

TODAY'S
WEATHER

High 70°

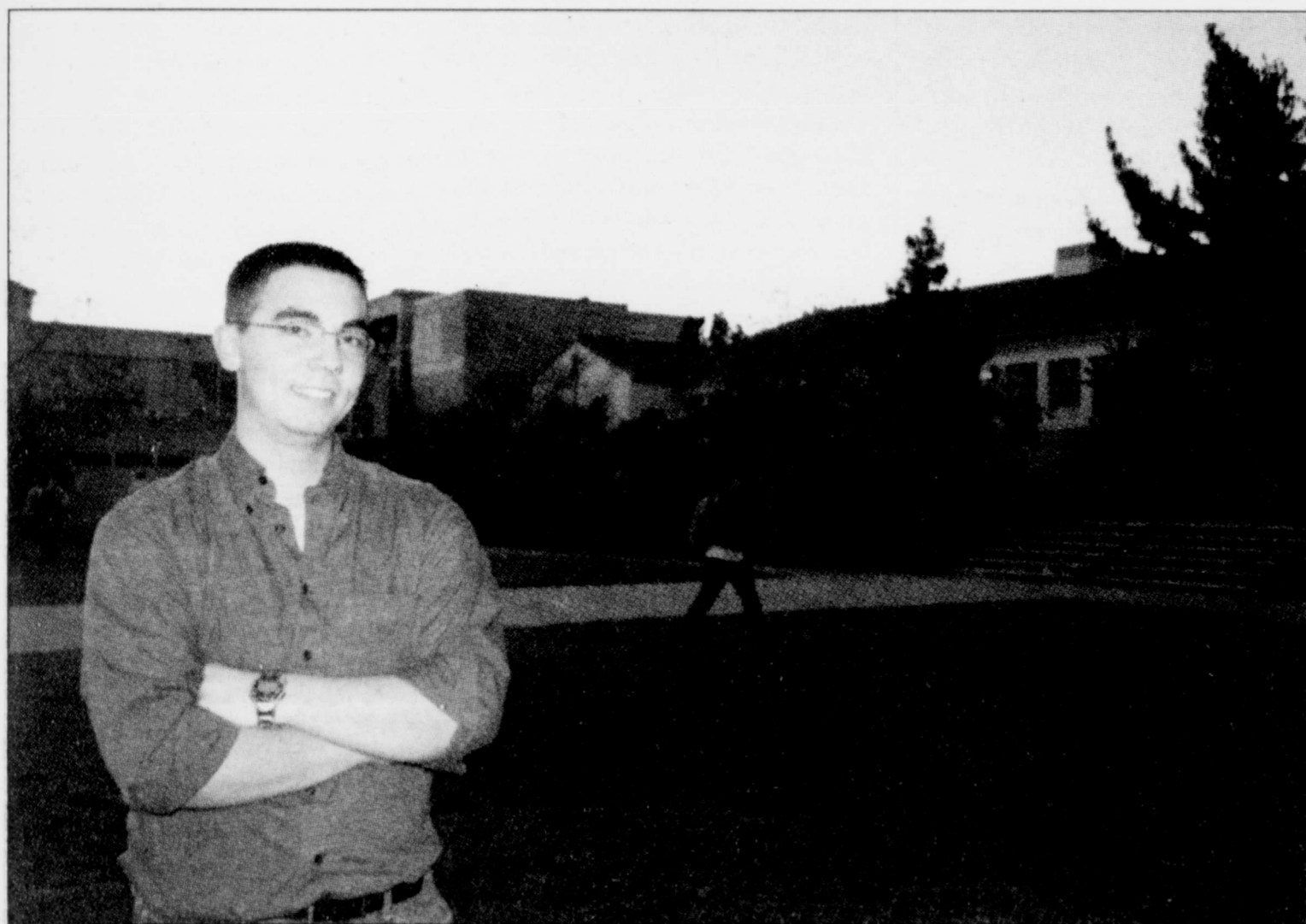
Low 51°

Looking back:
The fall sports
report

IN SPORTS, 16

Stay in from
the cold and
watch these fun
holiday flicks

IN DIVERSIONS, 9



TOM SANDERS MUSTANG DAILY

ASI president chosen
as a finalist for CSU
student trusteeChristopher Gunn
MUSTANG DAILY

The life of any architectural engineering senior is busy. The responsibilities of the Associated Students Inc. president is immense.

Tylor Middlestadt does both, and now he's ready to take on yet another task.

On Nov. 11, the California State Student Association (CSSA) submitted its second list of candidates for the position of CSU student trustee to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Middlestadt was on it, representing one of three students within the CSU system to be chosen as a CSU student trustee finalist.

"I am just proud to be considered

for the position," Middlestadt said. "It really is the primary student advocate in the CSU system."

As to why he thinks he was chosen, Middlestadt replied, "I have been consistently involved at a statewide level over the past two years and have demonstrated that I'm committed to serving the students and whatever it takes to get things done."

The trustee will be appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger, after the candidates are examined, for the 2005-07 term.

Despite the fact that Middlestadt is busy, he said that he will have enough time to dedicate to the position.

see Middlestadt, page 2

ASI President Tylor Middlestadt is one of three CSU students to be nominated to fill the vacant CSU student trustee position. The governor will make the final decision for the 2005-07 term.

House rejects bill to
freeze Pell GrantsErika Cervantes
THE GUARDIAN (UC-SAN DIEGO)

LA JOLLA, Calif. — The U.S. House of Representatives rejected a compromise spending bill that would have blocked future Pell Grant increases. The 224-209 vote on Nov. 17 included unanimous Democratic opposition, which was bolstered by votes from 22 Republicans and one Independent.

College groups opposed the bill specifically because it would have kept federal Pell Grants at a maximum \$4,050 per student, an amount that has remained stagnant despite inflation and tuition increases, according to Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.).

The bill would also have kept financial aid programs at their 2005 levels.

"At a time when we should be striving to make our students the most competitive in the world, this

[bill] would have cut our investment in education by \$59 million below current levels," Hoyer stated in a Nov. 18 press release. "It would have frozen Pell Grants for college students for the fourth year in a row, even as tuition and fees have increased by 46 percent since 2001."

Pell Grants provide need-based aid to more than 5 million low- and middle-income undergraduate students. Their families pay the costs of postsecondary education and vocational training, according to the Senate Appropriations Committee's Nov. 16 news release. However, funding for the federal grant has fallen far behind other aid production, according to UCSD Director of Financial Aid Vincent De Anda.

"The Pell Grants have lost substantial ground in real dollars over the last six years," De Anda said. "Federal Pell Grants are the weakest

"This bill cut our federal investment in education, it abandoned job training programs and it fails our public health system. This bill got what it deserved."

— REP. NANCY PELOSI
democratic minority leader

see Bill, page 2

Alumni brothers stitch
together shirt companyThao Tran
MUSTANG DAILY

Most people opening a business expect the financial burdens and hard work involved, but undermine responsibilities such as gathering equipment, collecting materials or hiring quality employees.

Co-founder of the Left Coast T-shirt Company James Whitaker said quality employees were one of the hardest assets to find.

"Most people who are talented and smart generally leave the area and work someplace else," Whitaker said.

Whitaker, a Cal Poly business graduate, co-founded The Left Coast T-shirt Company two and half years ago, but first launched Quikcondoms.com in 1999 with his brother David Whitaker.

James Whitaker was 19 years old and his brother David Whitaker was 20 years old when the two entrepreneurs established the online company.

MUSTANGDAILY
3-PART SERIES

This is the final part of a three-part series about successful businesses that were created by Cal Poly students.

LEFT COAST
T-SHIRT COMPANY

Quikcondoms.com is an online service company that sells condoms, packaged and mailed, to customers as far as China, Japan and England.

James Whitaker said condoms are the "perfect items to sell online."

"That company is awesome and it brings in more revenue

than the Left Coast T-shirt Company," the 26-year-old entrepreneur Whitaker said.

He added that he was lucky to have a computer-savvy brother to establish the site because "it would have cost us \$10,000 to make."

Whitaker graduated from the Cal Poly College of Business with a concentration he personally developed to advance his skills in entrepreneurship.

It took Whitaker seven years to graduate due to responsibilities and dedication for the online business.

"I was the worst student a college has ever seen. I'd read the newspaper in the back of class," he said. "It took me seven years to finish, seven years of tuition, four to eight units at a time. I sacrificed a fast college life for the business."

The Left Coast T-shirt Company opened thereafter. The brothers started out buying T-shirts from local competitors.

see Business, page 2

Middlestadt

continued from page 1

"It took me a while to apply," Middlestadt said, adding that it is a major responsibility and that he had to consider it carefully. There were 14 applicants for the position from which Middlestadt was chosen in addition to Andrew LaFlamme of CSU Stanislaus and Joaquin Ortega of San Diego State University. The student who is selected will serve for one and a half years in the place of current student trustee, Corey Jackson. Jackson will be moving on to become a voting trustee, according to a CSSA press release.

The position would normally be a two-year commitment, with one year of non-voting status and one year of voting status, Middlestadt said, adding that his is a special circumstance.

The student trustee according to Middlestadt, offers ideas and a student perspective to problems within the CSU system, while at the same time acting as a liaison between the CSU Board of Directors and the Student Board.

When asked what he would work towards in the position, Middlestadt cited work on the CSU sustainability policy, with which he is already involved in as well as improving the quality of the CSU education and not cutting programs.

"It would allow me to get deeper into the system to help manage the largest university system in the United States if not the world," Middlestadt said.

Bill

continued from page 1

link in the triumvirate of grant programs that I use to fund our students. Cal Grants and university grants have increased considerably every year, as fees increase, while Pell Grants have steadily decreased in real dollars."

A budget outline passed by the House Appropriations Committee in June would have increased the Pell Grant maximum to \$4,100, but the final spending bill, drafted by a conference committee between the House and Senate, opted for keeping the maximum at the same level as years before.

The decision to not increase grant funding makes access to higher education increasingly difficult for some students, according to De Anda.

"In my opinion, there appears to be a constant, measured withdrawal at the federal level from funding student financial aid," De Anda said. "If the feds did their part in increasing Pell Grants, students would not have to borrow

and work as much."

Republican opposition to the bill was largely due to a \$1 billion cut to pork-barrel initiatives, as well as fierce lobbying from college groups that oppose a cut to student loans that was passed by the House (see story on page 1).

It is unclear how the vote decision will affect college students and whether legislation that follows will allocate more funds to higher education. Though the future of the Pell Grant program remains unknown, Democrats celebrated the rejection of the bill as a "tremendous defeat" for Republicans, according to the minority leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

"It was defeated because it had the wrong priorities and did not address the needs of the American people," Pelosi stated in a press release. "This bill cut our federal investment in education, it abandoned job training programs and it fails our public health system. This bill got what it deserved."

Business

continued from page 1

The company now has a 6,000 square-foot warehouse of manufacturing space and expects to have a production capability of 10,000 shirts by the end of this year.

The company makes T-shirts for other businesses in the area such as Backstreet Bar and Grill, Mother's Tavern and Meathead Movers.

"In the next six months, we will be launching our T-shirt company online," James Whitaker said.

Job market expected to increase this year

Chloe Gotsis

THE DAILY FREE PRESS (BOSTON U.)

BOSTON — College students graduating next spring will enter an improving job market, according to the findings of a study conducted by researchers at Michigan State University, released earlier this month. According to the survey results, job opportunities for new college graduates are expected to increase 6 to 14 percent.

Phil Gardner, director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at MSU and author of the study, told The Daily Free Press he was encouraged by the results of the study. As long as the economy holds together, we will probably see these numbers this spring, he said.

"Beginning January 2001, the college-level market plummeted," he said. "There was a 20 percent increase in job opportunities last year. The increase this spring is building on a really good year last year. We are pretty confident that we are going to see a pretty good market."

Of the 878 companies nationwide that responded to the survey, 41 percent of companies said they will hire aggressively, while 51 percent of companies said they are uncertain about whom they plan to hire.

Many companies, especially in the Southeast, cited uncertainty about the long-term economic effect of this

year's active hurricane season as the reason why they cannot make firm projections about future hiring.

Gardner said that this is the 35th year that MSU has conducted this study on improvements in the job market, and it is his eighth year heading the survey.

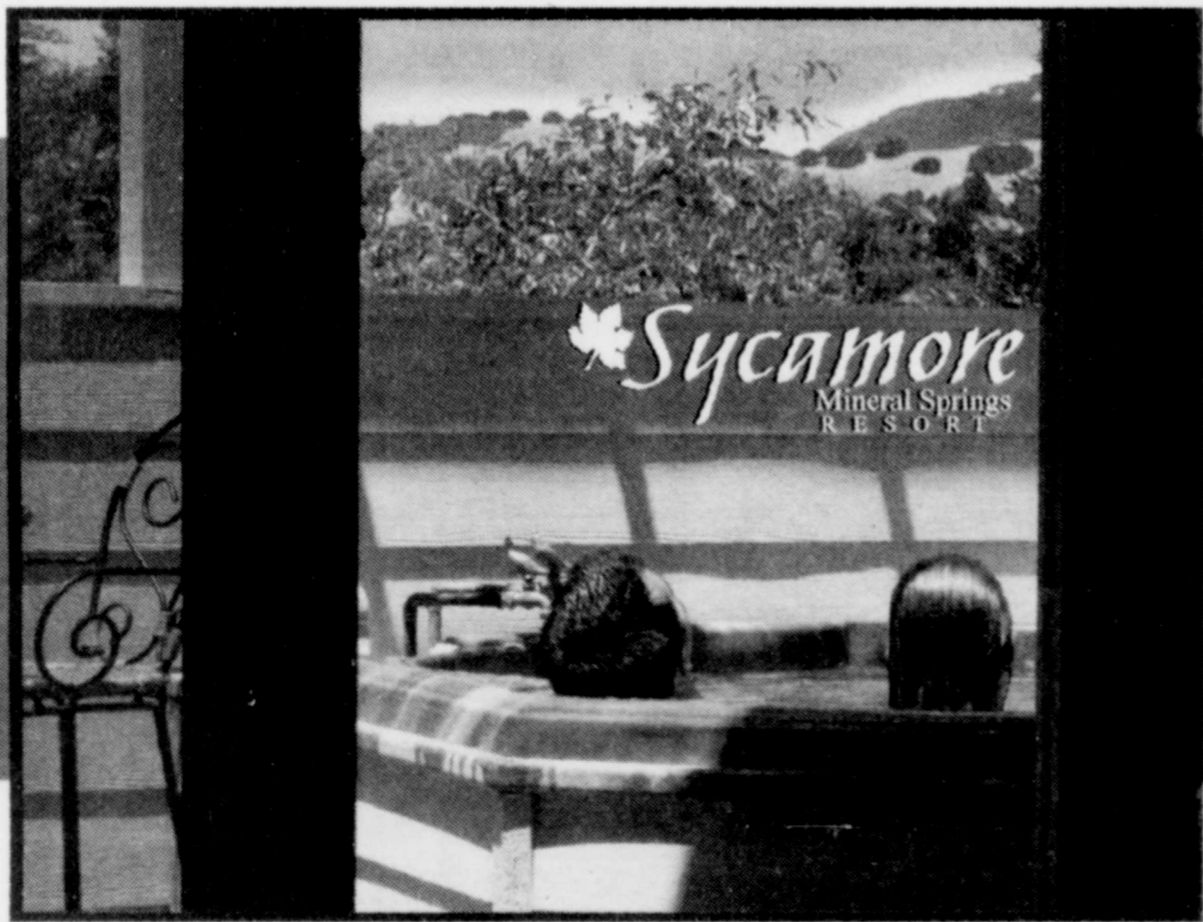
"It has been a long-term project that we do every year," he said.

Gardner said MSU is seeing a lot of sales-related positions coming in for graduating seniors.

The study also found that nearly 50 percent of employers are looking to recruit graduates to fill positions in sales and marketing, mainly in engineering, education and retail.

Boston is one of the cities recovering from several years of a sluggish economy that is expected to enjoy a strong labor market next year, Gardner said in an MSU press release. "While employers still want business and engineering graduates, employers who are seeking to fill consulting, research information, management and e-commerce positions want to talk to all majors, particularly liberal arts graduates who know how to do research," Gardner said in the release.

But some fields, including manufacturing, information services, education, health services and nonprofit organizations, are planning to lower their recruitment, according to the survey results.



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9		1	8		5
		6	4	7	
3	1	2	5	8	4
8					6
7	2	4	6	9	1
		7	6	3	
6		9	2		3
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Song: "Just to See You Smile" by Tim McGraw

Ice cream flavor: Mint chip

Day of the week: Friday

Musical: "Phantom of the Opera"

Reality show: "Making of the Band"

Holiday food: My mom's stuffing. I am very picky about stuffing

If You Could ...

— be any board game which one

would you be?

Mad Gabs because sometimes I say things wrong and people have to figure out what I really mean.

Other

— What is your biggest pet peeve?

When people put the toilet paper roll on backwards.

— What do you want for Christmas?

A snowboard.

Name: Liz Wright

Year: senior

Hometown: Clayton

Major: recreation administration

Briefs

PETALUMA (AP) — A weekend parade in Petaluma went woefully wrong over the weekend when a couple of ponies pulling a carriage crashed and bolted from the scene, dragging a woman down the street, police said.

A couple dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greeted children from the carriage earlier in the parade without incident Saturday. But as the carriage made its way across a small bridge, the two Shetland ponies crashed into a street sign pole.

The ponies then began to run out of control, dumping Nancy Turner, 59, from the carriage and dragging her behind.

MIAMI (AP) — The victims of the busiest and costliest Atlantic hurricane season on record may get some comfort when it finally ends Wednesday: no hurricane has been known to hit the U.S. from December to May. But as the deadly six-month season closes, tens of thousands of Americans are still dealing with the devastation from Hurricanes Wilma, Rita and Katrina, the nation's worst natural disaster in modern times. Thousands remain homeless along the Gulf Coast, where Katrina hit three months ago and plunged New Orleans into chaos usually seen in the Third World.

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Bombs exploded in two Bangladesh cities on Tuesday, killing at least eight people and injuring 66 in what appeared to be the latest attack by militant Muslims intent on imposing harsh Islamic law, officials said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but police investigators suspected the outlawed Islamic militant group Jumatul Mujahideen Bangladesh, blamed for similar attacks this year.

The explosions in the main port city of Chittagong and in the town of Gaizipur, just outside the capital, Dhaka, happened just before 9 a.m. police said.

Archaeologist thinks Bosnian hill may contain a first for Europe: a pyramid

Aida Cerkez-Robinson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VISOKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — With eyes trained to recognize pyramids hidden in the hills of El Salvador, Mexico and Peru, Semir Osmanagic has been drawn to the mound overlooking this central Bosnian town.

"It has all the elements: four perfectly shaped slopes pointing toward the cardinal points, a flat top and an entrance complex," he said, gazing at the hill and wondering what lies beneath.

No pyramids are known in Europe, and there is no evidence any ancient civilization there ever attempted to build one.

But Osmanagic, a Bosnian archaeologist who has spent the last 15 years studying the pyramids of Latin America, suspects there is one here in his Balkan homeland.

"We have already dug out stone blocks which I believe are covering the pyramid," he said. "We found a paved entrance plateau and discovered underground tunnels. You don't have to be an expert to realize what this is."

Osmanagic, 45, who now lives in Houston, is personally financing excavations at the Visocica hill, a 2,120-foot hump outside Visoko, a town about 20 miles northwest of

the capital, Sarajevo.

He learned about the hill in April from Senad Hodovic, director of a museum devoted to the history of Visoko, which is rich in Bronze Age and medieval artifacts. Hodovic had attended a promotion of an Osmanagic book about ancient civilizations and thought he would like to see Visoko's pyramid-shaped hill.

When the pair climbed the hill, the sweeping view revealed a second, smaller pyramid-shaped hill. It reminded Osmanagic of pairs of pyramids he has seen in Latin America that together create a gateway into a valley.

After obtaining a permit to research the site, which is protected by the state as a national monument, the first probes of the main hill were carried out this summer at six points. Nadja Nukic, a geologist involved in the research, said she found 15 anomalies suggesting that some layers of the hill were man-made.

"We found layers of what we call 'bad concrete,' a definitely unnatural mixture of gravel once used to form blocks with which this hill was covered," Osmanagic said.

"The hill was already there," he added. "Some ancient civilization just shaped it and then coated it with this primitive concrete — and there you have a pyramid."

Under Four ... or over budget?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

49% of Cal Poly students go to parties and bars less than once a week



message brought to you by Cal Poly students based on a survey of Cal Poly students

Stan Berenstain, who teamed with wife to create Berenstain Bears, dies at 82

Patrick Walters
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Stan Berenstain, who with his wife created the popular children's books about a loving furry family called the Berenstain Bears, has died.

He was 82 and lived in Bucks County in suburban Philadelphia. He died in Pennsylvania on Saturday, said Audra Boltion, a spokeswoman for HarperCollins Children's Books in New York.

In more than 200 books, the Berenstain Bears, written and illustrated by Stan and Jan Berenstain, helped children for 40 years cope with trips to the dentist, new babies in the family, eating junk food and cleaning their messy rooms.

The first Berenstain Bears book, "The Big Honey Hunt," was published in 1962. The couple developed the series with children's author Theodor Geisel — better known as Dr. Seuss, then head of children's publishing at Random House — with the goal of teaching children to read while entertaining them.

The books aimed to show children — and their parents — how to deal with a long list of childhood challenges, from finding ways to share and watch less TV, to overcoming the "gimmies" and not suc-

cumbing to the "in-crowd."

Despite changes in society in the last four decades, little has changed in "Bears Country."

"Kids still tell fibs and they mess up their rooms and they still throw tantrums in the supermarket," Stan Berenstain told The Associated Press in 2002. "Nobody gets shot. No violence. There are problems, but they're the kind of typical family problems everyone goes through."

Stan and Jan Berenstain began drawing together when they met at Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art in 1941.

The two married soon after he got out of World War II-era Army service and began submitting cartoons to magazines. They became contributors to The Saturday Evening Post, McCall's and Collier's.

In their early years of collaboration, the couple wrote the "All in the Family" cartoon series for McCall's and Good Housekeeping. In 1962, they began an association with Geisel, who suggested that they write for children.

In later years, their sons Leo and Michael joined them at writing and illustrating, and many of the recent books are credited collectively to "The Berenstains."

The characters are the subject of their own public television program, DVDs and a Christmas musical.

Reporters from around the world get first peek at panda cub

Jacob Adelman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Tai Shan, the giant panda cub, showed Tuesday that he is a quick study, prancing about in his den and otherwise mugging for hordes of camera crews in this city that's a veritable fishbowl for celebrities.

More than 100 reporters and camera crews from around the world got their first look at the fuzzy creature as they filed past his indoor enclosure in five different shifts. And the 4 1/2-month-old cub did not disappoint.

He chased his zoo keeper around, trying to nibble at the hems of her jeans. He pulled himself over the ledge of the habitat's rocky centerpiece. He tumbled onto his back, and he gummed at the bamboo stalks that will someday form his diet.

Cameras snapped wildly every time he did something especially cute.

"He's just a fantastic little bear," said Lisa Stevens, the zoo's assistant curator for pandas. "He's climbing all over his cage."

The news preview followed special viewing sessions for members of the zoo's support organization, Friends of the National Zoo, and other financial backers.

The cub gets his first visitors from the general public Dec. 8,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant panda cub Tai Shan, 4-months-old, plays inside his den at the Smithsonian National Zoo on Tuesday in Washington.

when those who nabbed tickets during the zoo's online ticket giveaway are permitted in the panda house. Those 13,000 tickets were exhausted about two hours after they became available last week.

Zoo officials announced that people could only use the tickets that they can prove they reserved themselves after the tickets started showing up on eBay for hundreds

of dollars apiece.

The visits aren't just planned to satisfy the public's demand to see the panda, officials said. They also give the cub a chance to get used to having people around.

Tai Shan now weighs 21 pounds, two pounds more than he did just one week ago. He won't be weaned off mother Mei Xiang's milk for another year or so.

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Virginia governor spares life of man set to become 1,000th person executed since 1976

Kristen Gelineau
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia's governor on Tuesday spared the life of a convicted killer who would have been the 1,000th person executed in the United States since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

Robin Lovitt's death sentence was commuted to life in prison without parole a little more than 24 hours before he was to be executed by injection Wednesday night for stabbing a man to death with a pair of scissors during a 1998 pool-hall robbery.

In granting clemency, Gov. Mark R. Warner noted that evidence from the trial had been improperly destroyed, depriving the defense of the opportunity to subject the material to the latest in DNA testing.

"The commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly," Warner said in a statement.

Warner, a Democrat, had never before granted clemency to a death row inmate during his four years in office. During that time, 11 men have been executed. Virginia is one of the most active death-penalty states, having executed 94 people since 1976.

The 1,000th execution is now scheduled for Friday in North Carolina, where Kenneth Lee Boyd is slated to die for killing his

estranged wife and her father.

The 999th execution since capital punishment resumed a generation ago took place Tuesday morning, when Ohio put to death John Hicks, who strangled his mother-in-law and suffocated his 5-year-old stepdaughter to cover up the crime.

Lovitt's lawyers, who include former independent counsel Kenneth Starr, and anti-death penalty advocates had argued that his life should be spared because a court clerk illegally destroyed the bloody scissors and other evidence, preventing DNA testing that they said could exonerate him.

Ashley Parrish, another of Lovitt's attorneys, called Warner's decision "entirely proper, given the extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Lovitt's case."

Lovitt was convicted in 1999 of murdering Clayton Dicks at an Arlington pool hall. Prosecutors said Dicks caught Lovitt prying open a cash register with the scissors, which police found in the woods between the pool hall and the home of Lovitt's cousin.

Lovitt admitted grabbing the cash box but insisted someone else killed Dicks. DNA tests on the scissors at the time of the trial were inconclusive. But more sophisticated DNA techniques are now available.

The governor, who is considered a possible Democratic presidential contender in 2008, said he was "acutely aware of the tragic loss experienced by the Dicks family."

Despite gas prices, ski industry optimistic for good season

Glenn Adams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Autumn snowfalls have delighted skiers from coast to coast, allowing many resorts to open earlier than usual and fostering optimism in the industry for a busy season.

And so far, there's no evidence that higher gasoline costs will keep skiers away. Some smaller resorts think they may even benefit from high prices at the pump by drawing local skiers who might otherwise drive to bigger mountains elsewhere.

Maine's preseason sales of season lift tickets and lodging are ahead of last year's, said Greg Sweetser of the Ski Maine Association.

"We don't want to be in denial on this thing (fuel prices)," said Sweetser, "but now, all indications are good."

This year, Maine's ski season began before Halloween, when exuberant skiers trudged to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain to take advantage of an early 40-inch dumping. Next door in New Hampshire, 4 feet of snow also enabled Wildcat Mountain to open several trails before Halloween.

Across the continent in Washington, Crystal Mountain opened Nov. 2 — the earliest since 1994 — thanks to snowfall of up to 3 feet in some areas. Loveland Ski Area in Colorado opened its season even earlier, on Oct. 14.

Bookings at major western ski resorts were up 6.6 percent from where they were Sept. 30 of last year, according to the Mountain Travel Research Project, which tracks the ski industry.

In some areas, such as Lake Tahoe, bookings are expected to rise sharply. The Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority predicts an 18 percent increase in the number of nights booked in local hotels this winter.

And nationally, the trend is positive, with records set in tickets sold by the ski industry in four out of the last five winter seasons in terms of numbers of tickets sold, says the National Ski Areas Association.

The outlook was similar elsewhere in New England as well as other regions of the country. Heather Atwell of the Vermont Ski Areas Association said that based on early bookings, "they're still fairly certain people are still going to come."

Just a month ago, the average retail price for regular gasoline nationally was \$2.60 per gallon, 81 cents per gallon more than it was last year at the same time, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

Prices since then have dipped, but where they will be when the ski season hits its peak is anyone's guess.

Cathi Jerome at Silver Mountain in Kellogg, in Idaho's Bitterroot Range, said gas prices remain a concern. That's why the resort in late October sent post cards to pass holders who hadn't renewed this year to ease their worries about fuel prices.

"Save Money! Save Gas!" say the cards, which tout easy access from major highways and preseason ticket discounts for the resort, which is about an hour's drive from Spokane, Wash.

With higher energy prices in the picture, the national group's Troy Hawks said ski areas will undoubtedly look for ways to economize on fuel used in operations.

American Skiing Company plans to use more than 500 low-energy

snowguns, which consume up to 75 percent less energy than standard equipment at its resorts. ASC's Chip Carey said it also pre-purchased a significant portion of eight-resort company's energy needs, including diesel, propane and heating oil.

At Maine's Sugarloaf, employees Troy Haskell and Chris Hull were busy installing snowmaking equipment in early November, including some that use less energy. But the natural snow provided plenty for skiers.

"It's the best skiing I've ever had in my life," said Haskell.

Other ski areas, like Idaho's Silver Mountain, have launched promotions that take price rises into account. But no one's panicking, said Hawks.

Ski areas tend to worry more about snow droughts, bitter cold and Saturday blizzards that keep skiers off the mountains, said Sweetser.

And he noted that higher fuel prices may bring about a twist: added business for ski areas that are closer to big population centers.

Shawnee Peak in Bridgton, Maine, could benefit in that way by diverting traffic from the larger areas to the north. Shawnee, a mid-size ski area, has a marketing strategy that uses high gasoline prices to bring in skiers.

Last season, Shawnee started giving skiers who produced gas receipts from targeted areas \$10 discounts on their lift tickets, said Marketing Director Melissa Rock. The program will continue this season, said Rock.

To encourage carpooling, Shawnee also offers "Carload Days" on non-holiday Mondays when everyone in a car gets a lift ticket for the price of one: \$59.

Skiers and boarders will be looking for others with room to spare in their vehicles to economize on fuel. An Internet-based business, AlterNetRides.com, is based on that very idea.

AlterNetRides, which organizes carpools to ski areas, has already signed on at least a half-dozen ski areas from Boreal Mountain Resort in California to Waterville Valley in New Hampshire. The business set up 1,000 rides in its first three years, but President Mark Evanoff expects to exceed that number this season alone because of the high fuel prices.

Hard core skiers and snowboarders will be drawn by new attractions around the country, including those under the heading of extreme.

Mount Bohemia in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which boasts extreme skiing challenges and is known for its backcountry glade runs, has no place for novices. "Warning," says a red sign on Bohemia's Web site. "No beginners allowed."

Boreal will open northern California's only all-mountain terrain park this season, featuring a 450-foot superpipe. Echo Mountain, west of Denver in Colorado, is reopening as a terrain park exclusively, with 40 features or "as many as we can fit on the mountain," said spokesman Chris Harris. Previously a locals' mountain known as Squaw Pass, it closed in 1974.

At the same time, many destination resorts are taming their trails a bit with more grooming and fewer obstructions to keep the baby boomers, whose reflexes aren't what they used to be, coming back.

Bush says he will crack down on illegal immigrants while expanding work visas

Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Ariz. — President Bush said Monday he wants to crack down on those who enter the country illegally but also give out more visas to foreigners with jobs, a dual plan he hopes will appease the social conservatives and business leaders who are his core supporters.

"The American people should not have to choose between a welcoming society and a lawful society," Bush said from the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base about an hour from the Mexican border. "We can have both at the same time."

The touchy issue of immigration has divided lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he will bring up the issue early next year. The House hopes to tackle some border security measures before adjourning for the year, but little time remains and it has other issues on its plate.

Bush also pitches his plan in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday. Texas and Arizona are home to GOP senators who have been vocal on the need to change immigration laws but who aren't entirely sold on Bush's vision.

The idea for temporary worker visas has been especially divisive and is stalled in Congress. Bush said he does not support amnesty for illegal immigrants, but he does want to give workers a way to earn an honest living doing jobs that other Americans are unwilling to do and issue more green cards.

"Listen, there's a lot of opinions on this proposal," Bush said. "I understand that, but people in this debate must recognize that we will not be able to effectively enforce our immigration laws until we create a temporary worker program."

Also Monday in Phoenix, Bush sought to counter calls by some in Congress for a timetable for withdrawing U.S. forces. "We will stay



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters hold a banner on the Mexican side of the U.S. border which reads: "Our struggle is a war against imperialism," as President Bush's motorcade passed by across the Rio Grande River on Tuesday.

until the job is done, not a day longer. We will get the job done in Iraq," Bush told 1,300 people at a fund-raiser that was expected to bring in \$1.4 million for Republican Sen. Jon Kyl's re-election campaign.

The president also promoted his plans to make tax cuts permanent, praised his Supreme Court picks — new Chief Justice John Roberts and associate justice nominee Samuel Alito — and pitched his immigration and border security proposals.

Earlier in Tucson, Bush spoke to a supportive audience that included border patrol agents and military troops. He was flanked by two black Customs and Border Protection helicopters and giant green and yellow signs that said "Protecting America's Borders."

He said he is providing border agents with cutting-edge technology like overhead surveillance drones and infrared cameras, while at the same time constructing simple physical barriers to entry.


The president's push on border security and immigration comes a month after Bush signed a \$32 bil-

lion homeland security bill for 2006 that contains large increases for border protection, including 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents.

Bush has been urging Congress to act on a guest worker program for more than a year. Under his plan, undocumented immigrants would be allowed to get three-year work visas. They could extend that for an additional three years, but would then have to return to their home countries for a year to apply for a new work permit.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., along with Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has proposed providing illegal immigrants in the United States visas for up to six years. After that, they must either leave the United States or be in the pipeline for a green card, which indicates lawful permanent residency.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Kyl support an alternative proposal that would require illegal immigrants to return to their home country to apply for a temporary worker program.


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FCC chair to cable and satellite TV: Clean up your act or else

Jennifer C. Kerr
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sexed-up, profanity-laced shows on cable and satellite TV should be for adult eyes only, and providers must do more to shield children or could find themselves facing indecency fines, the nation's top communications regulator says.

"Parents need better and more tools to help them navigate the entertainment waters, particularly on cable and satellite TV," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin told Congress on Tuesday.

Martin suggested several options, including a "family-friendly" tier of channels that would offer shows suitable for kids, such as the programs shown on the Nickelodeon channel.

He also said cable and satellite providers could consider letting consumers pay for a bundle of channels that they could choose themselves — an "a la carte" pricing system.

If providers don't find a way to police smut on television, Martin said, federal decency standards should be considered.

"You can always turn the television off and of course block the channels you don't want," he said, "but why should you have to?"

Martin spoke at an all-day

forum on indecency before the Senate Commerce Committee. It included more than 20 entertainment industry, government and public interest leaders with differing views on whether broadcast networks, cable and satellite companies need more regulation.

Cable and satellite representatives defended their operations, and said they've been working to help educate parents on the tools the companies offer to block unwanted programming. They also said "a la carte" pricing would drive up costs for equipment, customer service and marketing — charges that would likely be passed to subscribers.

Others at the forum, such as the Christian Coalition, urged Congress to increase the fines against indecency on the airwaves from the current \$32,500 maximum penalty per violation to \$500,000.

Since the Janet Jackson "breast-exposure" at the Super Bowl nearly two years ago, indecency foes have turned up the pressure on Congress to do more to cleanse the airwaves. But efforts to hike fines have so far failed.

Even so, Committee Co-Chair Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, told the forum that lawmakers want to see the industry help protect children

from indecent and violent programming.

"If you don't come up with an answer, we will," he said.

Congress is considering several bills that would boost fines.

Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said some critics have complained the bills don't go far enough and that decency standards should be expanded to cover cable and satellite.

Currently, obscenity and indecency standards apply only to over-the-air broadcasters. Congress would need to give the FCC the authority to police cable and satellite programming.

Kyle McSlarrow, head of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association said the government doesn't need to intervene, and that there's more room for self regulation.

Some lawmakers also complained about the TV ratings system and said it was too confusing for parents. But broadcasters said they weren't ready to give up on the V-chip and the ratings system it uses to help identify programs with sex, violence or crude language.

Jack Valenti, the former president of the Motion Picture Association of America, cautioned lawmakers to let the industry come up with a solution. Otherwise, he said, "you begin to torment and torture the First Amendment."

CALIFORNIA WINE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The next big thing for the wine industry is small, screw-capped and shatterproof, say marketers of new single-serve plastic bottles beginning to appear on supermarket shelves.

Cal Farm: Vintners say less is more in search for better bottle

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. — The next big thing for the wine industry could be small, screw-capped and shatterproof.

Single-serve plastic bottles are starting to show up on supermarket shelves in a bid to win over new customers by moving wine beyond posh white-tablecloth dinners to the informal ease of a picnic.

If one of these green bottles should accidentally fall, no problem.

"There's a more active lifestyle people are living, they'd like wine to be

"The consumer research that we did indicated that even though people were looking at a smaller size, they still wanted a package that looked sophisticated."

— TOM SLONE
brand manager for Stone Cellars by Beringer

a part of it and it just was not convenient in the 750 milliliter typical wine glass bottle where you have to bring corkscrews, glasses, etc.," says Tom Slone, brand manager for Stone Cellars by Beringer, which has been selling four-packs of unbreakable, single-serve bottles since this summer.

The new, 187 milliliter (about six fluid ounces) bottles are part of a larger trend in the industry that includes boxed wine, cans and carton-type packages.

"People, I think, are now into casual enjoyment of fine products," says Wilfred Wong, cellar master for Beverages & More, who sees the move toward unconventional containers starting with the success of premium boxed products such as Black Box Wines.

There isn't much sales data available yet on the plastic bottles, but the category in general, which includes glass bottles already being offered on planes and in delis and supermarkets, has been doing well. Sales of wine in 187 milliliter containers — mostly glass — totaled nearly \$68 million for the 52 weeks ending Oct. 22, up about 22 percent from the year before, according to supermarket, drug and liquor store sales data from ACNielsen.

Overall, domestic wine sales were up about 9 percent to \$3.9 billion, good news for the industry which has battled a grape glut in recent years.

The Stone Cellars mini bottles are

made of a durable plastic designed to be tasteless and odorless. They look like regular bottles in miniature, right down to the little indentation on the bottom known as a "punt," and are filled with the same fruit-forward, award-winning varietals — chardonnay, pinot grigio, merlot and cabernet sauvignon — that Stone Cellars puts in its full-sized glass bottles. Four-packs cost about \$8.

"The consumer research that we did indicated that even though people were looking at a smaller size, they wanted a package that looked sophisticated," says Slone.

"We didn't do anything trendy or quirky."

That won over people like David Joachim, grill master for the American Tailgaters Association, who likes not having to worry about broken glass but isn't ready to give up tradition entirely.

"The wine bottle itself is so iconic that when you put wine in something else it ruins the experience for some reason," he says.

Another entrant in the unbreakable bottles market is Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp., which is selling Fetzer Vineyards Valley Oaks merlot, chardonnay and white zinfandel in the mini bottles as well as Virgin Vines, a joint venture with British tycoon Richard Branson.

The Virgin Vines singles will also be served on Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways, where the much-lighter plastic bottles carry a freight bonus.

Robert Smiley, a University of California, Davis, professor, who follows the wine industry sees the general lightening up as an interesting direction for a business that "has a lot to learn from the beer industry in terms of convenience."

But can small, plastic bottles that open with a twist coexist with the glass act of \$100-plus vintage wines? No reason why not, says Smiley.

"You've got different people and they've got different preferences," he says. "Convenience vs. tradition and high expectations vs. opening up a 187 milliliter when you're out on a picnic."



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Art, schmart

The best thing in the world is not love, sex or respect. It doesn't involve making friends, influencing people, or rising above an insurmountable foe. The best thing is simple and easily attainable: a magical entity that will earn you all of the above, and will also trick you into believing you are smart.

This, of course, is sounding knowledgeable about art — and that, of course, is the ability to parrot certain words out of your delicately sneering mouth. Nothing will spike your quasi-intellectual quota faster, or match your shoes better. Today, anything can be art, so it's best to be prepared with a crisp and cosmopolitan insight — if you're louder than the other mimosa-wielding automatons in the gallery, people will notice. We're rearing up for the bright-lights-big-city "real world" nowadays, as few people fail to remind us — so we'd better get prepared.

For your future reference and mine, I've compiled a list of several influential artistic movements, as well as some horrifying overgeneralizations. It's the next-best thing to actually "going to school" and "learning something" about art, and it doesn't require prolonged exposure to berets. Mazel tov!

Renaissance: If you want to stare at a naked baby Jesus and not be immediately damned for eternity, this is your bag. This 13th-century movement emphasized symmetry and single-focus order; Raphael was in the forefront and painted these religious representations in the Vatican. (This was several years before he became the red Ninja Turtle and got a cool stabby weapon.) Italians were all over this movement. Side note: Geniuses were Italian, and Italians eat pasta, and pasta has carbs, so genius equals carbs. Suck on that, Atkins.

Illusionism: MTV for the 15th century. Artists tried to trick the viewer into believing false objects were real, incorporating 3D techniques on flat surfaces. Many cathedral ceilings were adorned with convincing clouds, roofs and nudie cherubs. The artists (especially Andrea Mantegna and Correggio) were really, suspiciously good at it; they inspired quadratura or larger-scale fake-outs that were confused with the buildings they were painted on. Illusionism is the movement to blame if you've ever walked into a wall — and like MTV, it was later modified to exclude fat chicks.



STACEY ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Orientalism: This 19th-century attempted to portray the Middle East as primitive and excessively luxurious, with harems and elegantly spouting blood in all directions. The bastardized visual was popular in France and Britain because it promoted imperialism and pushed to conquer these savages "for their own good." Eugene Delacroix was a star in the effort; he painted bleak orgiastic scenes in which the Orientals managed to look white. (Sneaky brutes!) This movement went on to directly influence Impressionism, as well as George W. Bush.

Impressionism: Your contacts aren't dirty; they really painted it that way. In the 19th century, artists started focusing on the subtle

effects of water, light, etc. Accuracy was not the intent; rather, the style hinted at certain characteristics through varied brushstrokes.

"Impressionist" was first used as an insult, before Monet and Renoir worked toward the more modern definition of "your girlfriend's only non-Colin Farrell poster." This was a spontaneous type of art.

Impressionism is like R. Kelly — leaky, unable to recognize irony, and hiding behind a blurred veil of reality. But Impressionism doesn't make excruciating twenty-hour-long music videos about hillbilly love triangles and metaphorical homosexuality. Impressionism does not pull out its gun every two seconds, either.

Abstract Expressionism: This movement explains why you will never be happy. Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and others threw paint splashes on canvas and drew big monochromatic squares. The irreverent style, big around 1940s-50s, concentrated on the physical effort of painting and was also called "Action Painting." Psychologist Carl Jung was a big influence because he explored archetypes in society. This is the only instance where a thick black line in a big red box is a breathtaking, billion-dollar statement. Be jealous — you did the

same thing in third grade and look where you ended up.

Post-modernism: This word gets thrown in the air more than a sorority girl's legs, yet there is no universal definition for it. Being an expert on nothing, including sorority girls, I'm leaning on "art for art's sake" — that is, this recent major movement makes statements on art itself, and questions the disposability of it. Andy Warhol famously drew the diptyche, or mass colorized replication of Marilyn Monroe to note how a celebrity becomes immortalized through their own image, and lost behind it.

Another famous postmodernist artist is Jeff Koons, who frames everyday objects because, dammit, function is artistic too. This movement is good for people who want to be ironic or have enough pot for a convincing attempt. It will also ruin your life, because you'll never be able to look at a light switch the same way again.

Minimalism: Sucks.

Stacey Anderson is a journalism and music senior, KCPR DJ and failed gallerina. Catch her Sundays 7 to 8 p.m., and Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m. on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at standers@calpoly.edu.

'A Charlie Brown Christmas' leads holiday TV pack

Lynn Elber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Good grief, network executives said when they first saw Charles Schulz's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

"They thought it was too slow," executive producer Lee Mendelson recalls being told by the powers-that-were at CBS in 1965.

But the special was an instant hit with critics and audiences. Forty years later, its ruminations on the spirit of Christmas, backed by a lilting jazz score by Vince Guaraldi, remain fresh and affecting.

Schulz, the creator of Charlie Brown and the rest of the "Peanuts" comic strip gang, never doubted that the program he'd written was good, Mendelson said. Schulz, who died in 2000, considered it his favorite of the "Peanuts" TV specials.

"I guess you can have an animated scene where you have a kid read from the Bible," Mendelson said of the show, in which Charlie is depressed by the commercialization of Christmas until he is reminded of its unchanged meaning.

The sermon falls to Linus. "I can tell you what Christmas is about," he says, recounting the story of Christ's birth and ending with, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill toward men."

"A Charlie Brown Christmas," directed by animator Bill Melendez, airs 8 p.m. Dec. 6, on ABC. It's paired with "Charlie Brown Christmas Tales," based on Schulz's work and featuring each of the Peanuts characters, including Snoopy, in individual vignettes.

Among the other old favorites and newcomers marking the holiday season (all times EST, check local listings for PBS programs);

ANIMATION

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," 8 p.m. today, CBS. A shy reindeer battles the Abominable Snowmonster and finds that his vibrantly colored nose makes him a hero, not a misfit, when Santa Claus needs a guiding light.

"The Happy Elf," 8 p.m. Friday, NBC. Harry Connick lends his voice and original songs to the story of Eubie the elf, who must rescue the unhappy town of Bluesville. The voices of Carol Kane, Lewis Black, Mickey Rooney and Rob Paulsen also are featured.

"Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," 8 p.m. Friday, ABC. Fred Astaire was the narrator for this 1970 tale about how Kris Kringle (Mickey Rooney) overcomes a ban on toys in his native Sombertown and ends up becoming Santa Claus, the world's biggest toy distributor.

"I Want a Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown!" 8 p.m. Dec. 9, ABC. Rerun, younger brother of Linus and Lucy, gets more than he bargained for when Snoopy the beagle invites his brother, Spike, for a visit.

"Rugrats Chanukah Special," 2 p.m. Dec. 17, Nickelodeon. Grandpa Boris and his old rival, Shlomo, perform in a play about the holiday's meaning and, with the help of the babies, find a way to reconcile.

"Frosty the Snowman," 8 p.m. Dec. 17, CBS. Jimmy Durante narrated the tale of the brave snowman pursued by evil Professor Hinkle on a mission to rescue the North Pole. Followed at 8:30 p.m. by "Frosty Returns," narrated by Jonathan Winters.

"A Rugrats Kwanzaa," 8:30 p.m. Dec. 26, Nickelodeon. When Aunt T. arrives to celebrate the Kwanzaa holiday with the Carmichaels, little Susie learns what it means to honor "the legacy of our great people," and what greatness comes from.

"Arthur's Perfect Christmas," 8 p.m. Dec. 24,

PBS. Elwood City is abuzz with plans for the perfect holiday, whether Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, but everything doesn't go as planned for Arthur, D.W. and their family and friends.

"Chanukah Stories," airing on PBS stations in December (check local listings). Two children's books, "The Tie Man's Miracle" and "Moishe's Miracle," were adapted for this special, featuring Jami Gertz and Bob Saget.

MOVIES

"Recipe for a Perfect Christmas," 9 p.m., Monday, Lifetime Television. Bobby Cannavale, Christine Baranski and Carly Pope star in a romantic comedy about a fledgling food critic whose scheme involving her mom and a restaurant owner doesn't go according to plan.

"It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Dec. 10, and 8 p.m. Dec. 24, NBC. Frank Capra's classic 1946 fantasy about troubled George Bailey (James Stewart) and his enlightening angel, Clarence (Henry Travers).

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," 8:30 p.m. Dec. 10, ABC. Jim Carrey stars as the unpopular Grinch in the film based on the Dr. Seuss book. Christine Baranski and Jeffrey Tambor co-star.

"The Santa Clause," 8 p.m. Dec. 15, ABC. Tim Allen stars as a man who becomes the unwilling successor to Santa Claus and has to quickly learn the ropes. Wendy Crewson, David Krumholtz and Peter Boyle co-star.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," 8 p.m. Dec. 18, NBC. Clark Griswold's bad luck continues to dog him at Christmas, but at least his holiday bonus is coming. Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo star.

"I'll Be Home for Christmas," 9 p.m. Dec. 24, ABC. College student Jake (Jonathan Taylor Thomas) is on a homeward holiday trek, deter-

mined to win back his girlfriend and get a '57 Porsche, to boot.

STOCKING STUFFERS

"Christmas in Rockefeller Center," 8 p.m. today, NBC. A celebration of the lighting of the famous New York tree, with music by Rod Stewart, Sheryl Crow, Carrie Underwood, Brian Wilson, the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Earth, Wind & Fire.

"Entertainment Weekly's Best Holiday Movies," 10:15 p.m. Sunday, AMC. Actor French Stewart hosts this rundown of yuletide movie favorites.

"Creative Juice for the Holidays," 10 p.m. Monday, DIY Network. Hosts Cathie Filian and Steve Piacenza demonstrate affordable holiday craft projects, including turning foam snowballs into snowmen and tomato wire cages into Christmas trees.

"The White House Christmas 2005," 8 p.m. Dec. 7, HGTV. The special, with host Gail O'Neill, takes viewers into the holiday planning process for the White House and includes first lady Laura Bush's discussion of her choice for this year's theme.

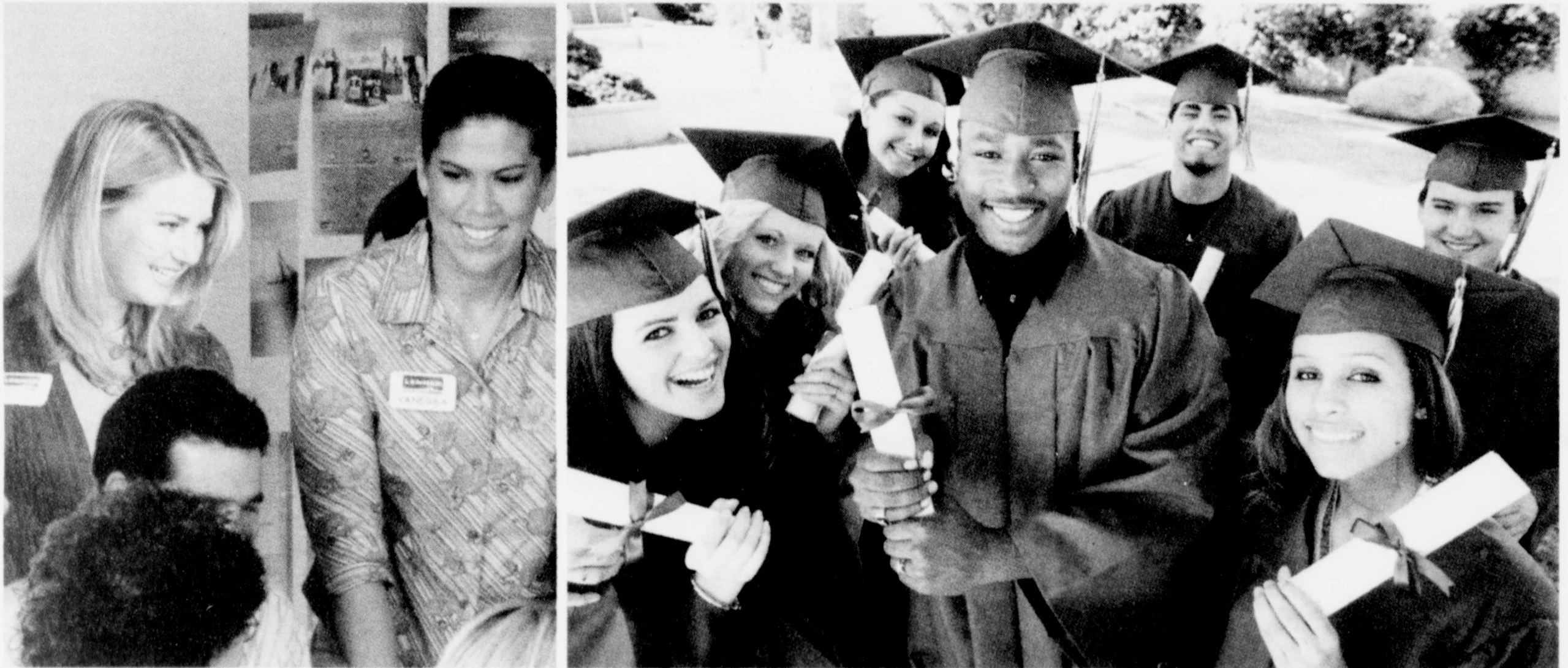
"Christmas in Washington," 8 p.m. Dec. 14, TNT. Rascal Flatts, Carrie Underwood and Ciara will perform at the annual event attended by the president, first lady and other prominent Washingtonians. Phil McGraw ("Dr. Phil") and his wife, Robin, are the hosts.

"L.A. Holiday Celebration," 10 p.m. Dec. 15, PBS. A multicultural program of music and dance with performers of African, Asian, European, Middle Eastern and Hispanic backgrounds marking the season. Elayne Boosler hosts.

"Soul Train Christmas Special," 8 p.m. Dec.

see Television, page 10

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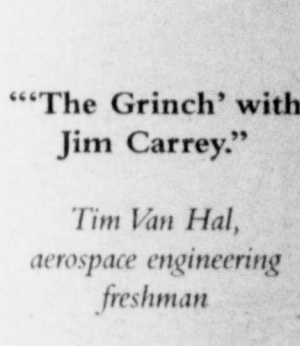
Mustangs on the run

What's your favorite holiday movie?



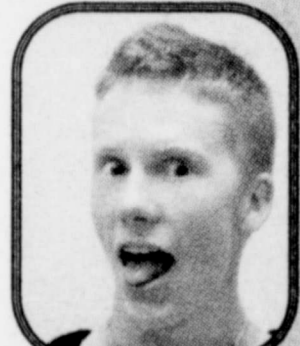
"The Rudolf" one with all the clay animation."

Megan Kosaka, architecture senior



"The Grinch" with Jim Carrey."

Tim Van Hal, aerospace engineering freshman



"A Christmas Story."

Kevan Turner, materials engineering freshman

— COMPILED BY BRENNAN ANGEL

Five fun flicks for the holidays

Whether they're a part of your movie collection or not, these flicks are holiday staples that'll never get old

Tonya Strickland
MUSTANG DAILY

With three weeks off for winter break, students could go crazy with screaming little cousins and homemade sweaters or knitted gifts. Luckily these five holiday films can be found at the corner rental store or quite possibly on local programming during the wee hours of the morning when chocolate fudge sugar-highs are in full force.

"Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: Christmas Classics Collection"

The cute nasally reindeer voice of Rudy, the jolly narrator, and Yukon Cornelius with his catchy melody "Silver and Gold" will keep you whistling until February. Let's not forget dorky little Hermy and his love for dentistry and the island of misfit toys! 1964 was the best year ever for the sole reason of this movie's creation.



COURTESY PHOTOS

In the name of childhood nostalgia, it is OK to wrestle the remote from Grandpa's hand in desperate search for Rudolph and his blinking nose, despite being old enough to watch "Bad Santa."

Let's face it; the "Jolly" would be taken out of the "Holly Jolly" this Christmas if it weren't for the characters of this classic film in all their wonderful puppetry splendor.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

Oh, that Clark Griswold, such the hallmark of Christmas joys. The way he lights up the outside of his house like the sun, how he falls off his ladder again and again as if straight out of an "America's Funniest Home Video," how he's constantly pestered by his crazy relatives armed with snotty-nosed children and most memorably, how he finds the family fur-ball as a fried shisca-cat are all the gift-wrapped bad luck moments that have the power to crack any bah-humbegger.

And who doesn't want to electrify their holiday cheer with a good belly-laugh at the sight of a dim-witted suburbanite? Sure, there's "It's a Wonderful



Life" and "Miracle on 34th St." but when Clark's goofy neighbor sees him trying to fit a mammoth-sized Christmas tree through his front door and asks, "Hey Griswold. Where do you think you're gonna put a tree that big?" and Clark replies with, "Bend over and I'll show you," no amount tingle-giving, warm-hearted cinematic competition can outshine this film.

"Jack Frost"

Oh wait, this film belongs on the "I-can't-believe-someone-actually-came-up-with-a-plot-this-stupid" top five list. Oh well.

With a PG rating, one might wonder if this film could be classified under another category ... maybe if a parallel to the R rating existed, not restricting some viewers on the ethic of offensive material such as sex and drugs but of offensively-mind-dumbing material such as dead fathers who comeback to life AS SNOWMEN.

Michael Keaton stars as Jack Frost, a not-so-there father who keeps missing out on his son's life. Unfortunately, the dad dies. What's even more unfortunate



is that a magic harmonica is involved. So the kid plays the little instrument and Jack comes back to life as a snowman —

see Movies, page 10

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Television

continued from page 7

17. Wayne Brady, Eric Benet and Tiffany Evans host a slate of R&B stars performing holiday hits.

"A Home for the Holidays," 8 p.m. Dec. 21, CBS. George Lopez and Jamie Lee Curtis are among those featured in this annual effort to spotlight the issue of adoption. Performers include Sheryl Crow, Mary J. Blige and the Goo Goo Dolls.

"Creature Comforts — Merry Christmas Everybody," 10:30 p.m. Dec. 23, BBC America. In short films from the makers of Wallace & Gromit, answers from Brits to pressing questions (how do hamsters handle indigestion?) come out of the mouths of animal characters.

"Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade," 10 a.m. Dec. 25, ABC. Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa host the 22nd annual telecast of the resort's parade, with guests including Vanessa Williams, Julie Andrews, Tiger Woods, Fantasia and Hayden Christensen.

"Live from Lincoln Center," 8 p.m. Dec. 31, PBS. The New York Philharmonic presents its annual New Year's Eve gala, featuring a program of Italian opera with soprano Angela Gheorghiu.

"Tournament of Roses Parade," 11 a.m. Jan. 2, NBC. The 117th edition of the Pasadena parade includes performances by LeAnn Rimes, Toni Braxton and magician Lance Burton, along with the flower-bedecked floats, parade royalty and many horses.

AULD LANG SYNE

"New Year's Eve with Carson Daly," 11:30 p.m. Dec. 31, NBC. Daly rings in 2006 from New York City's Times Square.

"Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve 2006," 10 p.m. Dec. 31, ABC. Ryan Seacrest joins Clark in hosting the celebration in Times Square.

"New Year's Eve Live," 11 p.m. Dec. 31, Fox. Regis Philbin is the host for these Times Square festivities, including music, celebrities and a look back at the events of 2005.

Movies

continued from page 9

topped off with a hat and scarf. There's laughter, there's tears and then there's the movie's tagline: "Jack Frost is getting a second chance to be the world's coolest dad ... if he doesn't melt first."

"Groundhog Day"

Feb. 2, a little out of season but with six more weeks of snow still on the ground, it's a holiday movie ... kinda. Plus, "I Got You Babe" by Sonny and Cher never sounded so good, even if it is played over and over.

For Phil Connors, however, it's enough to make him get downright loopy and act out funny scenarios.

Phil comedically relives the worst day of his life as watchers get to enjoy the sight of a down-on-his-luck jerk meeting karma



smack him in the face, just over 30 times in 101 minutes. Scenes of him pig-gishly ordering

everything on the dessert menu, to customizing his personality to fit his lady friend's likes and dislikes from dates only he remembers, to becoming the town hero after numerous accounts of miraculously saving people from the small mishaps he fully anticipated occurring like a rehearsed play. "Da doo

da doo, I got you babe ..."

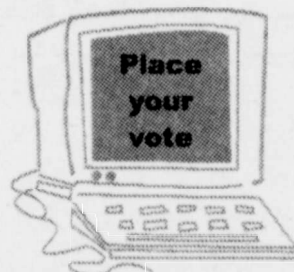
"Home Alone"

Nothing rings in the Yuletide spirit quite like neglectful parenting. Rope, jumper cables, a paint can and a blow torch (you know, whatever was lying around the house) have never been so funny until they were used to horribly maim and injure two would-be robbers in this family favorite. Ah, the joys of laughing at others' pain.

With the slap of aftershave on his fair cheeks, Kevin McCallister's aaah-face will linger in holiday movie memories for years to come.



Vote for your favorite holiday flick online!



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Mustang on the run

What's your favorite holiday movie?

"The snowman (movie)."

Mimé Tanino, english senior

"The 'Home Alone' series."

Jerry Vin, mechanical engineering freshman

"The Santa Claus — the first one."

Meghan Howell, animal science freshman

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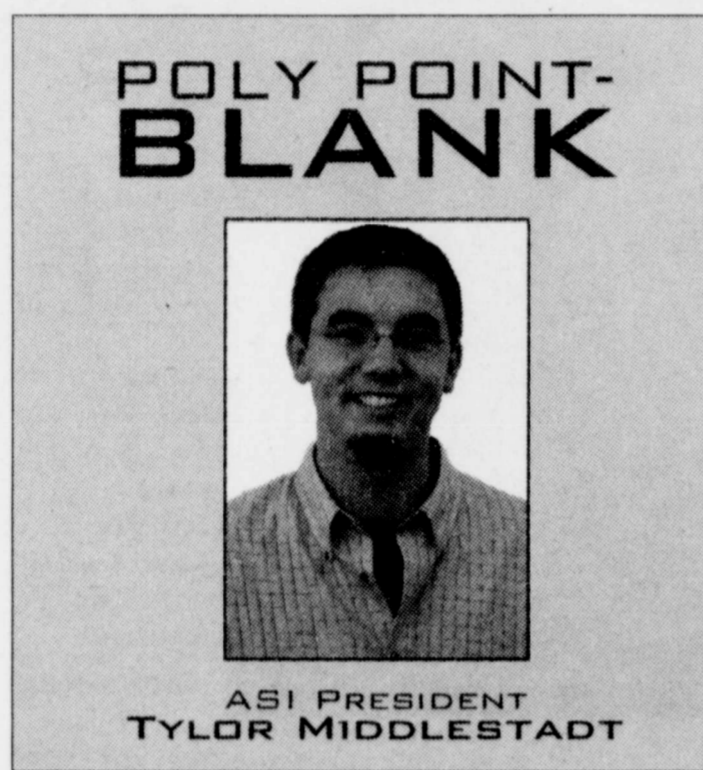
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COMMENTARY

Smells like not enough green spirit

For some Cal Poly students, this is the last week of classes they'll ever attend at this campus. For the rest, that week will come sooner than you think. But regardless of when you have the privilege of wearing your cap and gown, receiving your diploma and stepping out of academia and into the "real world" there is one thing that I guarantee we will all have in common: We will brag about graduating from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for the rest of our lives.

Cal Poly has a reputation that competes with any Ivy League or UC, and an emphasis on pragmatism and real-world experience that is invaluable in life. We've been rated "Best in the West" by US News and World Report for 13 consecutive years with no sign of slowing down. So whether you're studying liberal arts, design, business or science you are bound to find what you're look-



ing for at Cal Poly.

Some people think that polytechnic schools are only about academics, but Cal Poly breaks the mold. We have one of the most active cam-

pus in the country with an average of 80 percent of our students involved in various clubs and organizations, and have some of the largest and most successful community service programs in the country.

Cal Poly athletics continue to raise eyebrows as well. Our Mustang football team ranked third in the nation, remained in the top 20 all season and won its debut game in the Big West Division I-AA play-

offs. Our men's and women's Mustang basketball teams swept our home opener, we've got national champions in our club sports pro-

grams and fierce intramural competition every quarter.

We have undergraduate students competing with graduate students in national competitions and winning consistently. There's no doubt that Cal Poly will leave a legacy of success and progress, and that our campus sets the bar for undergraduate standards.

The only thing missing from this great formula is a collective spirit of campus pride.

I think most of us agree that it would be great to have more campus pride at Cal Poly. To have the student section packed at sporting events, record attendance at every program and event, and every student informed and excited about everything that's happening each week. All the necessary elements are here, but it takes people to put it all together to create a campus we can all be proud of not only in memory,

but right here, right now.

Let's make 2006 a year where we support all the great work that our athletes, clubs and organizations are doing to make our campus a great place.

A year where each of us gets more involved to learn more, see more and do more than we ever have in the past. A year of change, where we quit talking about what needs to be done and we start doing it.

There are thousands of students who are already making it happen. This is a call to action to the thousands more who haven't started yet.

As poet and author Talaam Acey put it, "Let the one who says it can't be done, step out the way of the one who's already doing it!" Or better yet, join them.

Tylor Middlestadt is the ASI president and Mustang Daily columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A challenge for the boys at AGR

Dear Rustmeister,

I challenge you and Scott NERD-hold to a nude Jell-O wrestling match, if you ladies are man enough. I hear the boys at AGR ("Alpha Gamma Row") are into that type thing and I'm sure they would be more than happy to provide a blow-up kids swimming pool full of Jell-O. I figure this solution will be more effective than just a plain old boxing match and will probably bring in more money for that table you wanted.

We could solve the problem of ignorant douches writing into the

Mustang Daily with their unsupported and false accusations. The losers, you guys aren't allowed to write to the Mustang Daily.

Well, you can Rusty because I thought your letter was funny.

I could show you warmongers the implications of the use of a preemptive strike in political matters by kicking the crap out of you both. Last of all, I would like to make this clear, in my last letter I presented a transcript from Osama bin Laden's latest videotape. It wasn't my thoughts or opinion.

You're right Rusty, I do write letters to vent, but also to inform, and correct misleading opinions presented by people like Scotty Nordholm, who along with an unacceptable amount of Americans still believe that Iraq had something to do with 9/11 and that terrorists "hate our freedom."

Leonard Bessemer
Arts & design junior

Nick and Jessica: A mess

Katie Perry

THE OBSERVER (NOTRE DAME)

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - After an utterly stellar Thanksgiving at my grandmother's — thanks to mom's monumental potato casserole, about a dozen cousins and an upstate New York blizzard that could instill the Christmas spirit in the Grinch itself — it happened.

"Simpson, Lachey officially separate," the AP headline read, each word stinging more than the previous. I felt betrayed, cheated and deceived.

Sure, I had seen the US Weekly and People magazine leaks: "Simpson pouts at Lachey's birthday bash," "Nick gets it on with two strippers in Vegas" and the like. Did anyone actually buy these allegations? Lies, lies, lies. One for each season of

"Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica." One for each year of their seemingly pristine matrimony. One for each time I was weirded out by Jessica's sketchball of a dad — and then some.

The official statement was as cold as Jessica's uneaten "buffalo" wing.

"After ... careful thought and consideration, we have decided to part ways. This is the mutual decision of two people with an enormous amount of respect and admiration for each other."

My mind raced with a thousand and one questions. Is love really this fleeting? If these kids can't make it, who can?

As self-assigned prosecutor in the mystery of who destructed the indestructible romance that was Nick and Jessica, I have narrowed my suspects down to three individuals.

The first is Mr. Simpson, Reverend Simpson, Joe Simpson, whatever he goes by. This man is flat-out creepy, and creepy people are always the malicious ones.

Drew Lachey, Nick's significantly less attractive brother and former 98° bandmate, is the second likeliest culprit. In each season of "Newlyweds," it seemed like this guy was always lurking around the mansion, obviously hoping for some alone time with Jess.

The last suspect is Matt Leinart, as there is a good chance Nick cheated on Jessica with the standout Southern California quarterback. Maybe Nick crumbled after Matt's repeated advances. Maybe the post-game locker room bonding and private invitations for ballroom dance lessons proved too much for the doe-eyed songster.

the
WORD
on the
SCREEN



an online column exclusive

with Ryan Chartrand

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By e-mail:

mustangdaily@gmail.com

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Insurgent video shows peace activists taken hostage in Iraq

Robert H. Reid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Al-Jazeera broadcast an insurgent video Tuesday showing four peace activists taken hostage in Iraq, with a previously unknown group claiming responsibility for the kidnappings.

The Swords of Righteousness Brigade said the four were spies working undercover as Christian peace activists, Al-Jazeera said. The station said it could not verify any of the information on the tape.

The aid group Christian Peacemaker Teams has confirmed that four of its members were taken hostage Saturday.

German TV broadcast photos Tuesday showing a blindfolded German woman being led away by armed captors in Iraq. Six Iranian pilgrims, meanwhile, were abducted by gunmen north of Baghdad.

The pictures of Susanne Osthoff were taken from a video in which her captors demanded that Germany stop any dealings with Iraq's government, according to Germany's ARD television. Germany has ruled out sending troops to Iraq and opposed the U.S.-led war.

Two U.S. soldiers assigned to Task Force Baghdad were killed when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb north of the capital, the U.S. command said. At least 2,109 members of the U.S. military have died since the war began in



This is an image taken from an Arab Satellite TV channel of two of four peace activists taken hostage in Iraq and broadcast on Tuesday. The four were said to be spies working undercover as Christian peace activists, al-Jazeera television news reported.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

British government and the Christian Peacemaker Teams have both said Kember, a 74-year-old Briton, was among the four activists taken hostage.

Christian Peacemaker Teams said it would not identify the other three for their protection.

A white-haired man shown in the passport photograph also was seen sitting on the floor next to three other men in the video, which had a date stamp indicating it was recorded Sunday.

The corner of the video showed two crossed black swords and the name of the insurgent group written in red Arabic script.

Christian Peacemaker Team issued a statement saying the four were working on behalf of Iraqi civilians. The group said it has had a team in Iraq since October 2002, working with U.S. and Iraqi detainees and training others in non-violent intervention and human rights documentation.

Kember and another person were part of a visiting delegation, while two members of the group's Iraq-based staff also were taken, the statement said.

Kember, a retired professor, is a longtime peace activist who once fretted publicly that he was taking the easy way out by protesting in safety at home while British soldiers risked their lives in Iraq.

The U.S. Embassy has confirmed that an American is missing in Iraq. A Canadian official has said two Canadians were in the group.

March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

A suicide car bomber killed eight Iraqi soldiers and wounded five more when he drove into an army patrol Tuesday in Tarmiyah, 30 miles north of Baghdad, police Lt. Ali Hussein said. A U.S. Army medical helicopter helped evacuate the wounded, he added.

President Bush told reporters in El Paso, Texas, he would make decisions about U.S. troop levels in Iraq based on the advice of his military commanders.

"If they tell me the Iraqis are ready to take more and more responsibility and that we'll be able to bring some Americans home, I

will do that," the president said. "It's their recommendation."

Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, who manages the training of Iraqi security forces, told National Public Radio on Tuesday that 212,000 people in the police and army are trained and equipped, although he suggested that more needed to be done.

"Now you know they lack some capabilities that we still have to provide them and will continue to have to provide them for a period of time," Dempsey said. "They're short officers because we brought in some senior officers, and we grew some junior leaders but not enough. They require about 8,000 junior leaders

and they're hovering just now about 4,500 or so."

"We're focused very carefully now on logistics, communications and the generation of an officer corps," he said.

Iraq was rocked by a wave of foreigner kidnappings and beheadings in 2004 and early 2005, but they have dropped off in recent months as many Western groups have left and security precautions for those who remain have tightened. Insurgents, including al-Qaida in Iraq, seized more than 225 people, killing at least 38.

The video on Al-Jazeera showed four men and a British passport belonging to Norman Kember. The

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Bush says an early withdrawal from Iraq would be a 'terrible mistake'

Robert Burns
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday that "it would be a terrible mistake" to pull U.S. forces out of Iraq and that politics should not play any part in a decision about withdrawal.

"We will make decisions about troops levels based upon the capability of the Iraqis to take the fight to the enemy," Bush said in El Paso, Texas. "I will make decisions on the level of troops based upon the recommendations of commanders on the ground."

The argument against withdrawal was echoed in Washington by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who said quitting the war would allow insurgents to prevail and put the United States "at still greater risk."

"Quitting is not an exit strategy," Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference.

Rumsfeld made clear that the time has arrived to wean the Iraqis of their dependence on American



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld answers a question during a briefing at the Pentagon on Tuesday. He made clear the time has arrived to wean the Iraqis of their dependence on American support for security — whether it's guarding Iraq's borders or protecting its power plants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

will do that," the president said. "It's their recommendation."

"Secondly, we want to win," Bush said. "The whole objective is to achieve victory against the terrorists."

"I'm interested in winning. I want to defeat the terrorists. And I want our troops to come home," the president said. "But I don't want them to come home without having achieved victory. We've got a strategy for victory."

"People don't want me making decisions based on politics," the president said. "They want me making decisions based on the recommendations of our generals on the ground. And that's exactly who I'll be listening to."

"Now I know there's a lot of voices in Washington," Bush added. "We've heard some people say pull them out right now. That's a huge mistake. It'd be a terrible mistake. It sends a bad message to our troops. And it sends a bad message to our enemy. And it sends a bad message to the Iraqis."

support for security.

"They have to do it for themselves," Rumsfeld said. "There isn't an Iraqi that comes into this country and visits with me that doesn't say that. They know that. They know that they're the ones that are going to have to grab that country. And it's time."

Bush and Rumsfeld spoke in

advance of a speech by the president on Wednesday at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. The remarks are expected to outline the administration's strategy for giving Iraqi forces increasing responsibility for the security of their country.

The war in Iraq and the mounting number of American casualties have contributed to a steep drop in Bush's

popularity. His approval rating is at the lowest level of his presidency.

Talking with reporters in El Paso, Texas, Bush said he would make decisions about troop levels based on the advice of military commanders.

"If they tell me the Iraqis are ready to take more and more responsibility and that we'll be able to bring some Americans home, I

Rescuers work to find missing Chinese miners after explosion kills 148



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miners listen to a briefing about the ongoing rescue efforts for miners still missing in the Dongfeng coal mine in Qitaihe, northeastern China's Heilongjiang province on Tuesday.

Joe McDonald
ASSOCIATED PRESS

QITAIHE, China — Rescuers in northeast China searched in freezing temperatures Tuesday for three coal miners who were trapped after an explosion killed at least 148 others.

The blast in the Dongfeng Coal Mine late Sunday prompted national leaders to demand stricter enforcement of safety rules in China's mines.

On Tuesday, roads leading to the mine were blocked several miles away, with police officers and vehicles standing guard.

Search efforts were still going on at sundown.

The chance of survival was low because of a high concentration of poisonous gas in the tunnel, Song Kaicheng, an engineer with the group that owns the mine, was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Inside the mine compound, rescue workers wearing orange jumpsuits and respirators could be seen making their way through the 10-degree temperatures to the mouth

of the coal pit.

Seventy-two workers have been saved, state media said.

Xinhua said 148 were killed including two people who died in an above-ground generator room. The others were all underground.

A man who answered the telephone at the coal mine said that there had been a meeting with relatives Tuesday and that mine officials were arranging for counseling and compensation.

The man, who gave only his family name, Liu, refused to give any more details.

The official China News Service said relatives were to receive up to \$25,000 in compensation.

The disaster is a setback for Chinese officials struggling to improve safety in the coal mining industry. Most accidents are blamed on a disregard for safety rules or a lack of equipment for ventilation or fire control. Local officials often are accused of helping mine owners or managers flout safety rules.

"This industry is too corrupt. Safety is no good," said Yuan

Yongqing, a 57-year-old retired miner, whose younger brother, Yuan Yongcun, was killed in Sunday's explosion.

One man who gave only his family name, Li, said he was hoping for news about his son. Reporters trying to speak with dozens of relatives waiting outside were swiftly escorted off the premises.

Beijing has unveiled one safety initiative after another in recent years. It has announced the creation of a national network of safety inspectors, stricter fire standards and shorter working hours for miners to prevent fatigue.

Authorities say they have shut down more than 12,000 coal mines this year for safety inspections. Thousands have been ordered to improve their facilities, and many others aren't expected to reopen.

The government said the explosion in Qitaihe was blamed on airborne coal dust that ignited. There was no word on whether it was believed to involve misconduct or human error.

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Congress to discuss federal financial aid cuts

Laura Teegarden
DAILY EGYPTIAN (SOUTHERN ILLINOIS U.)

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Students could have to look for more alternative funding for school as the federal budget calls for a plan to decrease federal spending by \$50 billion, with 28.6 percent possibly coming out of student loan programs.

In December, Congress will discuss legislation to keep the Pell Grant maximum at \$4,050 for the fourth consecutive year and to cut almost \$15 billion from federal student loan programs.

In 2004, more than 6,174 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale students received the federal Pell Grant and more than 13,000 received federal student loans. Last year about 77 percent of SIUC students received a portion of the \$189 million available financial aid.

Uday Desai, professor in political science, said such legislation shows that higher education has become a lesser priority under the current administration.

"I really don't think this is a surprise at all," Desai said.

He said the figures could be misleading because there is a decline in terms of real support even when the dollar amount stays the same as tuition rises. For example, tuition at SIUC has risen by more than \$2,000 a year in the past five years.

The Student Aid Alliance, a financial aid lobbyist group, sent a letter sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee expressing concern over discussions of cutting funding.

"Whenever the student aid programs produce savings, Congress takes them to spend on other areas of government, whether deficit reduction, hurricane relief or other education and health programs,"

"Whenever the student aid programs produce savings, Congress takes them to spend on other areas of government, whether deficit reduction, hurricane relief or other education and health programs."

— DAVID WARD AND DAVID WARREN
co-chairs of the Student Aid Alliance

stated the letter signed by David Ward and David Warren, co-chairs for the group. "Congress must stop the raid on student aid!"

President Bush has requested that the Pell Grant maximum be raised by \$50 to \$100, however, so far that request has been denied.

"It would be nice, but it's not enough," said Billie Jo Hamilton, director of the SIUC Financial Aid Office.

The financial aid talks will take place along with discussion about the Higher Education Act, which Congress will also consider extending or revising in December.

The act allows the federal government to implement federal aid programs and other education issues and is reauthorized every six years. The last one expired in 2004 and was extended by one year.

Unfortunately, Hamilton said, she believes legislators are nowhere near the end of the process.

She said the process is a vicious cycle. When the state cuts funding, the University is forced to increase

their tuition, which in turn forces student to require more and more financial aid.

"My guess is that we'll continue to see students borrowing more," Hamilton said.

In 2005, SIUC was ranked 15th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for students who graduate with the least amount of debt.

Hamilton suggests that students be aggressive in seeking private scholarships to subsidize their needs that can't be met by financial aid.

"That's something they can start looking at over the holidays," Hamilton said.

Filing the FAFSA form by the April 1 priority deadline will also increase the chances for receiving more financial aid. Next year's forms can be filed starting Jan. 1, Hamilton said the available money is not on a first-come, first-serve basis, but rather on a student's need.

Global warming bringing vast changes, U. Arkansas profs warn

Clover Birdsdell
ARKANSAS TRAVELER (U. ARKANSAS)

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Combating the reality of carbon dioxide emissions on our warming planet may be the first test of maturity for future American leaders.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site, epa.gov, rising global temperatures are expected to raise sea levels and change precipitation and other local climate conditions.

David Stahle, professor of geosciences who teaches a seminar on global change at the University of Arkansas, said scientists are currently unable to determine which parts of the United States will increase or decrease in yearly rates of precipitation. However, there is evidence to support an overall trend of increasing precipitation, evaporation, more intense rainstorms and drier soils.

As a consequence of subtle increases in temperature in North America, the area of annual snow cover is shrinking. In Arkansas, winters have become warmer and spring arrives earlier now than it has on record.

Since 1990, the global temperature has increased the most dramatically. Stahle said in the last 15 years, scientists have seen five or six of the warmest years on record.

"It's a syndrome of human impacts that are happening at the local level but sum up to a very large magnitude change on the global scale," Stahle said.

Stephen Boss, a geophysicist and associate professor of geology, said global warming is being accepted by scientists as a "real phenomenon." The climate debate no longer centers on whether global warming exists or not, but on how far the effects of global warming will change the earth's climate, he said.

"It is really taking place," Boss said. "The precise causes are multiple, but human activity on the planet is contributing to the warming taking place."

According to the EPA Web site, "in the United States, approximately 6.6 tons (almost 15,000 pounds carbon equivalent) of greenhouse gases are emitted per person every year. And emissions per person have increased about 3.4 percent between 1990 and 1997. Most of these emissions — about 82 percent — are from burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and power our cars."

As the earth's population continues to grow, there will be more demand for such amenities as electricity and gasoline, which currently contribute to global warming, Boss said.

By 2050, carbon dioxide emissions are scheduled to double in quantity, Stahle said.

"Should it go above 6 parts per million, it's likely that the temperature will increase somewhere between 2 and 5 degrees Celsius," Stahle said. That is a 3.6 to 9 degree increase in Fahrenheit.

"All the indications say yes, it will continue to get warmer in the coming decades," Boss said.

"As that process moves on, there can only be one consequence of that — that is, the Earth will get warmer," he said. "If you increase the ability of the atmosphere to absorb radiant radiation from the earth, then there is no way around that."

The excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere adds to the natural greenhouse effect. Humanity is making this natural occurrence too much of a good thing, he said.

Year-to-year variation of seasons is not a good indicator of climate change, Boss said.

Instead scientists look at temperature patterns of the past century to indicate global temperature increase.

Global temperature increase will change the world as we know it.

The projected climate change will affect our average temperatures and average precipitation, and in turn the nation's agriculture, said Fiona Davidson, associate professor of geosciences and director of European studies.

"We are talking about a large shift in the agriculture," she said. "It may also require more irrigation. There are some places out west that are going to get very, very dry."

North America is not the only climate changing. Europe is predicting more precipitation in the next 50 years.

Scientific projections of global warming indicate that for every Celsius degree the world increases, the agricultural belt moves 100 miles north, Davidson said.

U.S. wheat and corn belts have the potential to shift higher, into Canada. Sugar and other warm-weather crops are predicted to shift northward into the U.S.

Society does have options, Stahle said. The conservation of fossil fuels is the most promising approach to limiting emissions. In addition, carbon dioxide is an air contaminant, so reducing the emissions will also improve public health and reduce acid rain.

According to epa.gov, the United States will discuss global warming during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting for its 11th session Nov. 28 through Dec. 9 in Montreal, Canada.

The meeting will, among other things, reassess the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997, and U.S. participation in reducing global warming.

OPEN FORUMS ON THE IRA Referendum

Cal Poly students will be able to vote in a referendum **February 22-23, 2006**, on the proposal to increase the non-Athletics portion of the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee by \$10 per quarter for all students.

The following open forums on this referendum have been scheduled:

Thursday January 26, 2006
University Union (Bldg. 65), Room 220
11:10 A.M.

Thursday, February 9, 2006
Fisher Science (Bldg. 33), Room 457
11:10 A.M.

Monday, February 13, 2006
University Union (Bldg. 65), Room 220
6:10 P.M.

Sponsored by Academic Affairs

BREAKING NEWS
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE
www.mustangdaily.net

Football pep rally Thursday

PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

With its team not only competing for the first time ever in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, but winning its first post-season game last Saturday, Cal Poly football fans have something to celebrate.

And celebrate they will this week with a mid-day pep rally on campus Thursday and a Poly Playoff Bash on Saturday at the Downtown Brewing Company in San Luis Obispo.

Mustang fans are encouraged to wear green and gold and cheer on the football team at a pep rally Thursday beginning 11 a.m. at the University Union.

The Cal Poly Band, stunt and dance teams, Musty the mascot and the Mustang Maniacs will provide entertainment.

The team will head to Texas on Friday morning for the quarterfinal-round NCAA Division I-AA football playoff game at Texas State. On Saturday, Dec. 3, the game will kick off at 1 p.m. PST (3 p.m. CST) in Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos, Texas. It will be televised on ESPN2. Both teams are in the I-AA playoffs for the first time.

Cal Poly Athletics and the Cal Poly Alumni Association invite the community to a Poly Playoff Bash on Saturday to watch the game on the big-screen TV at Downtown Brewing Company.

The party starts at noon with complimentary appetizers served until 1 p.m. Throughout the afternoon, Downtown Brewing will serve hot wings for 25 cents and house brew for \$1.50. Clear Channel's John

Hanson will host the event and give away prizes. The community is invited to wear green and gold and enjoy the game with other Mustang fans.

Cal Poly is the first California school to earn a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. The Mustangs (9-3) defeated Montana 35-21 last Saturday in Missoula, Mont., while Texas State (10-2), the fourth seed in the 16-team field, rallied from a 35-16 deficit to beat Georgia Southern 50-35. The Mustangs and Bobcats have met once before — Cal Poly beat them 38-21 last season in Mustang Stadium.

The game will be broadcast live on KXTY Radio (99.7 FM) as well as on the Internet at www.GoPoly.com. The game also will be televised nationally on ESPN2.

Frankly

continued from page 16

sion going on, but it helps if your athletic director is on the committee.

By including these teams, the selection committee is saying it's better to be a seasoned loser than an untested winner — one holds promise and the other doesn't. You tell me which is better.

Cal Poly was 1-2 against teams in the top-25, not an outstanding record, but better than any of the previous teams.

I think it's also fair to mention that Wichita State finished 28-3, and that wasn't good enough to be in the tournament.

My case for Cal Poly's inclusion is this: What consolation is it to say you've played with the best if you lost most of the games, except that you have played with the best? Penalizing Cal Poly for a weak strength of schedule is bracket blasphemy. They beat who they were supposed to beat and took wins from perennial tournament teams like the University of the Pacific, UC Santa Barbara and Long Beach State.

To begin my segue, the team shouldn't have any issues with strength of schedule next season as coach Jon Stevenson told me Monday night that he has trips to South Carolina, Hawaii and Nebraska lined up as well as a tournament to take place at Mott Gym with UCLA as a featured guest.

In other news, the Cal Poly football team is doing OK. If you haven't heard, and I should hope you have or you're obviously not keeping up on your Cal Poly sports, the team plays No. 4 Texas State in the quarterfinals of the Div. I-AA national championship tournament on Saturday. The game will be broadcasted live at 1:05 p.m. on ESPN2, which means you had better cancel any plans you have

(including that silly notion that you might watch the USC-UCLA game, which is conveniently taking place at the same time) and tune in as the Mustangs play their first nationally-televised game.

That's right, you can watch this weekend's game on ESPN2. Yep, channel 36 for you San Luis Obispo cable users (Channel 39 back in my hometown of Petaluma). Cal Poly, on national television ... it's just that cool.

Personally, I'm not going to be watching the game on TV. I have better things to do, like traveling with the team to check out the game in person. Booyah!

So does Cal Poly stand a chance? If they can contain Barrick Nealy, the Bobcats' quarterback, and get their offense rolling, the game is theirs. I'm not going to lie, Texas State looked impressive in its comeback win over Georgia Southern, putting up a 50 spot despite trailing by three scores at one point. But, if the Mustangs can keep Nealy under control, they stand a chance at advancing to the semifinals.

The football team is a tremendous story even if they lose this weekend. I was one of the many who thought the team's season was doomed when starting quarterback Anthony Garnett suffered a torn meniscus and MCL in the Mustangs' first trip to Missoula.

The team overcame adversity just to make the playoffs. Playing at Montana, in weather not even fit for a polar bear, and after a three-hour bus ride from Spokane to Missoula (their plane couldn't land in Missoula due to poor weather conditions); the Mustangs coming away with a win proves the team's toughness.

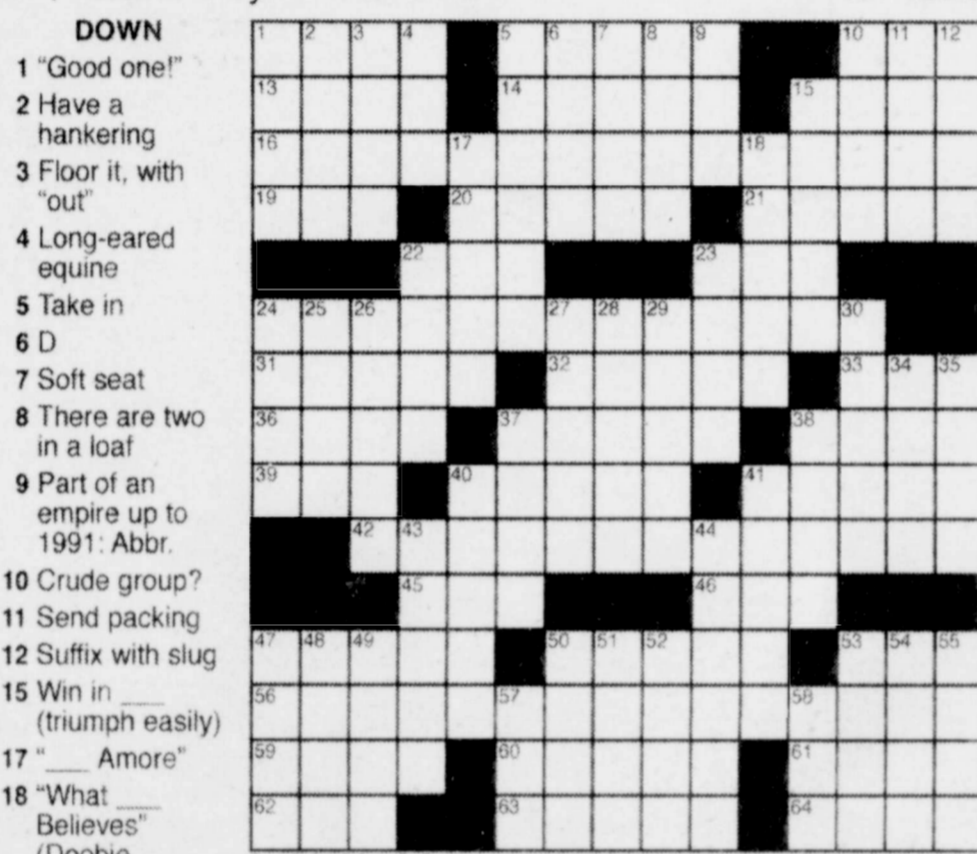
Two stories, two different reasons make them newsworthy. One reason to turn on ESPN2 at 1:05 this weekend, and that's the way it is.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1026

- ACROSS**
- 1 Auto parts giant
 - 5 They may be vaulted
 - 10 Sharp or flat, say
 - 13 Does in
 - 14 Timely benefits
 - 15 Cap- (from head to foot)
 - 16 Bureaus
 - 19 It may have electroreceptors
 - 20 Dances with chairs
 - 21 Rhinestone feature
 - 22 Goopy stuff
 - 23 Co. that offers I.M.'s
 - 24 It usually starts "How many ...?"
 - 31 Puts out of work
 - 32 Like "Green Acres"
 - 33 Bushy 'do
 - 36 Appear
 - 37 Glass ingredient
- DOWN**
- 1 "Good one!"
 - 2 Have a hankering
 - 3 Floor it, with "out"
 - 4 Long-eared equine
 - 5 Take in
 - 6 D
 - 7 Soft seat
 - 8 There are two in a loaf
 - 9 Part of an empire up to 1991: Abbr.
 - 10 Crude group?
 - 11 Send packing
 - 12 Suffix with slug
 - 15 Win in (triumph easily)
 - 17 "Amore"
 - 18 "What Believes" (Dobie Brothers hit)
 - 22 Classic 1954 sci-fi film
 - 23 Comet competitor
 - 24 Telephone book, essentially
 - 25 fixer
 - 26 Flash of light
 - 27 Husband of Bathsheba
 - 28 Slow times
 - 29 City of Brittany
 - 30 Violinist Zimbalist
 - 34 Fury
 - 35 Straw in the wind
 - 37 Sunnis, e.g.



Puzzle by Adam G. Perli

- 38 Hog, so to speak
- 40 Condoleezza Rice's department
- 41 New England catch
- 43 A de Mille
- 44 Set off
- 47 cell research
- 48 Reduce to carbon
- 49 Word with fine or visual
- 50 "Dang!"
- 51 Make over
- 52 example
- 53 Popular computer operating system
- 54 "Hold everything!"
- 55 Concerning
- 57 Ltr. addenda
- 58 "But I heard him exclaim, ..."

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

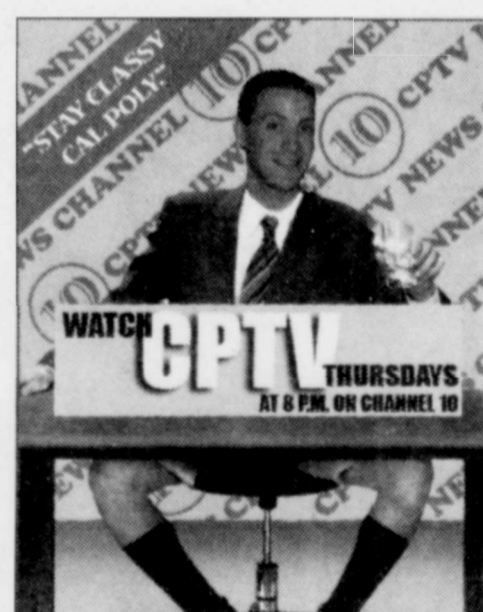
Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SAT KRILL TILTS
 PER INDIA ICAHN
 IRE LASTSAMURAI
 EIEIO HERB ANT
 LESTWEIFORGET
 S ABE ORANGE
 CHA TRAIT COED
 LISTTOSTARBOARD
 ARIA TONER HEY
 DESIRE TAUS
 LOSTHERSHEEP
 STA OSHA SARGE
 LUSTFORLIFE ORE
 ABASE EASEL DEL
 PAPER ESTES ETS

su|do|ku
 TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

1	7	6	5	3	9	4	8	2
9	4	3	1	2	8	7	6	5
5	2	8	6	4	7	3	1	9
3	6	1	2	9	5	8	7	4
8	9	4	3	7	1	5	2	6
7	5	2	4	8	6	9	3	1
4	1	5	7	6	3	2	9	8
6	8	7	9	5	2	1	4	3
2	3	9	8	1	4	6	5	7



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FALL SPORTS RECAP



COURTESY PHOTO
Matt Johnsrud

Cross Country **Men: 1st in Big West, Women: 6th in Big West**

It was a disappointing season for the men's team, dropping from a 10th place finish at the NCAA nationals last season to seventh at regionals this year. The Mustangs failed to qualify for nationals as a team, but did send one runner, senior Matt Johnsrud, to compete. He finished 104th out of 223 runners.

Even though the team didn't quite meet expectations on a national level, they managed to again dominate the Big West and took home a conference championship.

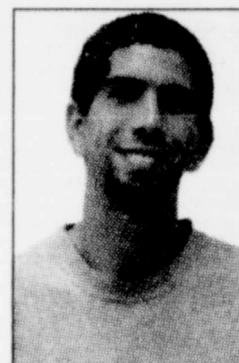
On the women's side, sophomore Rachel Valliere led the way throughout the season. The young team finished 23rd at regionals, despite having no seniors on the roster and with just three juniors, giving the team plenty of hope for the future.



TOM SANDERS
MUSTANG DAILY
Left, Rachel Valliere,
below, Andy Coughlin



Frankly Speaking



Frank Stranzl
SPORTS EDITOR

Where to start this week? There's a pair of polar opposites both worthy of overwhelming attention.

On one hand, there's the sad story of the volleyball team, the first Cal Poly team this year to receive a post-season snub, and probably not the last as NCAA selection committees love to slight the Mustangs. See last year's football, softball and baseball teams for more proof.

On the other hand, there's the pure jubilation surrounding the football team's upset win at the University of Montana, a game all the experts predicted would belong to Grizzlies. The community is ready to jump on the bandwagon and see the Mustangs march into San Marcos, Texas and give the No. 4 seeded Bobcats a game.

Both stories are vital to the current stream of sports information in San Luis Obispo, both spicy enough to receive space in this column. So I decided to rant and rave about the volleyball team's premature end to the season and voice my support for the football team.

First thing's first: Why isn't the volleyball team in the NCAA tournament? There are four suspect teams to take note of: Northwestern from the Big Ten, Colorado and Kansas from the Big 12 and Nevada from the Western Athletic Conference.

It's one thing to play a tough schedule and win a few here and there, but it's an entirely different situation to play a tough schedule and get dominated. That's exactly the situation facing three of these teams.

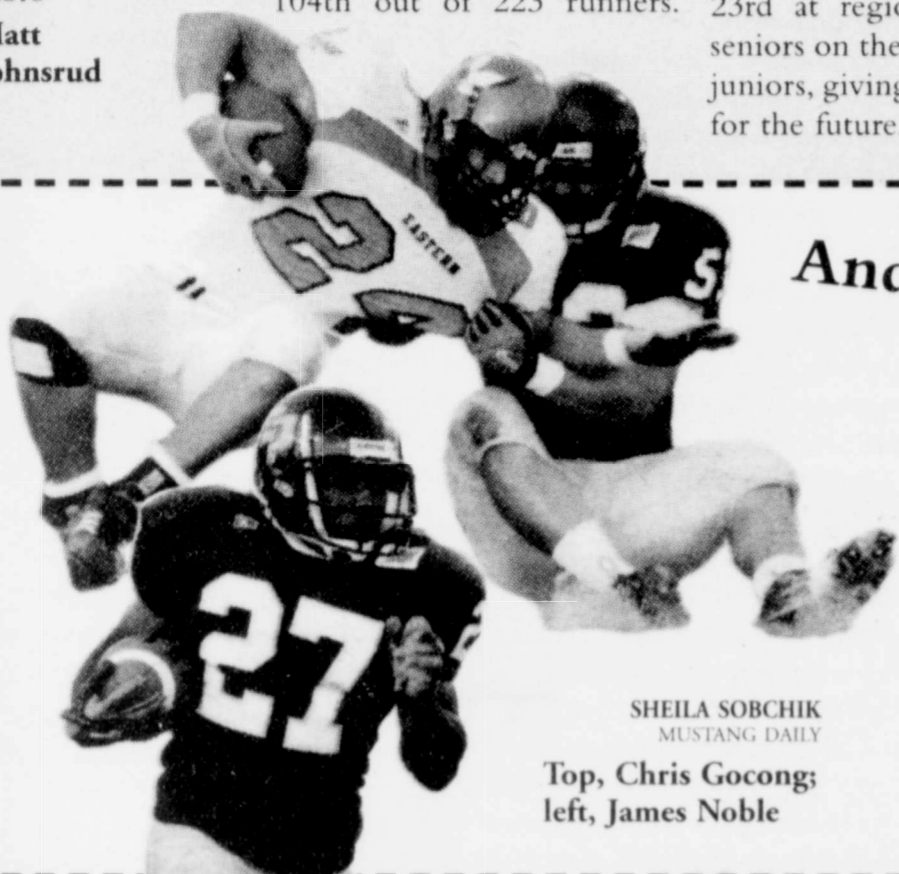
Northwestern was 2-9 versus opponents ranked in the top-25 according to the Rich Kern Percentage Index (RKPI) rankings. In doing so, they consistently proved they are not a top-25 worthy team. Cross them off the list.

Meanwhile, Colorado is a similar case. They faced a tough schedule, due in large part to the conference they play in, but how much sense does it make to include a team that has repeatedly proven they can't beat the top teams in the United States? The Buffaloes were 1-7 against teams in the top-25. Cross them off too.

Kansas, also part of the Big 12, Colorado's conference, was 15-14 on the season. The Jayhawks were 0-7 versus top-25 opponents and lost seven of its last 10 games. Yes, they played a tough schedule. But did they win? Obviously not.

The same story goes for the University of Nevada. They were 0-6 against teams in the top-25. But it just so happens Nevada's athletic director, Cindy G. Fox, is a member of the NCAA selection committee. I'm not saying that there is collu-

see Frankly, page 15



SHEILA SOBCHIK
MUSTANG DAILY
Top, Chris Gocong;
left, James Noble

And they're still going...

First they were a national contender, then injuries had the team slated to miss the playoffs. But the team handled adversity like a champion and its season continues as a result. Redshirt freshman running back James Noble was fourth in the nation in rushing while fellow freshmen Ramses Barden and Tredale Tolver, wide receivers,

Overall: 9-3 Great West: 4-1 Football

Matt Brennan, quarterback, and Fred Hives II, fullback, are helping put Cal Poly on the Div. I-AA football map.

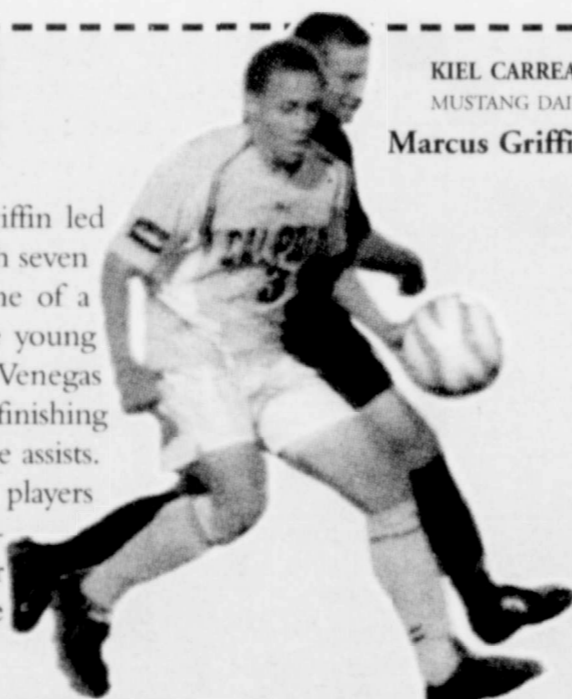
Defensively, Chris Gocong should win the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player in the nation, and has a chance to follow former teammate and 2004 Buck Buchanan winner Jordan Beck to the NFL. Gocong leads the nation in sacks with 22.

Men's Soccer **Overall: 6-14 Big West: 1-9**

The team had its worst showing since joining the Big West and the results were probably what cost 26-year coach Wolfgang Gartner his job. Gartner finished with a career record of 223-221-55 as the Mustangs' head coach.

Freshman Marcus Griffin led the team offensively with seven goals and two assists, one of a few bright spots for the young squad. Senior Moses Venegas also had a solid season, finishing with four goals and three assists.

Seven out of twenty players on the team were freshmen, giving men's soccer fans hope that the future might be brighter.



KIEL CARREAU
MUSTANG DAILY
Marcus Griffin

COACH NO MORE



COURTESY PHOTO

After 26 seasons at Cal Poly, Wolfgang Gartner's contract was not renewed following a 6-14 season and last place Big West Conference finish.



SHEILA SOBCHIK AND KIEL CARREAU
MUSTANG DAILY
Left, Sharon Day; below,
Sierra Simmons



Overall: 10-5-4 Big West: 2-4-1 Women's Soccer

Sharon Day is the most talented athlete at Cal Poly, period. Day, a junior, was the NCAA national champion in the women's high jump as a sophomore last year, and doubles as the leading offensive threat on the women's soccer team. She finished the season with seven goals and six assists, both team-highs.

Senior Becky Clark had a breakout year, scoring six goals in 19 games, starting 14 of those games.

Junior Kelsey Carroll also had a big year for the Mustangs, scoring seven goals and recording two assists in 16 games.

Senior Sierra Simmons finished her illustrious career at Cal Poly as a First Team All-Big West Conference selection for a third consecutive year. Day also received first-team honors.



SHEILA SOBCHIK
MUSTANG DAILY
Far right,
Vanessa Gilliam;
right,
Chelsea Hayes;
left, Kylie
Atherstone

Volleyball **Overall: 19-6 Big West: 10-4**

There were two stories that dominated the coverage this quarter: football making the playoffs and the volleyball team's turnaround. First-year coach Jon Stevenson deserves much credit and should be heralded as the savior of the program. Fans should expect much more from the program in years to come, as the program is on the brink of becoming a perennial Big West contender.

While Stevenson took care of busi-

ness off the court, Vanessa Gilliam did her part on the court. The senior outside hitter was one of the top offensive threats in the conference, finishing third in the Big West in kills. Gilliam received First-Team All-Big West for her performance this season.

Freshman outside hitter Kylie Atherstone and sophomore setter Chelsea Hayes also received first team honors.

