-speed rail, and Republicans who control the purse strings said not so fast.

The quick clash over a relatively small item in a budget expected to total about $3.8 trillion projects a president Barack Obama will propose next Monday underscored how tough it could be for Obama and the Congress to agree on federal spending.

Obama wants to increase spending on rail service, energy, research and the nation's infrastructure. He calls them "investments" to help U.S. businesses spend more and information, create jobs and compete against foreign rivals.

But Republicans who control the House of Representatives say cutting such spending — not increasing it — is key to improving the economy. And Republicans who won governor's offices Wisconsin and Ohio in November have rejected federal money already allocated for rail projects in their states.

The first clash came over the White House proposal to spend $8 billion in the coming fiscal year on high-speed rail projects, with the bulk of that money coming over the following five years.

"If we do not, you tell me how America is going to be able to lead the world in the 21st century," said Vice President Joe Biden.

Biden, a retired train rider when he was a senator commuting and from his home in Delaware to Washington, traveled by train Tuesday to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station to pitch the benefits of the proposal to build high-speed rail lines to improve speed on existing lines.

He said the plan would focus on three main regional corridors, a national high-speed rail network with speeds between 125 mph and 250 mph; regional lines where speed would be increased to 90-125 mph; and lines with speeds as much as 90 mph that would link to higher-speed services in major cities.

Outside the Northeast Corridor, which serves the densely populated region from Washington to Boston, most of Amtrak's trains travel no faster than 79 mph.

Biden said the spending plan would build on $10.5 billion already allocated for rail projects — $8 billion from the 2009 stimulus law and $2.5 billion in last year's budget.

"These investments are already paying economic dividends in places like Brunswick, Maine, where construction workers are laying track that will provide the first rail service since the 1940s from Brunswick to Portland to Boston," he said.

But that money was approved when the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.

Republicans who, chair key committees signaled Tuesday that the new GOP-controlled House will be much more skeptical — if not hostile — to taxpayer-subsidized rail.

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., the chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said the first $10.5 billion was poorly allocated, mostly going to projects that aren't what he considers truly high-speed.

"Rather than focusing on the Northeast Corridor, the most congested corridor in the nation and the only corridor owned by the federal government, the administration continues to squander limited taxpayer dollars on marginal projects," Mica said.

Approving more money, he said, "is like giving Bernie Madoff another chance at handling your investment portfolio."

But Bill Shuster, R-Pa., the chairman of the panel's Railroad Subcommittee, complained that the Obama administration has ignored a requirement for competition on money-losing Amtrak routes. He also said that Obama has failed to show how he has allocated money so far.

"I have no problem with sound investments in alternative transportation projects," he said. "But selecting routes behind closed doors runs counter to the administration's pledges of transparency."

I am concerned that without appropriate controls to ensure the most worthy projects are the ones that receive funding, high-speed rail funding could become another political grab bag for the president," Obama also is finding it tough to sell taxpayer-financed high-speed rail beyond Congress.

Poll of Californians shows concern over child obesity

Molly Hennessy-Fiske
LOUISIANA TIMES

A growing number of Californians consider obesity to be a "very serious" problem facing children in the state and believe unhealthy fare in schools should be restricted, according to a survey released Tuesday.

"They recognize the seriousness of the childhood obesity epidemic and understand that changing public policy is the key to curbing this public health crisis," said Dr. Robert R. Reis, president and chief executive of the California Endowment, the Los Angeles-based nonprofit that funded the Field Poll survey.

Nearly 60 percent of those polled, up from 46 percent in 2004, said it was very serious to call childhood obesity a "very serious" problem, according to the survey of 1,005 polled said it is not hostile — to taxpayer-subsidized rail.

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He's a really great teacher," she said. "One of the best in the department." Graphic communication freshman Kathryn Zeltner said she likes how Macro's class keeps her attention. "I didn't think I'd be that interested in the subject," she said. "But he makes it really entertaining." Macro said he hopes to someday start a program in which he takes graphic communication students to Moscow for a two-week program.

"I would not recommend studying abroad there (because of the big cultural shock)," he said. "But I would love to create a program so I can go back with students." Macro's "love affair" with Russia is nowhere near over.

"I will go back, that's for sure," he said. "But for now, I am happy to be back, and to be at Cal Poly."
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Long-standing moderate Democratic group disbands

James Oliphant
THIRTEEN WASHINGTON BUREAU

It has never been easy here to sit at the political center. And now it just became a little lonelier.

The demise of the Democratic Leadership Council, a symbol of centrism for more than a century, has been viewed by some as an acknowledgement that Democrats, coming off an election-year rout, have lost their compass too.

The DLC, which promoted moderate Democrats with business-friendly policies, was best epitomized by the presidency of Bill Clinton, who made the strata
gem of “triangulation” — adopting policies from his political adversar
ies — a household word.

President Barack Obama’s perceived shift to the left, as the spectrum on issues such as ear
marks and a wage freeze for federal workers, as well as this week’s address to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has been viewed in some circles as an attempt at the same kind of maneuver.

This week, the DLC said it was shutting its doors because of finan
cial problems. The move was han
tered by the departure of the coun
cil’s leader, Bruce Reed, who was hired by the Obama administration as Joe Biden’s chief of staff.

Some Republicans greeted the news as a sign that the brand of centrist that had been rendered irre
relevant after the results of last year’s congressional elections.

“Blue Dog has been a long time coming,” said the Na
tional Republican Congressional Committee Emeritus, Moderate Democrats, the DLC
said, were led “into the extreme wing of their party by President Obama and Nancy Pelosi” — and were not
receiving a fair hearing by their party. President Obama has decided to leave the White House chief of staff — and argued that only by bemoaning to a moderate party by President that the DLC, as a driver of policy even before the DLC said it was shutting down.

Commenting on the NRPC’s leadership, Benett maintained “the base of the Democratic Party
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NASA finds no reason to blame Toyota for ‘unintended acceleration incidents’

Jim Puzzanghera
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A NASA report on Toyota’s sudden acceleration found “no electronic flaws capable of producing the large throttle openings required to create dangerous high-speed, unintended acceleration incidents.”

The report, released Tuesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said that the mechanical safety defects identified more than a year ago — including sticky accelerator pedals and pedals trapped by floor mats — “remain the only known causes for these kinds of unsafe, unintended acceleration incidents.”

The report followed a 10-month study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which was brought in by NHTSA to review only the electronics.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said: “We enlisted the best and brightest engineers to study Toyota’s electronics system, and the verdict is in. There is no electronic-based cause for unintended, high-speed acceleration in Toyotas.” For the study, a team of NASA engineers evaluated the electronic circuitry in Toyota vehicles and analyzed more than 280,000 lines of software code.

“NASA found no evidence that a malfunction in electronics caused large unintended accelerations,” said Michael Kirsh, principal engineer at the NASA Engineering and Safety Center. NASA study "confirmed that there is a theoretical possibility that two faults could combine under very specific conditions" to affect the electronic control systems to create an unintended acceleration. But the team "did not find any evidence that this had occurred in the real world or that there are failure mechanisms that would combine to make this occurrence likely.”

Despite the findings, the NHTSA said it was considering taking new actions to deal with sudden acceleration. They include proposing rules by the end of the year to require brake override systems, standardized keyless ignition systems and accident data recorders in all passenger vehicles.

The agency also proposes to start broad research on the reliability and security of electronic control systems and to research the design and placement of accelerator pedals, as well as how drivers use the pedals.

"NASA’s study came after three congressional hearings into sudden unintended acceleration in some Toyota vehicles. Toyota has issued more than 11 million recall notices in the last 16 months, most to resolve sudden-acceleration issues. In December, Toyota agreed to pay more than $32.4 million in fines for failing to inform U.S. regulators promptly about vehicle defects.

That followed a $16.4 million fine levied against the automaker by the Transportation Department in April for delaying the recall of gas pedals that could become stuck.

Toyota also faces more than 100 lawsuits in state and federal courts linked to the sudden-acceleration problems over the last decade. Toyota settled at least one of those cases, agreeing to pay $10 million to the families of four people killed when a Lexus ES accelerated out of control near San Diego in 2009.

The Los Angeles Times found that reports of sudden unintended acceleration in some Toyota vehicles surged after the automaker installed electronic throttles. In the case of the Lexus ES and Camry sedans, total complaints averaged 26 annually for the 1999-2001 model year.

After electronic throttles were installed beginning with the 2002 models, complaints jumped to an average of 132 a year. Toyota vehicles also have been involved in more fatal accidents involving sudden acceleration than all other automakers companies.

The Times review in 2009 found that there were at least 19 such deaths in Toyotas since the introduction of the 2002 model year vehicles, compared with a total of 11 deaths for other automakers.
Blow his mind with a classic blowjob

Blowjobs are best when they're given enthusiastically and without begging.

— Caitlyn Harkins
Sex columnist

Caitlyn Harkins is an English sophomore, Mustang Daily copy editor and sex columnist.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and of course you've turned to the trustworthy sex column for advice.

Valentine's Day is usually offensive to people who just broke up, got divorced, ended their friends' relationships, or just don't like commercialized holidays. And, since every V-Day advice is basically the same general disinterest in oral, let your guy know that is the reason why you won't go down on him. Then, maybe you two can figure out counseling or some other communication so that everyone gets what they need out of the relationship.

Now, down to the dirty details. Blowjobs are best when given enthusiastically and without begging.

Pull your lips slightly over your teeth so that there is no chance of your pearly whites getting too close to his penis. Drop your tongue and take him into your mouth as far as you can go without gagging.

You can train away your gag reflex if you're particularly sensitive. Each night, practice brushing your tongue further back while brushing your teeth. It sucks at first, but you'll eventually desensitize your gag reflex. That tip is usually unnecessary for most people, but for the gagger extraordinaires, it is pretty handy.

But back to the blowjob at hand — which you should use, by the way, while you're blowing too close. Wrap around the base of his penis firmly and stroke up and down in rhythm to the motion of your head. He'll probably be naturally rocking during the BJ, and you'll want to be able to control the tempo.

One of the better aspects of a blowjob is the incorporation of the tongue. While you're down there, swirl your tongue along the head of his penis, or use it to pressure his penis against the roof of your mouth.

Use your other hand to guide his hips. He'll probably be naturally rocking during the BJ, and you'll want to be able to control the tempo.

When it comes time for him to come, you have several options. Swallowing is probably the easiest way to go. Just take his penis all the way into your mouth, and start swallowing as soon as he starts to ejaculate. Doing that ensures you won't taste his come for very long.

Slight is fine too, but make sure there is a trash can or bathroom nearby so that you aren't running around with a mouth full of come looking for a receptacle.

If having any kind of body fluid in your mouth freaks you out, just take him out of your mouth right before he finishes and jerk him off onto your face or other body part. Men are visual creatures and generally enjoy that kind of spectacle.

Then, be prepared for your guy to fall asleep pretty quickly with a giant grin plastered on his face. Guys, you are not getting off that easily here. There is some blowjob etiquette that you absolutely need to follow unless you never want to get another BJ from your partner again.

First off, hygiene. If you were out in the blistering sun building homes for charity all day, awesome. But just as you wouldn't like getting covered in sweat, if you haven't taken a shower since then. Keep it clean.

In regards to public hair, some women like seeing a thick happy trail leading to a veritable forest. But just as you wouldn't like getting seen BJ page 10

Oral is a two-way street that should be frequently stroked upon in both directions.

— Caitlyn Harkins
Sex columnist
Celebrate the American Indian pow wow with MCC and AISA

Katelyn Sweigart
KATELYNSWEIGART.M@GMAIL.COM

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) and the American Indian Student Association (AISA) will hold a workshop that teaches the history, etiquette, dances and songs of a Native American community gathering called the pow wow on Thursday, Feb. 10.

Clayton Green, aerospace engineering sophomore, is a member of both the Lakota tribe and AISA, and will teach the workshop. He has previously taught for the Californian Indian Ho­biankian Association (AISA) will hold a workshop and the American Indian Student Association because it occurs before the pow wow.

"A pow wow is set up in a circle. A pow wow is where everyone gets in a circle and it's a very simple side-step and it goes to the beat of the drum," Green said. "It draws in the community." Another dance Green will discuss is called the grass dance, which is special because it occurs before the pow wow. Drummers would practice and dancers would go out to the circle before the rest of the participants.

"Their dance was to flatten the grass out," he said. Green will wear his full regalia, including moccasins, bells, angora leg pieces, a breastplate and a buesle. He'll also wear a roach headdress made of dyed porcupine fur with two feathers. The number of feathers conveys meaning: Green's headdress has two feathers which he said symbolizes that he is an able man inside the tribe.

"Just the outfit in itself is an art," Green said. "It looks gorgeous." Stephanie Cowherd, vice president of Cal Poly's American Indian Sciences and Engineering Society and a member of the San Carlos Apache tribe, said one can tell the differences between tribes by the beadwork on their regalia and the variety of dance moves emphasized. Cowherd said she feels the most connected with her culture when dancing.

"It's all about keeping in time with the drumbeat," she said. "They refer to it as the heartbeat, that's why it's super spiritual." Cowherd said she hopes people will become excited about learning and experiencing the Native American culture and that eventually AISA could hold weekly dance workshops.

"Show them that it's not that unfamiliar," she said. "You see people dancing all the time and this is just another form of dancing. I really hope that we are going to get people excited about Native American culture." Although Native American Heritage Month is in November, lead advocate and political science junior Elizabeth Graham works with AISA in the hopes that the event will be spread throughout the year, instead of focused all in one month.

"I hope that people come with an open mind and ready to learn," she said. "Enjoy yourselves and let loose and learn about a culture that they might not know much about." The workshop will be held in room 220 in the University Union from 6 to 8 p.m.
BJ
continued from page 8

Keep a hair stuck between your teeth, your partner won't either. If it's gnarly, at least trim it.

Don't guilt your partner into giving you a blowjob, especially if you rarely or never return the favor. Oral is a two-way street that should be frequently strolled upon in both directions.

While guiding your partner's head during oral seems like a natural response, don't force it too strongly or unexpectedly because your partner may accidentally bite down. Make sure your partner knows that you're enjoying what they are doing. Moans, groans and other tips from the dirty talk article published last week can easily be done during a blowjob.

And finally, when you hit the point of no return, let your partner know you are about to come. That way, they can be mentally and physically prepared to spit, swallow, let it fly on them or snowball it back to you.

I hope this gives some of you ideas for the next time you fool around with your partner. As always, say your please and thank you's, and always return the favor!

Rick Bentley
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Elton John turns toward younger audiences with 'Gnomeo and Juliet'

Elton John in bejeweled stacked shoes, garish glasses and colorful costumes will forever be a part of the 1970s. But these days, he presents a very different image — both professionally and personally.

"As I grow older, I'm much more content in my own skin," says John, who is dressed in black and wearing a pair of John Lennon-style sunglasses. The 63-year-old music icon is doing interviews at the Four Seasons Hotel for his upcoming animated film "Gnomeo & Juliet."

"I really don't have any more ambitions other than I just want to work and do excellent stuff," John says. "The element of surprise in this

business is what makes us love it. One day, you're sitting by the phone waiting to do something — or not doing anything — and then the next day you have the chance of a lifetime."

This is the third film produced by John and his partner of 17 years, David Furnish, through their Rocket

see Elton John, page 11
Elton John

continued from page 10

Productions. The animated take on "Romeo and Juliet," told through garden gnomes, was 11 years in the making. It finally hits theaters this Friday.

Originally, the movie was to have an eclectic soundtrack. Disney execs suggested John write new songs to mix with tunes he created with Bernie Taupin (his songwriting partner for 44 years).

John initially balked. He had never created an entire film soundtrack. But he felt better about the process after turning over the music decisions to director Kelly Asbury and music producer James Newton Howard.

"Although it's all our back catalog, and a couple of new songs, it doesn't feel overbearing like it's an Elton John movie. It feels like 'Gnomeo & Juliet' with some good music in it," John says. "I'm glad it turned out that way."

John learned a lot about making animated films while creating music for "The Lion King," especially about collaboration and compromise. He has to leave his ego at the door because songs get cut if they don't move along the story in a film or on stage.

John's main role on the production team was to use the clout he's earned through 38 gold records, six Grammy wins, a Tony and an Oscar. He would call each time a new boss took over at Disney to make sure they weren't going to drop the project.

Being Elton John also helped land voice talents, including Lady Gaga, his duet partner for the original tune "Hello, Hello." At first John says he had to "torment" Lady Gaga to get her to agree to sing the number, but he says the pair became friends when she performed at an AIDS benefit at his home.

"Because she is one of my new best friends and I love her to death, it was nice that she was able to do it, and it ended up working out brilliantly," John said. "The older I get, I think I'm singing better live. I really appreciate my performing so much better now that I am older. I don't take it for granted anymore," John says. "I relish and cherish it more than anything else because you never know what the performance is going to be."

John says the best part about his life today is the balance he feels when he comes off the stage, which comes from Furnish. In December, the couple adopted a child, Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John.

He has no idea where his life will go next, except that he won't try ballet or sing at Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding. John dryly suggests the royal couple will choose someone like Barry Manilow, who's "younger and better looking."

The only thing certain in his future is making a movie about his life. A script has already been written.

"Obviously it's not going to be your regular run-of-the-mill film," he says. "My life has been kind of crazy."

Upcoming children's film "Gnomeo and Juliet" will be the third movie produced by singer/songwriter Elton John.

He looks back and realizes those moments have helped change his life and make his career so joyful.

"It's the things that come along that completely surprise you," John says. "Things you never thought you would do."

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Jeremy Cutscher is a political science senior and Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

This past Sunday was the big day. No, not that football game between the Packers and the Falcons or whatever. It was a forum for conservative Fox News to feed off the incredible number of people watching the Super Bowl and an opportunity for Fox Sports to draw in an audience that may not normally tune in to football.

It was Bill O'Reilly's first question focused on Egypt, which is going through a very important time in its history. One Egyptian journalist called their "Berlin Wall moments" because she said this will be the moment where Egyptians oust a corrupt regime of political elites in favor of some form of representative democracy. Her point was that the protests in the Middle East.

First, I will say I actually enjoy watching O'Reilly's interviews for the most part. He does come from an ideological point of view different from mine, but he doesn't hide it and he's not ubiquitous. Also, he asks difficult questions, whether the person interviewed is liberal or conservative. Having said that, I do find his habit of asking loaded questions irritating (i.e. "A lot of Americans feel that you're a big government liberal who wants to intrude on their personal freedom. Now, do you deny that?"). As well as his proclivity to move on to the next topic so he always has the final word.

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Mubarak must go for Egypt to move forward

Barbara Shelly is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board.

In normal times (if such a thing even exists anymore in Egypt), tour buses creep through choking traffic into Cairo's Tahrir Square and unload passengers in front of the Egyptian Museum.

The past is the big draw here. Fifteen million tourists visited Egypt in 2010, according to the country's tourism ministry. They headed for the Pyramids of Giza and the ancient tombs of Luxor and the massive rock temples at Abu Simbel.

By the thousands, they poured into the Egyptian Museum, where soldiers and citizens now work to guard Egypt's most treasured antiquities from the epic upheaval taking place outside.

The nature of Egypt's tourism is that visitors go home knowing more about the country's ancient past than it's present. I say this because I traveled there three months ago, and returned with no inkling that Egypt was about to blow.

But then again, I don't think our Egyptian tour guide, a wise and passionate man named Amr, knew it either. He spoke to us at length about the frustrations building in Egypt, where grinding poverty and lack of opportunity persist even as the citizens watch the rest of the world progress. But he seemed fatalistic that anything could be done.

"In Egypt we cannot change that much," he said. "We need to change, but we can't. Amr is a professional, and he wasn't about to badmouth his president to a group of westerners. But, viewed in light of recent events, he seemed to be presaging the voices that now ring throughout the nation. Egypt can't change unless Hosni Mubarak goes.

The Obama administration surely didn't see the tectonic shift coming. As recently as last week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the governing regime "stable.

One team that had it right was the Egypt Working Group, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators and foreign policy analysts who have emphasized that Egypt was headed for political instability and urged the Obama administration to take a stronger stand in favor of liberty and human rights.

"The Egyptian government is paralyzed by the aging Mubarak's refusal to look beyond his own rule," two of the group's members, foreign policy experts Michele Dunne and Robert Kagan, wrote in The Washington Post in June. "And the Obama administration, in pursuit of an illusory stability, stands mute and passive as the predictable train wreck draws nearer."

It's always difficult to know who to listen to. But this seems like another instance of Americans — both the people and the government — knowing too little about the world, even the world we inevitably focuses on us.

Egyptian citizens are aware that for three decades U.S. leaders have propped up the Mubarak regime, even as he denied freedoms and economic opportunities to his people.

So now we watch helplessly on our television and computer screens as protests that began as thrilling and empowering turn brutal and frightening.

Mubarak has emerged as a reprehensible leader, willing to send thugs to brutalize citizens in order to get more of what they want at responsible prices. This can be achieved if we work together and focus on more ways to make the game safer and reduce unnecessary contact during the season and in the off-season.

The status quo means failing to recognize the many costs of financing, building, maintaining and operating stadiums. We need new stadiums in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Oakland and San Diego, and the ability for more league investment in new technology to improve service to fans in stadiums and at home.

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Let's make a deal: Commissioner calls for compromise

Roger Goodell is commissioner of the National Football League.

One of the best NFL seasons in history is now over. We salute NFL players for their extraordinary talent and we deeply appreciate the tremendous support of the fans.

The hard work to secure the next NFL season must now accelerate in earnest. We are just weeks from the expiration of our collective bargaining agreement. There has been enough rhetoric, litigation and other efforts beyond the negotiating table.

It is time for serious negotiations.

Rule No. 1: One side cannot get a good deal and the owners felt they got it handed to them. The current agreement expires on March 4. And I cannot emphasize enough the importance of reaching agreement by then. If we are as a league — the teams and players' union — fail to fulfill our shared responsibility to the fans and game, everyone will be worse off — players, teams and fans — starting in March.

This is an opportunity to create a better future for the NFL, to improve the game for our fans, and to expand the economic benefits for the players and teams.

The current deal does not serve the fans and we must get better in everything we do. The NFL clubs want to move forward, improve the system, and secure the future of the game for the benefit of players, fans and teams.

The status quo means no rookie wage scale and the continuation of outrageous sums paid to many unsigned rookies. In 2009, for example, NFL clubs contracted $1.2 billion to 256 drafted rookies with $55 million guaranteed before they had stepped on an NFL field. Instead, we will shift significant parts of that money to proven veterans and retired players.

The status quo means players continuing to keep 60 percent of available revenue, in good years or bad, no matter how the national economy or the economics of the league have changed. From 2001 to 2009, player compensation doubled and the teams combined a total of $34 billion to player costs. The NFL is healthy in many respects, but we do not have a healthy business model that can sustain growth.

Companies with far more revenue than the NFL have gone bankrupt because they mismanaged their costs and failed to address their problems before they became a crisis. The NFL has a track record over many decades of making good decisions that have led to unprecedented popularity. Negotiating a fair agreement will result in billions in pay and benefits to current players, improved benefits for retired players, and a sustainable business model for our teams.

The current deal does not secure the best possible future for the game, players, clubs and fans. The next few weeks must be used to negotiate with intensity and purpose so we can reach a fair agreement by March 4. If both sides compromise and give a little, everyone will get a lot, especially the fans.

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Wrestling
continued from page 16

less if they make a mistake, you believe in them and you're there for them no matter what, like a family would because you care about them." Azevedo has also tried to insure consistency in his family of wrestlers by promoting Mark Perry to co-head coach this year in preparation for next season when he will take over all head coaching duties.

That move, Azevedo hopes, will be one his lasting legacies at Cal Poly. The 26-year-old Perry could be at Cal Poly for the long run and is adamant his team will win championships, if the athletic department and donors support their cause financially.

"I would love to stay here. Why not? It would be great," Perry said. "I think it all comes down to the support. I want to win and I'm gonna win team national titles in my career as a coach. That's guaranteed, I know it's gonna happen." Azevedo backs Perry's vision and is confident that a stronger program will emerge under his leadership.

"He has a wrestling mind and he loves it," Azevedo said. "He's passionate, and he's very good at it." But before Perry takes full control, Azevedo has one more chance to boost a wrestler to the top of the podium, something a Cal Poly wrestler has not accomplished since 1976.

Boris Novachkov might be the best hope. He has a single tally mark in the loss column with two dual meets remaining until the Pac-10 Championships.

"He has an opportunity where he could definitely be a national champion," Azevedo said. "Just taking it one at a time and wrestling the way he is capable of wrestling, he could be the champ. That's exciting."

But last year Pami showed that a potential champion could come from nearly anywhere. The importance of bringing home a title for themselves and Azevedo is not lost on the wrestlers either.

"It would be great, it's been a long go at it and I hope we do it this year," Filip Novachkov said. "We are capable of doing it."

Rugby
continued from page 16

Dominic Ferri is one of only two freshmen chosen to compete in the sevens tournament. Sevens rugby is the "ultimate team game" and requires a different mentality than 15s, Ferri said.

"In sevens you must be more patient, more relaxed," Ferri said. "You're watching, waiting for the other team to make a mistake then capitalizing on it. The game moves quick and when you score it's not because of something you did, it's because of something your teammate did to help you."

For the Invitational Massman and Doukas have put together a mix of 12 players to compete in the tournament. All other team members will attend as well, but will play in matches unrelated to the sevens tournament.

Cal Poly has been included in what the coaches are deeming "the pool of death" — facing off against Eastern Washington, Bowling Green and Texas Tech. While it will be a tough competition for Cal Poly, the coaches are optimistic.

"If we can make it through our 'pool play' we can make it through any other match," Massman said. "It will be a true grit fight for the championship."

Winners of the LVI will qualify for the USA Sevens Collegiate Rugby Championship to be held in Philadelphia in June 2011. The championship match will broadcast on NBC.

"It would be awesome to be televised," Massman said. "It would be great exposure for the players, for the club, for the program. Plus, it would be a way for scouts to hear about Cal Poly players, since sevens rugby will be included in the 2013 Olympic games."

Malcolm also said he hopes Cal Poly wins the sevens tournament and makes it to the championship in June.

"Recognition for the school and program would be awesome, but come on — it would just be really cool to be on TV, too."
The Cal Poly club rugby team is gearing up for the Las Vegas Invitational, which takes place this Sunday, Feb. 13.

Victoria Zabel

Cal Poly club rugby team looks to make its mark in Las Vegas

Victoria Zabel

Worldwide, many consider rugby to be the second most popular sport only to soccer. In countries like New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland, rugby is the sport of choice and often invades a club-like following. In the United States, however, rugby does not reign supreme. The Cal Poly men’s club rugby team is working to change that.

According to Cal Poly rugby head coach and rugby team alumnus Nick Massman, rugby has the contact of football, the fast pace of basketball and the mentality of soccer. Cal Poly’s club rugby team has been around since the 1960s and has become more professional in time, Massman said.

Typically the Cal Poly rugby team carries more than 75 players. In regular play, 15 of those players are on the field, and seven players are on reserve. Physical contact is a hallmark of rugby, and consequently six to 12 players on the Cal Poly team are injured on any given day with ailments ranging from broken fingers and dislocated shoulders, to blown out knees and concussions.

Collin Malcolm, a senior on the rugby team, has played for Cal Poly for three years and said the physicality of the sport is what builds strong bonds among players.

"In rugby, the bond is different than in any other sport," Malcolm said. "You work out like crazy, you compete on the field together ... it's literally 'blood, sweat and tears' with your teammates. That's something you don't get from other sports."

Massman agrees, and said it takes a special breed of athlete to make it as a rugby player. Many players on the Cal Poly rugby team have participated in different sports, like football or wrestling; but choose to play only rugby.

"The commitment of rugby players at Cal Poly is greater than the commitment of other athletes," Massman said. "It's really a 'for love of the game' sort of scenario; we do what other sports teams do with a lot less resources."

Resources for club teams at Cal Poly are minimal, and most rugby coaches volunteer their time or are compensated with a small stipend, Massman said. The players pay their own way to tournaments and are responsible for their equipment, though some expenses are taken care of with donations and fundraising.

Massman does not necessarily want rugby to become a university-sponsored sport because he’s not overly concerned with “what we call (rugby),” just that it’s being played. Rather, he would love for the university to be more involved.

"We've got a good program, but sometimes it's a battle just to secure practice fields," Massman said. "As a club team, we are fifth in hierarchy of securing facilities — behind athletics, academic classes, intramurals and even the general student population."

University support with regards to admissions influence would be crucial in securing top rugby players for the Cal Poly program, Massman said. Massman gets hundreds of resumes and reels from athletes interested in his program every year, and having some sort of pull in the admissions process would make securing them as players much easier, he said.

National recognition for the program would also help the Cal Poly rugby team secure talented players and financial support. If Cal Wins its upcoming tournament, this would be a reality.

On Feb. 13, the Cal Poly rugby team will participate in the Las Vegas Invitational (LVI), a rugby tournament for all skill levels running in conjunction with the USA Sevens International Tournament and Festival.

Andy Droukas, the Cal Poly sevens coach, said while the field size is the same (as it is in 15s), the type of play in sevens is quite different.

"Sevens is faster and more open than 15s," Droukas said. "The players must be fast, quick to tackle and all-around skilled. Sevens rugby requires a high quality of player because the play is so physically demanding."

Cal Poly club rugby team looks to make its mark in Las Vegas

J.J. Jenkins

Azevedo leaves his mark on wrestling program

After a decade with the Mustangs, co-head coach John Azevedo is hanging up his wrestling shoes at the end of the 2011 season.

Yes, with the Pac-10 and NCAA Championships looming, Azevedo remains focused on his wrestlers and what they can accomplish in the next six weeks.

"We're definitely in the home stretch, so we're excited about these guys and what they are able to do," Azevedo said. "I'm looking forward to what God is going to have me do after this because I really don't know for sure yet."

With his wealth of experience, Azevedo has no shortage of options once he walks out of Cal Poly's wrestling room for the final time. Much of his career was spent guiding other wrestlers to championships of their own, but as a collegiate, he picked up four NCAA titles of his own at Cal State Fullerton.

In 1980, Azevedo accomplished what is impossible now. After winning the Division II title, he was invited to the Division I championships, as was customary. Only, Azevedo did not falter in the face of tougher competition. In fact, he won it all.

He might have gone on to wrestle in Moscow for the Olympic Games that same year, having made the Olympic team. But the United States boycotted and he was not able to wrestle for Olympic gold.

When asked if he believed that he truly was a medal contender, Azevedo chuckled and said, "I believe I was. But, belief is not all he has.

Azevedo would go on to defeat Olympic medalists and World Champions in other competitions, not to mention finishing fourth in the world just two years later.

Injuries derailed an attempt to wrestle in the 1984 Olympic Games and he began working his way up through the coaching ladder.

In 2001, after 12 years as head coach at Calvary Chapel High School, Azevedo invited to Cal Poly as an assistant. Two years later, he became head coach.

During his time in the top spot, Azevedo has coached at least one wrestler to an individual Pac-10 championship and to All-American status every year. Most recently, junior 141-pounder Boris Novachkov collected both honors in 2010.

Although, if there is one thing missing from Azevedo’s résumé, it’s an NCAA individual national championship. Twice, his heart was broken.

Chad Mendes compiled an undefeated record, but was not invited to the NCAA championships.

Last season, Chase Parni was the Cinderella of the NCAA tournament. As a seven, he was the lowest ranked wrestler to earn a spot in a title match after upsetting No. 2 and Sevens rugby requires a high quality of player because the play is so physically demanding."

He really cares about everyone on an individual level and wants to be able to lead them not only in their wrestling field, but by improving their life skills.” — Ryan Des Roches

Cal Poly only won.