

INSIDE

NEWS



Graveyard shift soon to be listed as a "probable" cause of cancer, a link once seen as unlikely.

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SPORTS



The women's basketball team fell to 3-4 Thursday night after losing 70-80 to San Diego State.

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ONLINE



movie previews

Go online to see Mustang Daily movie previews for "Awake" and "The Savages."

mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
High 59°/Low 37°

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Capps celebrates with Cal Poly

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

Under the hot November sun in the University Union Plaza, Rep. Lois Capps stood alongside Cal Poly President Warren Baker on Thursday to celebrate the enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the largest investment in college financial aid since the 1944 GI Bill.

"Go Mustangs!" Capps exclaimed vivaciously to the students of what she called a "very prestigious university."

"I want to talk to you about something that is very dear to your hearts," she said, explaining the significant legislation she has sponsored since she was sworn in as a member of the 105th Congress in 1998.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 was signed by President Bush in September to make college more affordable for low-income students by providing \$11.4 billion more in the form of Federal Pell Grants over the next five years. Under the act, the maximum Pell award will increase from the current \$4,310 to \$5,400 in 2012.

During the 2005-06 school year, 3,137 Cal Poly students received Pell Grants.

Overall, the bill cuts interest rates in half (up to \$15,000) and guarantees that low-income students will never pay more than 15 percent of their income.

Also, after 10 years of public service, such as teaching in inner cities or serving in the government sector, loans will be forgiven.

"I've had three kids go through school and I've always been around

young people," Capps said. "So I know their potential and I've seen how enormously hard it is to get through school, especially being saddled with debt."

Introducing Capps and Baker was Erica Janoff, president of the Cal Poly Democrats, who was contacted by Capps' office to arrange the visit to campus.

"Many students see congresspeople as being not untouchable but unapproachable," Janoff said. "Her being here, willing to listen and speak with students is really awesome."

President Baker spoke briefly before introducing Capps, addressing her work in Congress and describing her as a "valiant supporter of students, faculty and staff" and "an effective leader on a range of issues."

The Democratic representative has served the 23rd district of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties since 2003.

She has visited both Cal Poly and UC Santa Barbara, the two largest campuses in the district, to mark the passing of the act.

The Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club also invited Capps to visit at their luncheon later that day to update residents as to what's going on in Congress, vice president Harry Sharp said.

"We wanted to hear about the issues they're focusing on and headway they're making on problems affecting Cal Poly and this part of the state as well as national issues such as the war," Sharp said.

Capps joined Congress after her husband, Congressman Walter Capps, passed away. From 1998 to 2002, she was the Representative of California's 22nd District.



COURTESY PHOTO

President Baker looks on as Lois Capps addresses students during UU Hour.

A former 20-year nurse and health advocate for the Santa Barbara School District, Capps is especially passionate about quality health care, improving schools and the environment.

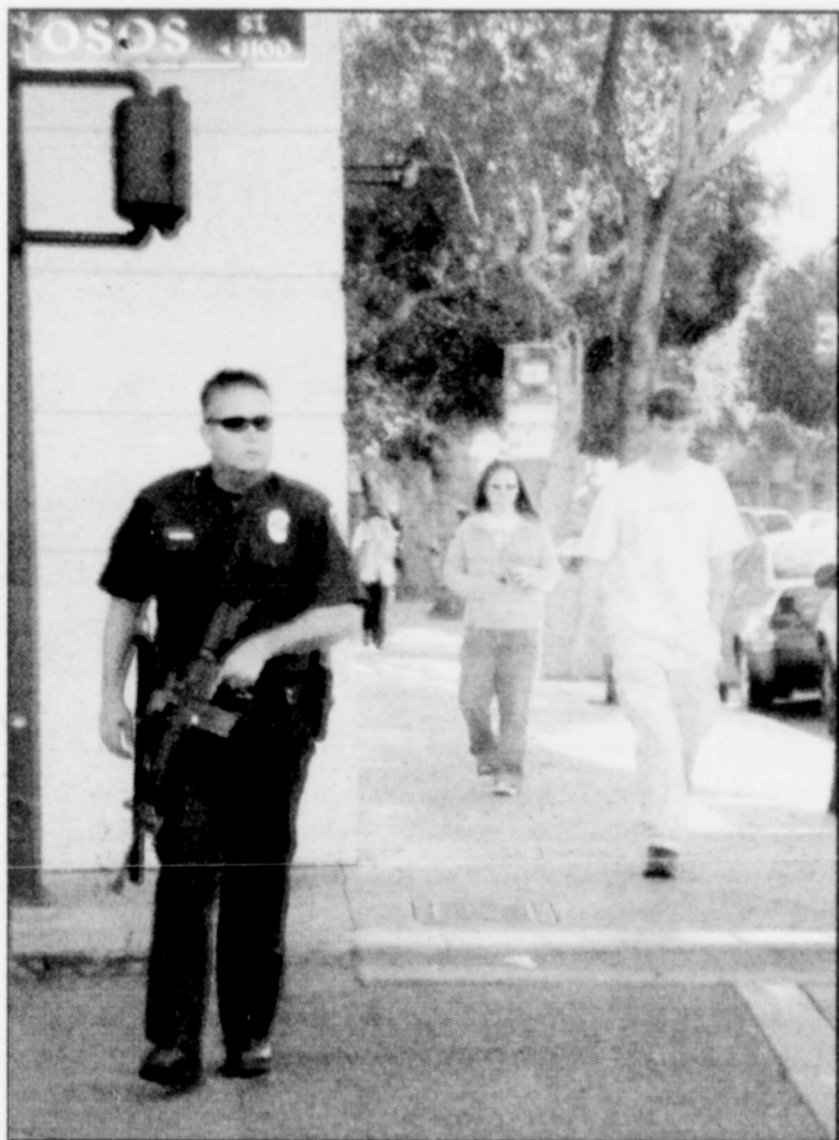
She served as head nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital after receiving a bachelor's degree in nursing from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., a master's degree in religion from Yale University and a master's degree in education from UC Santa Barbara.

She was the director of Santa Barbara County's teen pregnancy and parenting center and taught nursing in Portland, as well as early childhood education part-time for 10 years in Santa Barbara. She founded the House Nursing Caucus and is currently the Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and serves on numerous other health caucuses.

Specifically, Capps has passed legislation addressing issues like the

see Capps, page 2

Another SLO bank robbed



COURTESY PHOTO

An armed police officer patrols Osos Street after Thursday's robbery. Officers were unable to locate the suspect.

STAFF INFORMATION REPORT

Police are searching for a man who allegedly robbed the First Bank of San Luis Obispo and walked out the front door on Higuera Street Thursday afternoon.

Police officers arrived on the scene after receiving a call at 2:40 p.m. from a bank employee who reported that the bank had been robbed. Officers said they were unable to find the suspect after searching the area, and no one was injured during the robbery.

The suspect, who police described as being either a Caucasian or Hispanic male in his 30s or 40s, reportedly entered the bank and gave the teller a note demanding money. The teller gave him the money and he then left the bank and headed southbound on Osos Street, police said. He was not reported to have been carrying any weapon.

The suspect is described as wearing a white or light-colored baseball hat, a khaki shirt and a white jacket, police said. He is reportedly 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10 and about 170 pounds, and was also wearing a fake goatee, sideburns, white gloves, sunglasses

see Robbery, page 2

Poly prepares Rose Float



Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

Since 1949, students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona have come together to produce a floral float for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

In a yearlong process, each campus devotes itself to constructing one half of the float. Joint decisions are made on how the float is designed, built, animated and decorated.

"Our organization encourages anyone to come and see where they'd like to fit in to the development and design of the float," said Rose Float program leader Chrystal Tipping.

Cal Poly students have been building Rose Floats for more than 50 years and have won more than 40 awards, including princess trophies for best display of animation, founder's trophies for most outstanding self-decorated float, humor trophies and theme prizes.

Once all the parts are fitted and the final assembly is finished, the float will be one of the few in the parade that was not built by a professional float builder and the only one built by students.

see Float, page 2

Holiday fun can be found around SLO County

Michelle Norgan
MUSTANG DAILY

San Luis Obispo doesn't shut down over the break just because Cal Poly students leave. In fact, there are a wide variety of events going on throughout the area during December and January.

One of the highlights of downtown San Luis Obispo will be the holiday parade at 7 p.m. Dec. 7. The parade has about 95 entries and there are floats as well as other groups participating. The parade's focus will be on the floats, which are decorated along this year's theme of "Holly Jolly Holiday."

"There will be contests for the floats, such as best in theme, most entertaining and most creative," said Katie Hollingsworth, promotions coordinator for the Downtown Association.

This will be the parade's 32nd year and it is being co-sponsored by the Downtown Association and Court Street (the shopping complex that features Pottery Barn and Banana Republic).

In addition to watching the parade, Hollingsworth said students can volunteer to help run it. There are positions available for setting up and acting as "walkers," people who patrol the parade route to ensure the safety of its participants and audience.

Students can also volunteer to be elves at Santa's House in Mission Plaza, which is open until Dec. 25. Even those who aren't interested in volunteering at Santa's House can get pictures taken with the jolly old man himself.

Starting Dec. 3, Mission Plaza will also feature a carousel as an old-fashioned way to enjoy a little holiday spirit — at least until the end of the year.

Finding a unique gift is also a possibility when Christmas in the Plaza comes to Mission Plaza on Saturday and Sunday. This event is an annual holiday

craft fair featuring local artists who sell their hand-crafted items.

There will be more than 30 vendors at the event. Food and entertainment will be served from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the free event.

"We try to make the downtown core have something for everyone over the holidays," Hollingsworth said.

A 35-foot tall Christmas tree in Mission Plaza would be a fun thing to see for anyone who is used to living in a big city where a tree is put up every year.

Although Mission Plaza is at the center of most of this year's holiday events, other parts of downtown are getting involved as well.

On Dec. 14, there will be a special event on Garden Street, where the whole block will be cordoned off and there will be specials at each store.

"The event is meant to encourage late-night holiday shopping and should be fun," Hollingsworth said, adding that in addition to the sales, stores will have treats and hot cider for shoppers to enjoy.

The Downtown Association and the San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation department have arranged for snow to be brought in for visitors' enjoyment during the Jan. 11 Farmer's Market.

The snow is free to play in and open to both adults and children. Hollingsworth said it is a way to enjoy the parts of winter that the area does not usually see.

There are also some great events going on outside San Luis Obispo over the holidays. On Saturday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Morro Bay will be celebrating with its annual Lighted Boat Parade. Local boaters will cruise the harbor with boats decked out in holiday lights, which should be a free and fun alternative to a street parade.

Capps

continued from page 1

national nursing shortage, underage drinking, providing CPR instruction to schools, improving mental health services, preventing domestic violence against women, offering emergency defibrillators to hospitals and providing Medicare cover-

age to more patients.

For the environment, Capps has led efforts to cease oil and gas drilling off the coast of Los Padres National Park, and to shield consumers from the costs of cleaning water supplies of MTBE. She also serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Natural Resources Committee and their subcommittees.

Robbery

continued from page 1

and possibly a wig.

Pedestrians walking around downtown San Luis Obispo were startled when they saw police officers hiding behind trees with guns that appeared to be assault rifles.

"I was just walking down the street and I was about to start walking alongside the building and I saw two cops running along the fence," passerby Vanessa Porterson, 25, said. "I tried to ask a cop, 'Should I not walk that way? I need to go that

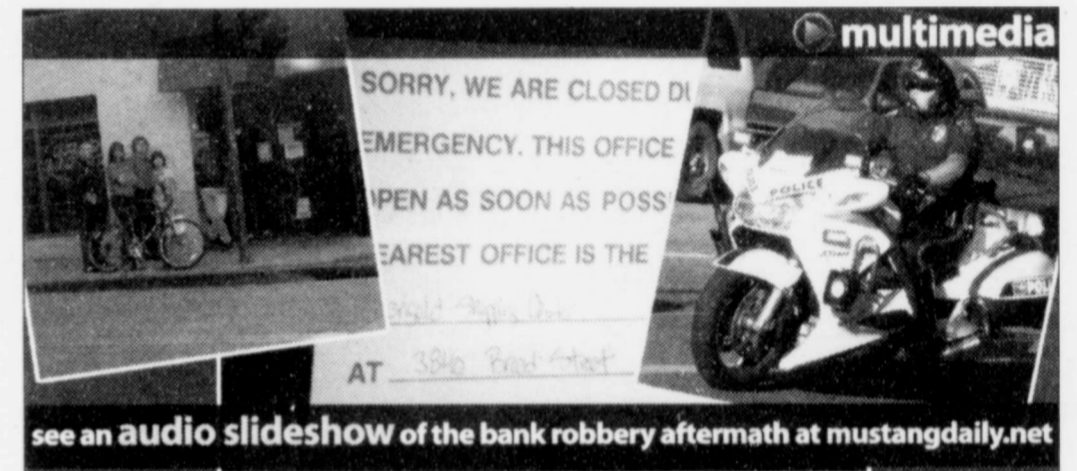
way,' and he just wouldn't answer me."

Ginger Cochran, 22, was also at the scene and also said she had difficulty finding out what was happening.

"Police weren't talking to pedestrians so we didn't know what was going on," Cochran said.

Officials said they have no reason to believe the robbery is related to the bank robbery last week at Downey Savings. The San Luis Obispo Police Department and the FBI are still investigating the case.

Kristen Cass contributed to this report.



see an audio slideshow of the bank robbery aftermath at mustangdaily.net

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Float

continued from page 1

"The Rose Float's purpose is to showcase to the world the talents and skills of both Cal Poly universities," design leader Shawna Swanson said.

The average preparation for the Rose Float tends to be underestimated by a lot of people and no one realizes that it takes a whole year to complete the process from start to finish, Tipping said.

The first step is to choose the theme, which is announced each January for the year to come. Afterward, both Cal Poly campuses open their concept contest, in which anyone can submit an idea for the next float that fits within the new theme.

The winners with the chosen concept are awarded two tickets to the Rose Bowl game and four tickets to the parade, or \$1,000 cash. This year's Rose Parade theme is "Passport to the World's Celebration" and Cal Poly's float is titled "Guardians of Harmony."

A float's lifespan is around 13 months, all of which starts as an idea the minute the previous parade ends, Tipping said.

"After the parade is over, we go into deconstruction," decorations chair Kate Smith said. "Then we hold a concept contest for the next float when the parade theme is announced. Once we decide on a concept, we have a large meeting with Pomona to discuss which half each of us will build and what major items we want included."

The float-making process is normally split into three general categories: design, decorations and construction. After the joint

meetings, where the top concept is chosen for submission into the tournament in February, the group makes general changes and decisions about the concept's design.

"During the fall quarter, we

The feeling of watching our finished float drive around the corner ... makes it worth all the hard work.

—Kate Smith
Rose Float decorations chair

move our half of the float down to Pomona where we connect the two pieces together," Smith said. "Each weekend, loyal members carpool to Pomona to work on the float. Once school is finished, many San Luis students move in to the Pomona dorms for design week. It's a lot of work."

Together, the teams have to create a float of about 16 feet 6 inches so it can fit under bridges and clear power lines.

"Because of that, we construct mechanisms so the floats can tower over the streets and spectators," Tipping said. "This year our 'over

height mechanism' will put the Phoenix at 22 feet in the air."

Over the years, tournament mechanics have had to add rules to their list of requirements because of instances from Cal Poly. The famous example, as Tipping tells it, is that water cannot be projected from the float to the spectators.

This year will mark the 119th Rose Parade, the 94th Rose Bowl Football game and Cal Poly's 60th consecutive entry in the parade. The parade is on Jan. 1, 2008.

The Cal Poly Rose Float used to be a club within the school's campus until it became so popular that it is now currently an ASI program allowing students to design, build and decorate a float.

"Rose Float offers students the chance to express their creative talents while representing Cal Poly in a long-standing university tradition," Tipping said. "Students decide on an original float creation and manage the entire project. From design and mechanics to construction and decoration, Rose Float is a hands-on experience for student volunteers."

"It is easy to become a part of the Rose Float because there are all sorts of jobs to be done," Smith said. "All skills and majors are welcome. We have a big meeting every quarter and since the program is year-round, there is no deadline."

The Cal Poly team is currently accepting reservations for the upcoming week of decoration from groups of ten or more volunteers.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Smith said. "The feeling of watching our finished float drive around the corner of Colorado Boulevard makes it worth all the hard work."

Student life abroad under scrutiny after slaying in medieval Italian city

Marta Falconi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For many college students, a year abroad is an experience of a lifetime — an opportunity to learn a new language and live in a new culture. But it's often just as much about partying in a place where alcohol and drugs are readily available.

Now, the murder of a 21-year-old Briton studying in this picturesque Italian city is throwing a light on the wild life of college kids abroad.

Meredith Kercher was sexually assaulted and stabbed to death Nov. 1 in the apartment she shared with her American roommate, Amanda Marie Knox, who is in custody along with two other people in connection with the death.

The gruesome tale of sex, drugs and murder has gripped Italy, and even the Vatican has weighed in on what it called the "dangers" of students living far from home and family.

Knox, 20, and her one-time boyfriend and Italian co-defendant, 23-year-old Raffaele Sollecito, are due in court Friday for a hearing on whether they should remain in jail while the probe continues.

A third suspect, Rudy Hermann Guede, a native of Ivory Coast, is in detention in Germany awaiting extradition to Italy. Another man, Diya "Patrick" Lumumba, a native of Congo who owned the Perugia bar where Knox worked and whom she accused of the murder, was recently released from jail for lack of evidence. All four deny wrongdoing.

The case, and particularly Knox's alleged role, has made headlines in Italy, Britain, the U.S. and beyond in part because of the light it has shone on the seemingly privileged world of students studying abroad.

By all indications, Knox was a bright and eager student proficient enough in languages to read Harry Potter in German.

She grew up in Seattle, where she attended a \$12,000-a-year Jesuit high school. Her parents married in 1987, the year she was born, and divorced two years later.

Last spring, she made the dean's list at the University of Washington, where, according to her profile on the MySpace.com social networking site, she was majoring in German and Italian, and minoring in creative writing.

Before arriving in Italy in September, she worked briefly as an intern at the Bundestag in Berlin, a job she lined up with the help of an uncle. On her first day of work, she described leaving her apartment three hours early since she had to navigate Berlin's public transport system on her own and wanted to be on time.

Yet, Knox also comes across as irresponsible: She walked off her Bundestag job after just a few days because, she wrote, she had nothing to do.

Her MySpace page, in which she calls herself "Foxy Knoxy," includes images of her drunk and acting silly in a video, and she referred several times to drug use and nights spent working and dancing at Lumumba's bar — providing a different side to what the

Italian press calls her "angel face."

Lumumba said after his release from jail that Knox was a flirtatious girl who was intensely jealous of Kercher.

"Amanda hated Meredith because people loved her more than they did Amanda," Britain's Sunday Mirror quoted Lumumba as saying. "She was insanely jealous that Meredith was taking over her position as Queen Bee."

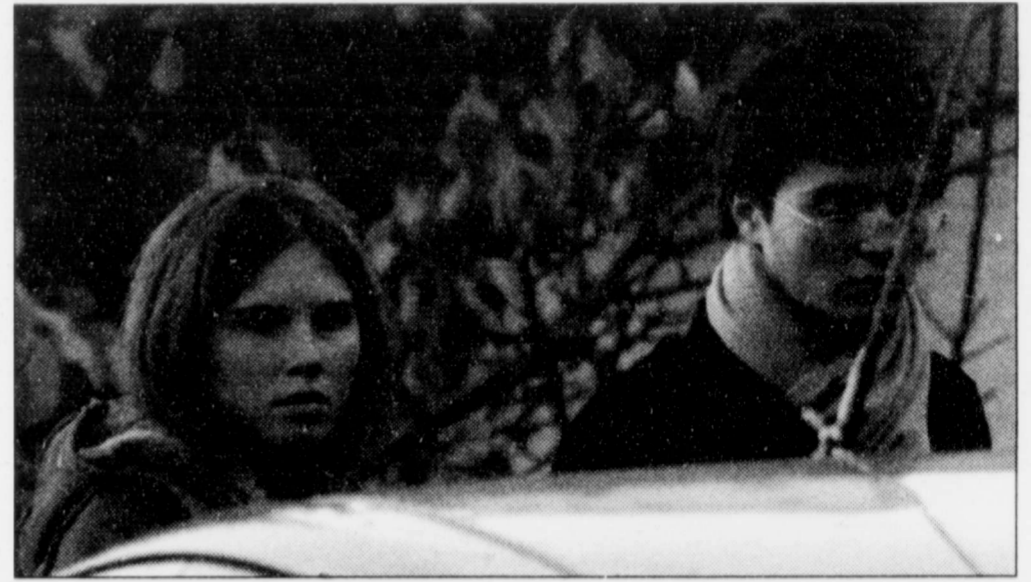
In a Nov. 9 ruling ordering the suspects jailed, a judge wrote that Knox, in her statement to prosecutors, had accused Lumumba of killing Kercher while she was in another room, saying that at one point she covered her ears to drown out her roommate's screams.

The judge said Knox's memories were confused since she had smoked hashish earlier in the day.

Knox's parents, William Knox and Edda Mellas, have traveled to Perugia to visit their daughter since she was taken into custody, saying in a statement that the family was "shocked and devastated" by the case. But they have kept a low profile and could not be immediately reached for comment Thursday.

In many European capitals, the close-knit world of foreign students is hard to miss.

Groups of rowdy, mostly English-speaking students are routinely seen staggering through central squares, like Rome's Campo dei Fiori, on any given Saturday night, frequenting bars that carry "Two-for-One" or "Lady's Night" signs that clearly target Eng-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows Amanda Marie Knox, left, and Raffaele Sollecito outside the rented house where Meredith Kercher was found dead Friday.

lish-speakers out to get drunk.

But Perugia, population 150,000, seemed to provide a different experience for students.

With its steep medieval streets and heavy presence of European students attending its University for Foreigners, Perugia was off the beaten track for Americans, said Carol Clark, the American director of the Perugia Umbra Institute, which offers programs for U.S. students.

"Here, foreign students tend to live in apartments with international roommates, buy food, interact with locals," although the foreign community still has their own pubs and meeting points, she said.

The students who come to Perugia, she said, "want a place which is less Americanized," than the big cities that attract many U.S. college programs.

But alcohol and drugs are certainly available, said Esteban Garcia Pascual, an Argentine whose bar "La Tana dell'Orso" is a top destination for foreign students in Perugia.

"Perugia is more of a break to them than a commitment," he said. "For them, it is a new world. They come here, have fun and get trashed in the evening."

Not all students come to Perugia — or go on study abroad programs — just to have fun with other Americans, said Zachary Nowak, a 30-year-old New Yorker who fell in love with Perugia during a study abroad program and never left.

"They are really integrated," he said of the foreign students. "There's no Campo dei Fiori here, they have to make an effort. If they want to order a margarita in English in a bar, they'd go to Rome or Florence."

Briefs

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. homeowners increasingly fell behind on mortgage payments or even lost their homes last month compared to a year ago, with Nevada, California, Florida and Ohio posting the highest foreclosure rates, a mortgage research firm said Thursday.

A total of 224,451 foreclosure filings were reported in October, up 94 percent from 115,568 in the same month a year ago, according to Irvine-based RealtyTrac Inc.

The number of filings in October rose 2 percent from September's 219,850.

VACAVILLE (AP) — One of the men convicted of murder in San Francisco's notorious Zebra killings has been denied parole.

J.C.X. Simon, who was sentenced to life in prison in 1976, was turned down for parole for another five years by the Board of Prison Terms on Thursday.

The killings got their nickname because of the radio channel police used exclusively for the case.

In late 1973 and early 1974, black men affiliated with the Nation of Islam were shooting white people at random and out in the open. In less than six months, 15 people were killed and seven were injured, including a future mayor of San Francisco.

National

WESTBURY, N.Y. (AP) — A 72-year-old man fought off a would-be robber who brandished a gun, wrecked his Christmas decorations and allegedly had been sent by his nephew in search of jewelry and cash, police said.

Zelaya tore down Herrera's living room Christmas tree and Nativity scene, Detective Lt. Raymond Cote said.

"Jesus, Mary and the wise men all fell to the ground," Cote said.

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Rodney King, whose videotaped police beating in 1991 led to deadly rioting when the officers involved were acquitted, was shot on a street corner, but his wounds were not life-threatening, police said.

King, 42, was shot two or three times from a distance by birdshot fired from a shotgun. He then bicycled about 1½ miles back to his home in neighboring Rialto and called police. King was hit in the face, arms, back and torso, police said.

NEW YORK (AP) — Missing: one parrot with Brooklyn accent. Reward: \$10,000.

The African gray parrot named Franklin disappeared from a pet boarding facility in Manhattan the day before Thanksgiving, said owner Leigh Ann Frankel.

"Franklin is my child. Every day he wakes up and says, 'Hi mommy, how are ya?'" she said.

International

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden called on Europeans to stop helping the United States in the war in Afghanistan, according to excerpts of a new audiotape broadcast Thursday on Al-Jazeera television.

Bin Laden said it was unjust for the United States to have invaded Afghanistan for sheltering him after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, saying he was the "only one responsible" for the deadly assaults on New York and Washington.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Two Hungarians and a Ukrainian arrested in an attempted sale of uranium were peddling material believed to be from the former Soviet Union, police said Thursday. Officials claimed it was weapons-grade uranium, but outside experts questioned that assessment and suggested it might be far less lethal.

The three men, who were arrested Wednesday in eastern Slovakia and Hungary, were trying to sell about a pound of uranium in powder form, said First Police Vice President Michal Kopicik.

Kopicik said investigators believed the uranium was suitable for a radiological "dirty bomb." He said the uranium had been stashed in unspecified containers and that investigators determined it contained 98.6 percent uranium-235. Uranium is considered weapons-grade if it contains at least 85 percent uranium-235.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"How do you relax during finals week?"

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

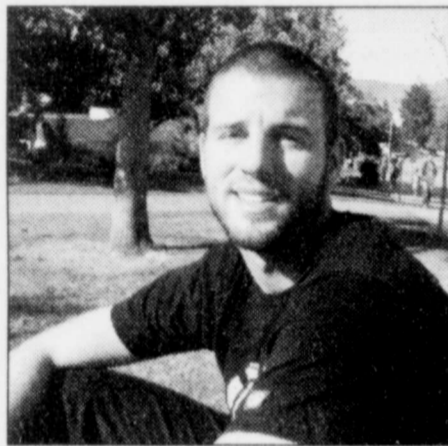
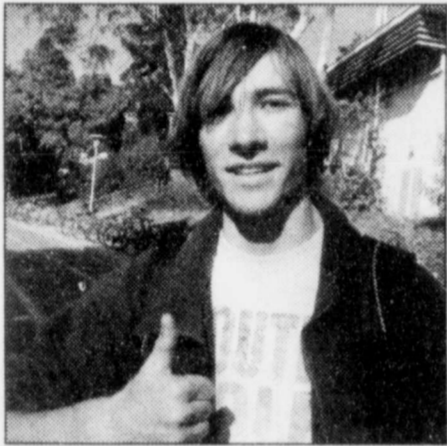


"I like to knit because it's soothing and you don't have to think hard."

— Sarah Shackelford,
manufacturing
engineering junior

"I play guitar because it makes me calm."

— Sean Martin,
forestry freshman

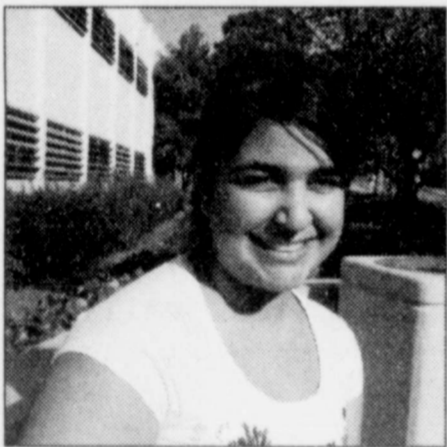


"I go surfing so I can relax out on the waves, check out the scenery and get some exercise."

— Brad Barrows,
software engineering
sophomore

"I make sure to take a lot of breaks from studying by listening to music and sleeping."

— Sepideh Taghdiri,
environmental
engineering freshman



Graveyard shift soon to be listed as a 'probable' cause of cancer

Maria Cheng
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like UV rays and diesel exhaust fumes, working the graveyard shift will soon be listed as a "probable" cause of cancer.

It is a surprising step validating a concept once considered wacky. And it is based on research that finds higher rates of breast and prostate cancer among women and men whose work day starts after dark.

Next month, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer arm of the World Health Organization, will add overnight shift work as a probable carcinogen.

The higher cancer rates don't prove working overnight can cause cancer. There may be other factors common among graveyard shift workers that raise their risk for cancer.

However, scientists suspect that overnight work is dangerous because it disrupts the circadian rhythm, the body's biological clock. The hormone melatonin, which can suppress tumor development, is normally produced at night.

If the graveyard shift theory eventually proves correct, millions of people worldwide could be affected. Experts estimate that nearly 20 percent of the working population in developed countries work night shifts.

Among the first to spot the night shift-cancer connection was Richard Stevens, a cancer epidemiologist and professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center. In 1987, Stevens published a paper suggesting a link between light at night and breast cancer.

Back then, he was trying to figure out why breast cancer incidence suddenly shot up starting in the 1930s in industrialized societies, where nighttime work was considered a hallmark of progress. Most scientists were bewildered by his proposal.

But in recent years, several studies have found that women working at night over many years were indeed more prone to breast cancer. Also, animals that have their light-dark schedules switched develop more cancerous tumors and die earlier.

Some research also suggests that

men working at night may have a higher rate of prostate cancer.

Because these studies mostly focused on nurses and airline crews, bigger studies in different populations are needed to confirm or disprove the findings.

There are still plenty of skeptics. And to put the risk in perspective, the "probable carcinogen" tag means that the link between overnight work and cancer is merely plausible.

Among the long list of agents that are listed as "known" carcinogens are alcoholic beverages and birth control pills. Such lists say nothing about exposure amount or length of time or how likely they are to cause cancer.

The American Cancer Society Web site notes that carcinogens do not always cause cancer. The cancer society doesn't make its own assessments of possible cancer-causing agents, but relies on analyses by the IARC and a U.S. agency.

Still, many doubters of the night shift link may be won over by the IARC's analysis to be published in the December issue of the journal *Lancet Oncology*.

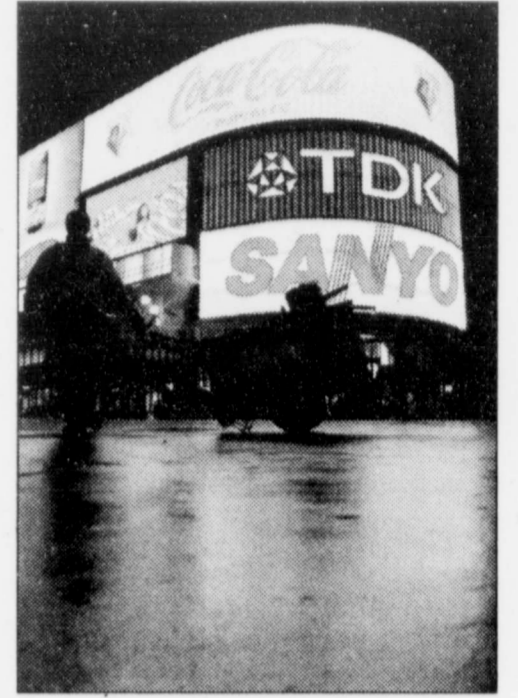
"The indications are positive," said Vincent Coglianò, who heads the agency's carcinogen classifications unit. "There was enough of a pattern in people who do shift work to recognize that there's an increase in cancer, but we can't rule out the possibility of other factors."

Scientists believe having lower melatonin levels can raise the risk of developing cancer. Light shuts down melatonin production, so people working in artificial light at night may have lower melatonin levels.

Melatonin can be taken as a supplement, but experts don't recommend it long-term, since that could ruin the body's ability to produce it naturally.

Sleep deprivation may be another factor in cancer risk. People who work at night are not usually able to completely reverse their day and night cycles.

"Night shift people tend to be day shift people who are trying to stay awake at night," said Mark Rea, director of the Light Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Next month, the cancer arm of the WHO will classify shift work as a "probable" carcinogen.

New York, who is not connected with the IARC analysis.

Not getting enough sleep makes your immune system vulnerable to attack and less able to fight off potentially cancerous cells.

Confusing your body's natural rhythm can also lead to a breakdown of other essential tasks. "Timing is very important," Rea said. Certain processes like cell division and DNA repair happen at regular times.

Even worse than working an overnight shift is flipping between daytime and overnight work.

"The problem is resetting your body's clock," said Aaron Blair, of the United States' National Cancer Institute, who chaired IARC's recent meeting on shift work. "If you worked at night and stayed on it, that would be less disruptive than constantly changing shifts."

Anyone whose light and dark schedule is often disrupted — including frequent long-haul travelers or insomniacs — could theoretically face the same increased cancer risk, Stevens said.

He advises workers to sleep in a darkened room once they get off work. "The balance between light and dark is very important for your body. Just get a dark night's sleep."

POLICE BLOTTER

Nov. 21, 12:11 - Officer investigated a complaint of assault between workers, occurring at the Poly Canyon Village construction site.

Nov. 22, 01:51 - Officers assisted San Luis Obispo Police Department with several physical disturbances at The Graduate.

Nov. 24, 23:05 - Officer was flagged down by a subject at an off-campus location. The subject stated he was suicidal and wanted to be taken to the county mental health unit. The officer stood by with the subject until the responsible agency arrived to assess the subject's condition.

Nov. 25, 16:51 - Officers were contacted concerning a possible incident of theft at the Mission Avocado grove.

Nov. 26, 10:25 - An officer spoke with an individual who believes to be a potential victim of identity theft over the internet.

Nov. 26, 20:20 - Officer responded to a call regarding offensive graffiti on the brick wall near Shasta Hall.

Nov. 27, 19:35 - An officer responded to a call of vandalism at Yosemite Hall. A window in the residence hall appeared to have been punched in.

Be our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

* Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profanity.



COURTESY PHOTO

A cappella group Take It SLO (above) will perform alongside other Cal Poly choirs as a part of the university's annual "Christmas Celebration" on Saturday in Harman Hall.

Hitting the high note for the holidays

Cristina Albers
 MUSTANG DAILY

To spread the holiday cheer, Cal Poly choir's much-anticipated annual Christmas celebration will be on campus at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 in Harman Hall of the Christopher Cohan Center.

"A Christmas Celebration" is sold out each year and is popular around San Luis Obispo County. Thomas Davies, a music professor and conductor of the event, said the event has existed longer than his 24 years at Cal Poly.

The event will encompass several sections of Cal Poly's choirs, including PolyPhonics with about 44 singers, University Singers with about 80, Early Music Ensemble

with about 14, the a cappella group Take It SLO and the women's barbershop quartet Oh Snap.

The University Singers will open with "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Ariel Ramirez's "Misa Criolla." These pieces are based on South American folk music, particularly the rhythms and melodies of Argentina.

PolyPhonics will perform "A Child Is Born" by Leo Nester and "Ding Dong! Merrily On High," arranged by English composer and conductor David Willcocks.

This year's concert features several new and exciting pieces, including the world premiere of "Gloria," written for double choir and organ by Cal Poly composition and music theory professor Mer-

edith Brammeier. This is the fifth consecutive year that Brammeier has composed or arranged a work for "A Christmas Celebration."

A special organ piece will be played by featured performer Paul Woodring. The show will also have a sing-a-long calling for audience participation, so get those vocal cords ready!

To celebrate the season of Hanukkah, the women of PolyPhonics will be featured in Valerie Shields' arrangement of "S'vivon" and the entire ensemble will also perform Ron Jeffers' "Hanukkah Blessings."

Two other talented performers will take the stage, including PolyPhonics' Richard Carrick, Davies' student assistant, and Su-

san Azaret Davies, a piano player and Thomas Davies' wife.

"Everyone now is officially ready for the holidays and this is a good way to start," Davies said.

For such a complex and amazing show, it took the choirs only four weeks to rehearse, but those weeks involved hard work and dedication.

However, just because it's a production sponsored by the music department doesn't mean all the participants are music majors.

Choir classes are offered for credit and almost every major is present in the choirs. Davies said that at least 80 percent of the singers are not music majors.

This concert is Davies' favorite of the Cal Poly choir's season. The entire town supports the production and many parents come to see it.

"It's the kind of music that gets everyone into the holiday spirit, and it gets all of the students ready for finals," Davies laughed.

FRIDAY SHOWTIMES

Downtown Centre Cinema
 Enchanted 11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
 August Rush 11:45, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00
 Dan In Real Life 12:25, 2:40, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20
 Across the Universe 11:05, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
 No Country For Old Men 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
 American Gangster 11:30, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30
 Hitman 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Fremont Theatre
 Beowulf 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
 Bee Movie 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
 Love In The Time of Cholera 10:00
 Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
 Fred Claus 1:30, 7:15
 Lions for Lambs 4:25, 9:50

Palm Theatre
 Before the Devil Knows You're Dead 6:45, 9:15
 Bella 4:15, 7:00, 9:15
 The Darjeeling Limited 7:00, 9:15
 Into the Wild 3:45
 The Rape of Europa 4:00

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'Tila Tequila' can't replace 'Real World'

Stephen Kwok
DAILY TROJAN (USC)

MTV has been in trouble for a few years. With its past programming staples — "The Real World," "Road Rules" and "TRL" — either defunct or gasping for air, the network has been struggling to fit the needs of an ever-changing young demographic.

In efforts to maintain their networks' position as the envelope-pushing, trendsetting station it was once thought to be, MTV execs have resorted to the tried-and-true celeb-reality formula currently seen on VH1 and gave the green light to its first celebrity dating show, "A Shot At Love With Tila Tequila." After all, if a revamping of "Real World" from the discussion of hot topics to hot tubs proved successful, why not give an Internet celebrity and self-proclaimed "bisexual freak" her own dating show?

Initially, I had no problem with "A Shot at Love."

I was tired of guessing how many pounds VJ Damien Fahey had gained since the last episode of "TRL." I was bored with another appearance by an exceedingly contrived and tackily dressed Ashley Tisdale. So "Shot at Love" was a welcome relief — full of cuss-outs, catfights and girls falling off stripper poles. In a word, it was awesome.

But as the show progressed, it became apparent MTV was pushing "A Shot at Love" as more than a trashy, low-brow dating show. It was being presented as boundary-pushing and even progressive.

On paper, it does fit that description. "A Shot at Love" is a far cry from patriarchal and fairly misogynistic programs such as "The Bachelor" and "Joe Millionaire," in which 20 women are expected to love a man because he is good-looking and has money.

Instead, a MySpace celebrity and self-proclaimed cover model is at the helm of "A Shot at Love," and both women and men compete to fulfill her bisexual dreams of finding the perfect man or woman.

MTV may be justified in declaring that nothing like "A Shot at Love" has been on television before, but a lack of precedence does not

necessitate progression.

Instead, much of the program is spent establishing backward ideals that men have to be insensitive tough guys and women have to be crazy over-emotional bitches.

Where the program has the opportunity to deconstruct outdated ideals of gender, especially within the context of a bisexual dating show, it fails miserably.

The program speaks to the larger problem of MTV and VH1 programming these days. It's something I like to call the Jerry Springer-ification of cable television.

Once marginalized as a disgusting, trashy talk show, Jerry's influence is more apparent today than it has ever been before.

My issue isn't with the material itself. Clearly, when given the opportunity to watch a crimp-haired stripper retch after being forced to eat a bull penis and testicles, I will take it. It's highly entertaining, but I treat the show's entertainment value with a grain of salt.

What I fear is that other viewers, especially the younger ones MTV targets, fail to do the same.

The network itself is to blame. The issue is in MTV's presentation of "A Shot at Love" as anything more than a scripted and manipulated portrayal of the depravities of human existence. At least Jerry Springer owns up to it.

MTV instead tries to pass the program off as groundbreaking, holding on to a thread of the days when "The Real World" provided actual intellectual discourse and "True Life" educated viewers on everything from being HIV positive to having Tourette's Syndrome.

But nothing is groundbreaking — not even a tiny Vietnamese girl kissing a white butch lesbian on national cable television — when it is overshadowed by manufactured promiscuity, violence and chocolate bubble baths.

The network either needs to realign its programming with its original position of social consciousness or own up to its current level of cheap programming.

It's sad enough that there isn't anything of intellectual value, but blurring the line between social responsibility and trashy TV isn't just sad — it's dangerous, too.



COURTESY PHOTOS

In the music-driven film "August Rush," Freddie Highmore (right) plays a talented young musician searching for his parents, played by Keri Russell (below) and Jonathan Rhys Meyers (left).

Inspirational 'Rush'

Whitney Diaz
MUSTANG DAILY

"August Rush" is the inspirational story of a young, orphaned boy on a quest to find his birth parents — or to help his parents find him.

Driven by his love of music, 11-year-old Evan Taylor, played by Freddie Highmore ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") leaves his home at a New York state orphanage and makes his way to New York City, where he learns that he is a prolific musician.

Homeless and alone, Evan is looked after by Maxwell "Wizard" Wallace, a crazed, money-hungry, music-loving father figure played convincingly by Robin Williams. Aware that he has a gifted child in his midst, Wizard changes Evan's name to August Rush so the authorities will not identify him.

In a series of twists and turns, the boy finds himself living in a church, taking classes at the Juilliard School and composing an entire symphony played in Central Park.

Parallel to his story is the story of his parents: an Irish guitarist played by Jonathan Rhys Meyers ("Match Point") and a young, world-renowned cellist played brilliantly by Keri Russell ("Mission Impossible III").

The two star-crossed lovers are separated after one magical night together rocks the course of their lives.

Sounds far-fetched, I know. But this charming, and often unbelievable, modern-day fairytale is a great movie for the whole family. It stretches the imagination, and plants hope in the hearts of cynics.

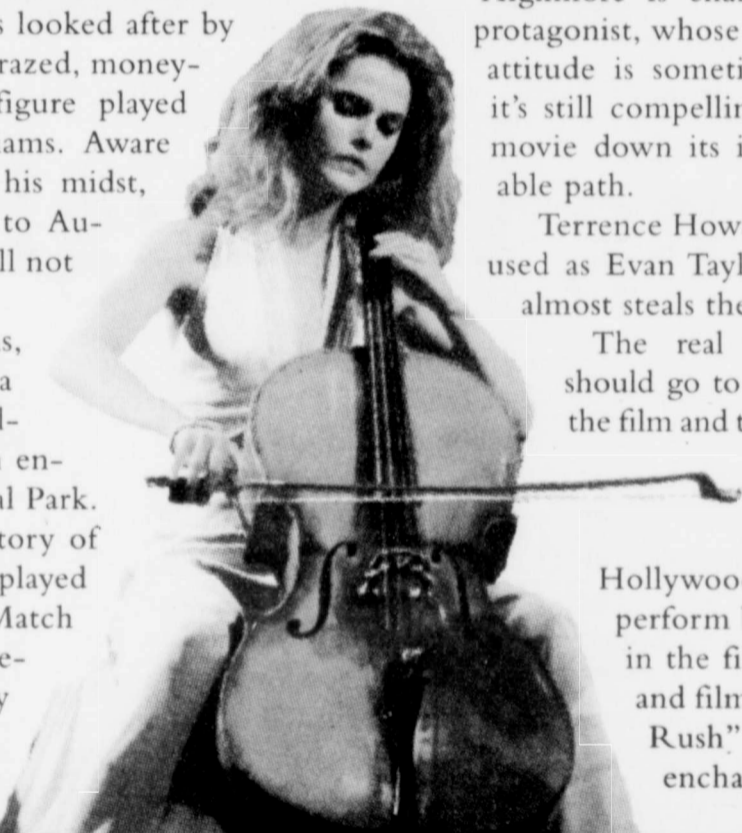
Russell's moving performance as a mother in search of a son she thought was dead is worthy of critical acclaim.

Highmore is charismatic as the young protagonist, whose naiveté and optimistic attitude is sometimes over-the-top, but it's still compelling enough to lead the movie down its inevitable and predictable path.

Terrence Howard ("Crash") is under-used as Evan Taylor's social worker, but almost steals the show.

The real award for excellence should go to the actual musicians in the film and the composer of the music in the final scene.

Composer Mark Mancina and the Hollywood Studio Symphony perform better than anyone else in the film, and the final scene and film's score brings "August Rush" to an emotional and enchanting conclusion.



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T G I F

Looking for something to do this weekend?
Check out these events!

Friday

The Cal Poly University Jazz Band will host its fall jazz concert in Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m.

Saturday

"CSI: Bethlehem" will be one ho-ho-holy night of mystery. Come watch the Sister solve the case of the Magi's missing gold at Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m.

"A Christmas Celebration" (read the article on page 5).

Sunday

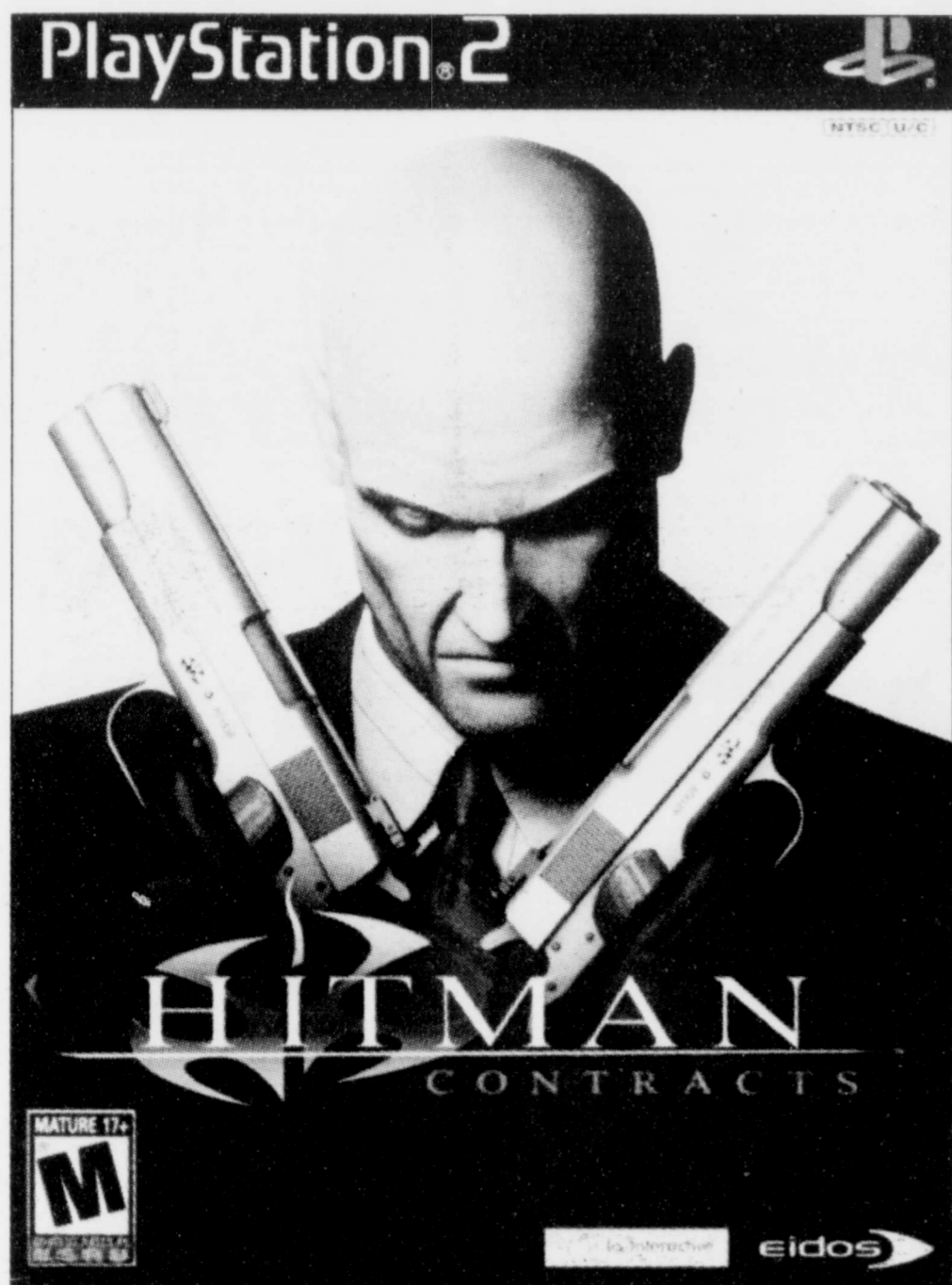
The snowboarding film "Optimist?" follows 15 boarders through their interpretation of winter and the effects of global warming. The movie will show in Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m.

"The Joyous Sounds of Christmas" will bring the most-loved holiday classics cathedral music and everyone's favorite carols. The Vocal Arts Ensemble concert starts at 3 p.m. in Christopher Cohan Center.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

HITMAN VS. HITMAN

Video game-based movie lives up to its violent origins

Graig Mantle
MUSTANG DAILY

"Hitman" the movie was just as exciting as the "Hitman" games that led to its creation. Many reviews out there will say otherwise, but I beg to differ. As a fan of the game, I will admit that it is easier to follow the plot knowing certain background details that were left out of the film, including the fact that the main character eventually escaped and took out his creators before getting hired as a hitman. While many video game-to-movie adaptations have been generally unwatchable ("Doom," for example), this one sets the bar to new heights for video game movies, even though it wasn't that high to begin with.

The beginning of the movie rolls out the credits to some classical music and tries to illustrate the origins of the genetically-engineered Agent 47. This probably causes a little confusion among viewers who had never played the game since the scene is just a boy getting a barcode tattooed on his head and practicing martial arts and other disciplines to become a deadly assassin.

Once the introduction finishes, "Hitman" takes off. Action-packed with some dark humor mixed in, there are no pauses along the way to allow for a bathroom break.

Throughout the film, scenes showcase the many deadly talents of Agent 47. The body count he leaves behind includes death by C4 explosives, sniper bullets, strangulation, stab wounds and, of course, many, many bullets from the magazines of his trademark dual-Silverballers (the twin pistols that get any impatient gamer through a mission quickly). Even a few of his barcoded peers make appearances to try and off 47 as the plot reveals that his own agency has set him up to be whacked, leading to a very thrilling swordfight between Agent 47 and three other clones. The picture earns major brownie points for not only staying true to its video game background but also for knowing when to add other elements that could justify this being a lovely movie to bring a date to.

Many of the aspects that make the games so fun are also present in the movie. The main goal of the game is to get through a level as stealthily as possible while avoiding attention and minimizing civilian casualties; this is true in the movie as well when Agent 47 uses disguises to get through hairy situations while Interpol agents are still scouring the landscape for a pale, bald guy with a noticeable barcode tattooed on his head wearing an expensive suit and red tie. His use of silent killing methods is also present with fiber wire, knives, syringe injections, Silverballers and also

a series of "accidents." In previous games, Agent 47's homicides have also included meat hooks, poison doughnuts, exploding barbecues and falling chandeliers. Another highlight of the "Hitman" series is the open design of the missions that promote thought and encourage completing a level as quietly as possible while getting creative with your methods of assassination. The movie does not require your brain to be in the "on" position, however.

Though not a popular choice to play the role of Agent 47, Timothy Olyphant did a superb job. Much like Daniel Craig in "Casino Royale," Olyphant delivers the character in a way that convinces you he is Agent 47 while also adding some other traits that augment the assassin, most notably his inability to charm a woman (something I can't really relate to). The mandatory love story is a little hard to believe, especially when the hooker (Olga Kurylenko) he protects falls in love with him seemingly overnight, despite spending a considerable amount of time in the trunk of a car.

Overall, don't believe the negative reviews. "Hitman" is a fun movie with lots of action and one-liners. The quick pace won't leave you yearning for the film to end either. The game is set in a dark and violent tone, which carries over well into the film, but is also not graphic enough to distract from the action.

Lerche goes overboard on 'Real Life' soundtrack

Hilary Stohs-kruse
DAILY NEBRASKAN (L. NEBRASKA)

This isn't a bad album.

It's a bit of change for Lerche, as most of the songs are instrumental, but the basic core is still Sondre, which is precisely why "Dan in Real Life" director Peter Hedges recruited the Norwegian alt-pop singer-songwriter in the first place.

The singles, if you will, are pleasant, particularly "To Be Surprised" and "Airport Taxi Reception," which features Lerche's backing band The Faces Down. The last track, which features vocalist Lillian Samdal, recalls sunny 1970s pop with a slight honky-tonk influence. A duet with Regina

Spektor, however, falls flat; the chanteuse sounds too breathy, à la Norah Jones, and not sharp à la, well, Regina Spektor.

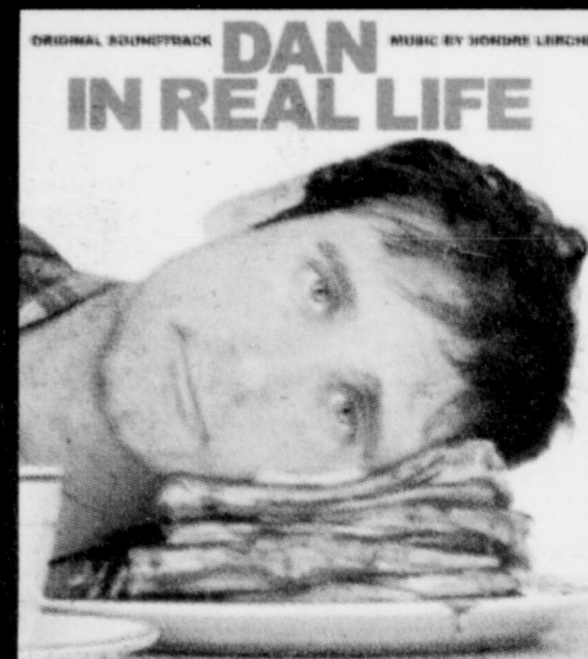
I saw Lerche perform a couple of weeks ago in Omaha before listening to the album, and I was disappointed with the recorded versions of my favorite songs. "My Hands Are Shaking" is still an excellent track, but the studio version lacks the panache of the live performance. To a certain extent, that's inevitable, but even so, it's subdued to the point of being boring. However, the acoustic guitar is crisp and cleanly punctuated.

Similarly, "Human Hands" was much better live. An Elvis Costello cover, the style of the song fits perfectly with

Lerche's musical sensibilities, but the passion is once again lacking. Lerche's voice has a tendency to sound weak when he sings softly, and much of the singing on the album feels as though he's purposely trying to fade into the background.

Again, for a soundtrack, that makes sense, but I think Lerche goes a little overboard. Especially after the boisterous charm of last spring's "Phantom Punch," the "Dan in Real Life Original Soundtrack" sounds muted.

And it's short. There's only 16 tracks, and the majority of songs are fewer than three minutes long. It's a pleasant listen, and several of the songs have potential, but at the end, I found myself thinking, "Really? That's it?"



COURTESY PHOTO

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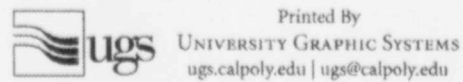
corrections

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Mustang Daily

"I'm loving you like a \$2 whore."

MUSTANG DAILY
OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, November 30, 2007

Editor in chief: Kristen Marschall
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Cal Poly to focus the nation on global warming solutions

Today's college students have an opportunity to shift the course of human history. As environmental challenges become increasingly urgent, young professionals will have the opportunity to redefine the nation's interaction with the environment. Our future careers will play an important role in addressing global climate change.

Devising solutions to the issues associated with global warming will be a monumental undertaking. Eco-savvy young professionals will be capable of meeting these challenges head-on by incorporating global warming solutions into their work. Cal Poly is in a unique position to encourage the type of multidisciplinary effort in which the next generation will engage.

As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly has an academically diverse student body. Students from each of our colleges and departments bring a unique perspective to the table. By working together with students from other programs, they are able to prepare for the rapidly changing professional world. Students everywhere are finding that college is the perfect time to prepare for the challenges they will face in the working world. Nowhere is this more true than at Cal Poly.

In order to jumpstart the discussion about climate change, campuses from across the nation will host the largest teach-in in American history. On Jan. 31, 2008, more than 1,000 college campuses will host "Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America," an educational initiative taking place simultaneously across the country. Cal Poly will host its own Focus the Nation event on campus.

On Jan. 31, there will be hour-long workshops in Chumash Auditorium during the day,

featuring experts on many aspects of global warming solutions. Round-table discussions are planned relating to science, architecture, management, engineering, agriculture, English, faith, economics, psychology and public policy. All members of the Cal Poly community are invited to attend the events and take an active role in the conversations that grow out of them.

Focus the Nation will also include:

- speeches by federal, state and local politicians, including expected addresses by California Congresswoman Lois Capps and California State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
- an alternative vehicle fair
- a live, interactive Web cast by national leaders in global warming solutions
- a solar-powered musical performance in the University Union
- art installations on Dexter Lawn and in the Epicenter
- an environmental poetry slam
- a green job fair and trade show

Last year, Cal Poly became the second university in the country to receive Focus the Nation endorsements from the President's Office, the Academic Senate and Associated Students Inc. Since then, an organizing team of students, faculty, staff and administrators has been working to plan Focus the Nation at Cal Poly. Through the correspondences, conferences and meetings that have taken place with other organizing teams, Cal Poly has established itself as a national leader in Focus the Nation planning.

To date, more than 150 Cal Poly faculty members have committed to supporting Focus the Nation by focusing their classes on global warming solutions, traveling with their stu-



dents to the events taking place on our campus or taking part in one of the expert panels.

Focus the Nation is an incredible opportunity for Cal Poly students to work together in preparing for the challenges that lay ahead. By capitalizing on the academic diversity of our student body and interacting with expert guests and panelists on Jan. 31, we can get a head start on developing global warming solutions for America.

Expect to hear much more about Focus the Nation as Jan. 31 approaches. As it will be a landmark event in Cal Poly's history. For more information on Focus the Nation, please visit the national Web page at focusnation.org. If you are interested in participating in the planning effort for Focus the Nation at Cal Poly, getting the word out about the event, or would just like to learn more, please visit focusnationso.pbwiki.com or contact organizers at focusnationso@gmail.com.

Matt Hutton is an environmental engineering senior, external vice president of the Empower Poly Coalition and co-director of Focus the Nation.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Government taxes a necessary evil

I know that the word "taxes" has a negative connotation, and I, like most other college students, dislike seeing the impressive percentage of money being taken out of my meager salary. It is a charge not easily taken, but the taxes we pay do help in many ways, even if we're not directly using them. People cannot pick and choose which taxes to pay or else blanket taxes (transportation, school and water systems, to name a few) would not and could not operate. Imagine if the only people who paid taxes that were given to schools were students themselves.

There is a balance that can be reached, but it seems the ignorant are the ones who keep pushing it toward "less taxes." These are the people who vote

think to themselves "Less taxes means more money for me; this is good." Both assumptions are incorrect. The privatization of medicine, transportation, welfare, healthcare, childcare and schooling does allow one to pay for what they use, but there is no control on how much you pay. Government programs, establish a stable level of cost for programs, and if they do increase, it is directly observable in better service. Think about open competition for the services listed above. Prices would go up or down depending on the number of competitors. In addition, programs that help people who are the worst off — pensioned seniors and dirt poor — would only get funding from the generous, which is usually not enough.

for the candidate who says he or she will decrease taxes, and they

I will temper some of my statements by saying that there

are serious spending problems in our government. The gigantic waste of taxpayer dollars is incredible, thus validating the Republicans' view that only you know how best to spend your money. When I started this argument I mentioned that a balance can be reached. In as few words as possible: Keep taxes the same, reform government spending for more accountability on expenditures, have an organization specifically designed to stop wasteful spending, and decrease foreign presence. Our nation has all the money it needs to fund all of the Democrat-pushed programs and keep the same tax bracket it has now if these steps are taken.

Scott Joly is an architectural engineering junior and a Mustang Daily columnist.

get it **off** your chest.

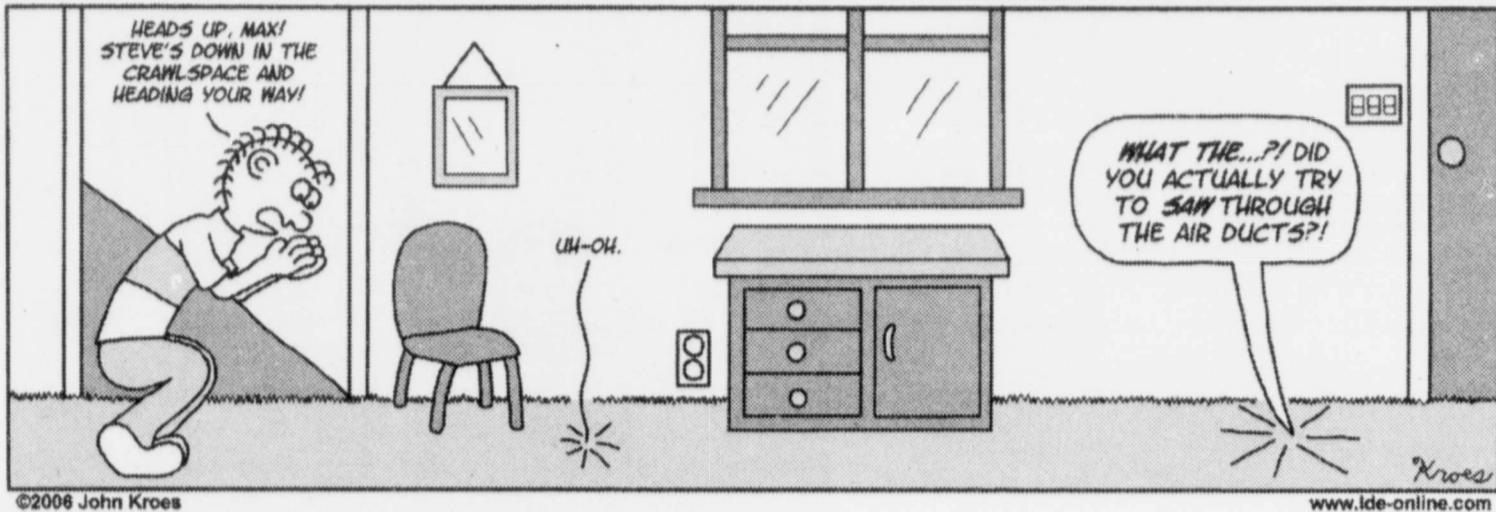
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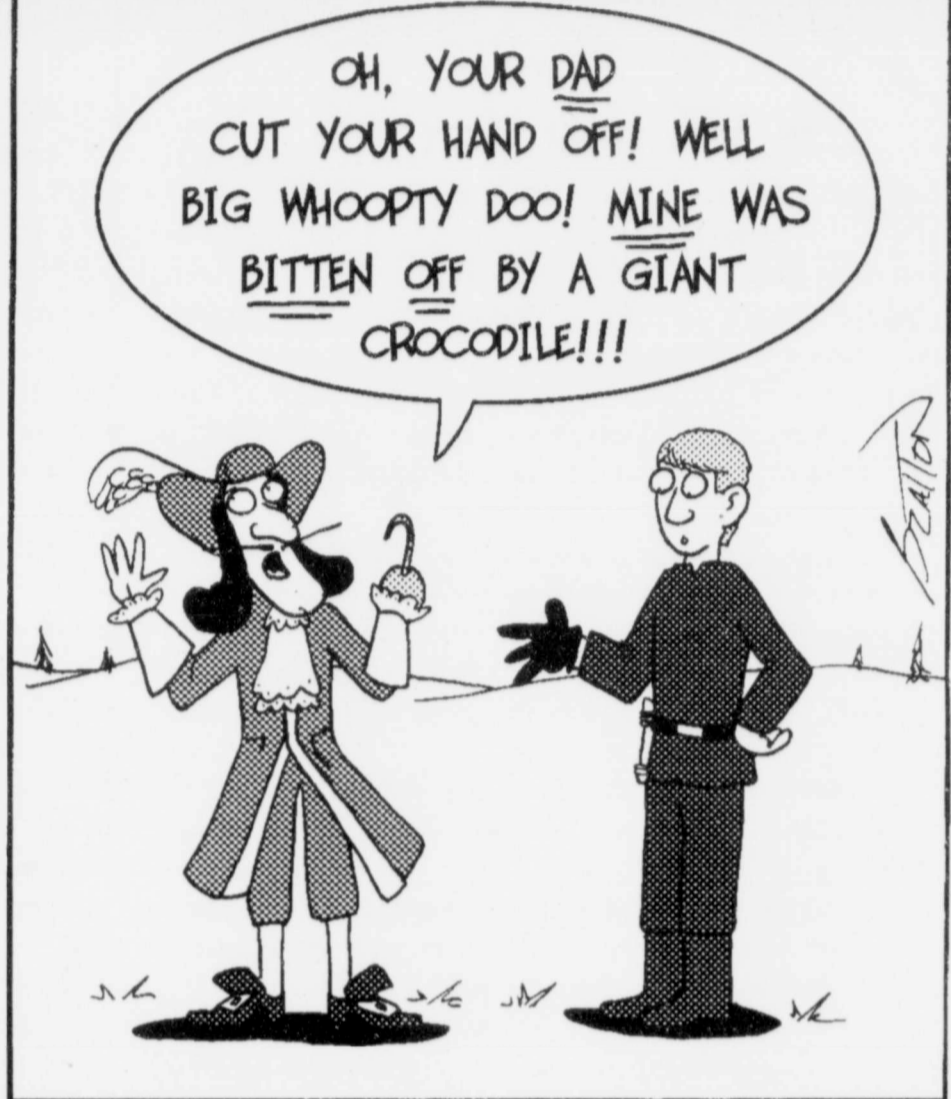
COMICS & GAMES



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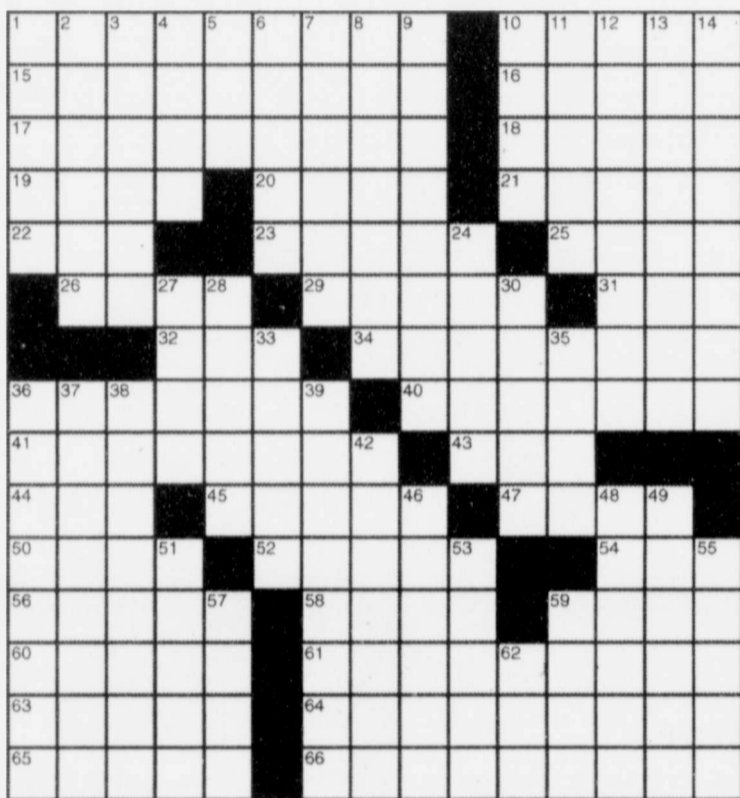


Captain Hook "one-ups" Luke Skywalker.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1019

- Across**
- 1 Windshield wipers
 - 10 "Unbelievable!"
 - 15 Darwin's home
 - 16 Superrealist sculptor Hanson
 - 17 Zip
 - 18 They stand for something: Abbr.
 - 19 Station info, briefly
 - 20 Checks out
 - 21 1984 hit parody of a 1983 hit song
 - 22 Get moving, with "up"
 - 23 Four-time Vardon Trophy winner
 - 25 Area below the hairline
 - 26 Lock changer?
 - 29 Turn out
 - 31 Narrows: Abbr.
 - 32 Directory data: Abbr.
 - 34 Clam
 - 36 Bluster
 - 40 Hardly humble homes
 - 41 A bit much
 - 43 Call in a calamity
 - 44 No longer doing the job?: Abbr.
 - 45 Bombards with junk
 - 47 Become active
 - 50 Pull out of ___ (produce suddenly)
 - 52 Makes out
 - 54 Fat cat, in England
 - 56 Packs in stacks
 - 58 Short distance
 - 59 "Eight Is Enough" wife
- Down**
- 1 Not as touched
 - 2 Like successful orators
 - 3 James Forrestal was its last cabinet secy.
 - 4 Portions of les années
 - 5 Stat for a reliever
 - 6 Slalom targets
 - 7 Comic Booster
 - 8 Astronaut Collins and others
 - 9 Toasted triangle topper
 - 10 One of Jon Arbuckle's pets
 - 11 Changsha is its capital
 - 12 "Hang on!"
 - 13 Eager
 - 14 Things that may be shot in stages?
 - 24 "La Reine Margot" novelist
 - 20 Creator of lofty lines
 - 61 Freshening naturally
 - 63 Something to get a kick out of
 - 64 Park gathering place
 - 65 Starters
 - 66 Garb symbolizing youth



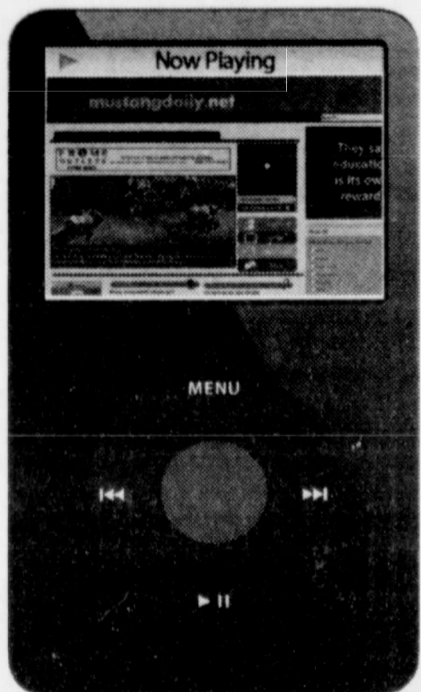
Puzzle by Frederick J. Healy

- 27 ___'acte
- 28 Ways to go
- 30 Some shirts
- 33 Dishes out undaintily
- 35 Trailer's place
- 36 South Pacific island
- 37 Cry before storming out
- 38 "Lighten up, will ya?!"
- 39 Hiking aid
- 42 Hate, say
- 46 "Tristram Shandy" author
- 48 Natural
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- 51 10 kilogauss
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Soccer: A young and kicking club

Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

It has only been their first season on campus and already the Men's Soccer Club has students lining up to grab a position, a winning record and the bond that keeps the club strong.

Alex Strehl and Matt Joanou worked on creating the club after it started as a proposal assignment for a technical writing class in spring quarter of last year.

Once the class was over, Joanou and Strehl took the simple idea and turned it into a formation process that later became the Men's Soccer Club.

"Last May, Alex Strehl and I started looking into what it would take to start the club," said Joanou, president of the Soccer Club. "Everyone's always talked about starting it but no one ever had. Eventually we contacted the league with our interest in joining. A lot of work was done last summer trying to get everything figured out."

Joanou credits many people with helping the Cal Poly Soccer Club get up and running. They were able to find a coach, Johnny Costa, who coaches the local youth soccer team SLO Fire.

"Bill Babka, the owner of Sloco Soccer Store on Monterey St., donated the full uniforms for the season; Paul Holocher, head coach of the men's soccer team at Cal Poly, was also a tremendous help; Everett Brooks, sports club coordinator at Cal Poly, guided us through the process of becoming a legitimate sports club," Joanou said.

The main goal of the club is to give people a chance to experience the in-between of playing for the Cal Poly men's soccer team and playing for fun.

"The goal for us is to play beautiful soccer, field a competitive team and play at a college level without the time commitment involved in playing an NCAA sport," vice president Strehl explained.

The team's popularity has already forced them to turn people away this year during winter and spring season try-outs. Out of the 60 men who showed up to try out, only 24

players — including two goalies — were accepted.

To grab hold of one of those 24 spots next season, make sure to bring your A-game and determination.

"We are looking for players that take the game seriously while at the same time bring a positive attitude and fun to the team," said team captain and centerback Jean-Carlos Reyes. "We're looking for guys who know how to knock the ball around and get stuck in."

The Men's Soccer Club has a two-month season, which lasts from mid-September to mid-November.

"The rest of the year is one big off-season with one big tournament in March," Joanou explained.

The team holds three two-hour practices a week during the regular season along with a day dedicated to fitness training. During off-season, the team continues to practice twice a week while they play in a local men's league in Paso Robles.

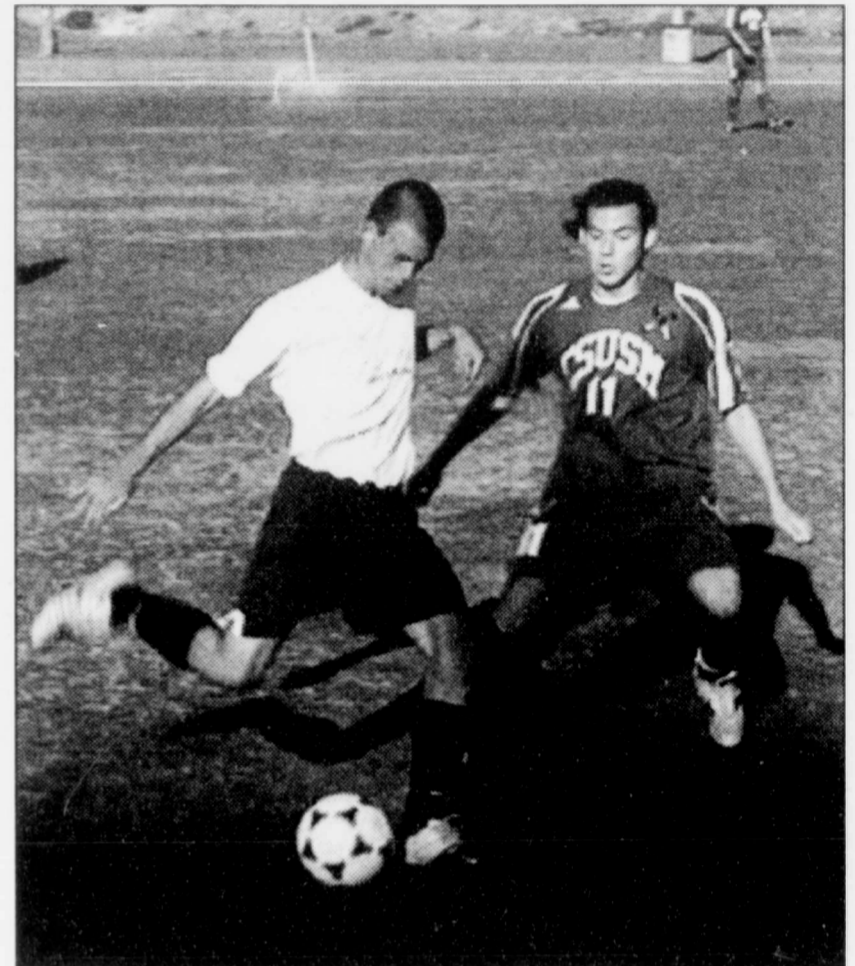
"We continue during off-season to play on a lower level and we look to develop new players and we bring them into the club," Strehl said.

All this hard work paid off during the soccer club's first season.

"We played in the California Collegiate Club Soccer League (CCCCSL)," Joanou said. "Since it was our first season of play, we had to compete in the lower tier of the league. We competed in the southern section of the lower tier and played teams like UCSD, USC and UCSB. We went 6-1 in the regular season, winning our tier, and went on to play the California Regional Tournament at UC Davis, where we lost in semi-finals to UCLA. Next season we will be promoted to the upper tier of the league."

The team's success, according to Joanou, is credited to many people and factors. Their captain, Reyes, is very solid at centerback and their defense is definitely one of the strong points of their team as well.

"Defense has only given up four goals in seven regular season games," Joanou said. "Ryan Brown is a brilliant striker up top — he scored a lot of the goals for us this season.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Cal Poly Men's Soccer Club plays in the California Collegiate Club Soccer League. Last season the team went 6-1.

There is an abundance of talent on the team. It's hard to pick out individuals."

Joanou said the team has molded together so well that during the first season they shut out the first two teams they played — and that was after only four practices together as a team.

"It was phenomenal how well we did playing against teams who have played multiple years together," he said. "We just have so much talent on the team, I can't say enough."



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Swimming

continued from page 12

"He comes in with a great work ethic and he's pretty much prepared and on schedule."

Some of the other stats that Waggoner currently uphold include records in the 500, 1000 and 1650 meter free-style.

He is also the recent leader in the Big West Conference for the 500 and 1000 meter free-styles.

Another talented swimmer making waves in the freshmen ranks is business major Melody White.

White said that when she decided to attend Cal Poly, she was already familiar with the university because both of her parents are Cal Poly alums.

White said one of the things she is definitely looking forward to is her dad's impending visit.

"I'm excited because my father is flying out tonight," White said. "I'm really happy that he will be here to see me swim."

As she talked excitedly about the upcoming meet, White said that she is eagerly looking forward to all the different aspects that will be happening.

"It will be good to get out there and swim different events, get new times and race against the other swimmers in the competition," White said.

In relation to Olympic timing qualification, White said she is looking forward to improving her times, and with it her chances of someday going for the gold.

"I definitely think this weekend will put me closer to a qualifying time," White said. "If not an Olympic trial grade, I definitely want to get a national cut."

One more athlete currently making a splash on the scene is kinesiology freshman, Gloria Benefield.

Her current ranking status includes the title for the 400

individual medley.

Her time rated an impressive 4:30.76. Benefield's standing in the Big West Conference places her second for the 200 backstroke, with an overall time of 2:02.70.

She is also ranked number four for the 200 butterfly, as well as fifth for the 400 individual medley.

Benefield has also recently qualified for the Olympic trials this summer in Indiana.

She said that the experience was humbling as well as overwhelming.

"I'm still in shock from the whole thing," Benefield said. "The competition was so rough but I'm so excited to be racing against the best in the entire country."

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens, I guess."

Wait and see is exactly what will be happening as these talented and driven individuals swim their way to probable victory in this weekend's competition.



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Senior point guard Kyla Howell scored nine points in Thursday's game against San Diego State in Mott Gym. Poly lost 70-80 and fell to 3-4.

Basketball

continued from page 12

first half. It was 43-38 at the-buzzer and Harrison, the lord of the game at that point, had 20 points at the half on 7-8 shooting, 6-6 from the line while freshman Aztec Paris Johnson led her squad with 12.

Harrison took a charge to open up the second half on a positive, though probably painful, note. But the sting obviously didn't last as she continued to drain shot after shot from the floor. But as the saying goes, there is no "I" in "team" and Harrison couldn't do it all.

The Aztecs gained their first lead of the second half (50-49) on a Jene Morris three and then Coco Davis lucked out with a three off a bank to extend the lead to four and they never looked back.

Senior center Nicole Yarwasky hit a jumper to stop the run only to suffer another Aztec long bomb by Morris on the following possession. The Aztecs were 4-4 from behind the arch at this point in the second half, yet the Mustangs remained in a 2-3 zone, a formation that obviously wasn't doing its job after San Diego State threw a fourth player out on the perimeter.

Despite a promising late first half showing and a close finish, the Mustangs, who turned the ball over 23 times and were out rebounded 39-31, 20-12 on offensive boards, executed more like a free-style break dance than a ballroom performance. The Aztecs hands were too quick and they hit big shots in the end.

"Rebounding really hurt us tonight ... It's an area we clearly have to improve on," head coach Faith Mimnaugh said.

No other Mustangs besides Harrison, whose 34 points established a school record since it became a Division I program, finished in double-digits while four Aztecs made that mark.

"I would have liked to have some more support for (Harrison), because the game was theirs for the taking," Mimnaugh said.

Were there more bodies in the stands to perform for, perhaps the outcome would have been different. Although many like to dance like nobody is watching, in basketball, having an audience is key. After a match against San Diego State on Saturday at 2 p.m., Poly will host Santa Clara University in its last home game of the year on Dec. 12.

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Lady Mustangs stumble over the Aztecs

Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

Junior forward Megan Harrison's 20-point first half and career-high 34-point game total, on 13-16 shooting was not enough to lead the Mustangs (3-4, 0-0 Big West) over the San Diego State Aztecs (5-1, 0-0 Mountain West Conference) as they fell 70-80 following a less-than-stellar second-half performance.

"I honestly had no idea I had that many points until coaches told us in the locker room," Harrison said of her new record. "I got rhythm and I got good shots."

Harrison said she was frustrated with her shot recently in practice and thus took some extra attempts afterward. Her hard work carried over.

It was a slow start for both teams Thursday night — not that anyone was watching. The attendance at women's and men's basketball games in Mott Gym was analogous to the amount of seeds in an apple to that of a pomegranate. As the game began with a slew of sloppy turnovers, missed lay-ups and lazy passes, it seemed the Mustangs were proving their nonexistent fans ... right.

A women's basketball game, much more so than a men's, is like a dance. Opposed to the sheer athleticism seen in a men's basketball contest, women basketball games can look awkward and jumbled when thrown together, but when preformed correctly, beautifully choreographed numbers can and will awe an audience.

Last night was not one of those nights.

Following an early first half timeout, the Mustangs changed some of their steps. For starters, following their haphazard ball handling and passing early on — they had 11 turnovers in the first half — Poly decided to hold on to the rock for a change. Also, aggressive attacks down



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Junior forward Megan Harrison broke the Cal Poly point record since the program switched to Division I with 34 in a loss to San Diego State.

the middle, spearheaded by senior guard Sparkle Anderson, sucked the Aztec defense — allowing guards to dish to post players and secure some much needed buckets.

As their dance steps changed, the Mustangs successfully livened up the

"crowd." After being down early, suddenly, Cal Poly was up 25-17 with seven minutes in the half. For a moment, they became the stars instead of dancing with them.

And they kept on tapping in the

see Basketball, page 11



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Distance freestyle freshman Matthew Wagoner holds records for swimming and diving in the 500, 1,000 and 1,650 this season.

Cal Poly to host Mustang Invitational

Future golden Olympians give the Cal Poly swimming team its silver lining

Daniel Seguin
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly will play host this weekend as Cal State Bakersfield and UC Santa Cruz, among others, gather to compete in the second annual Mustang Invitational swim meet.

This year's two-day event takes place at Sinsheimer Park in San Luis Obispo.

The schedule begins at 11 a.m. tomorrow and culminates at 10 a.m. Saturday.

As Cal Poly enters this year's invitational, a handful of standout athletes highlight the swim team's path to victory.

Head coach Tom Milich has been coaching for the past 33 years, the last two at Cal Poly.

He said he knows true talent when he comes across it and this year's mostly freshman group has definitely got it.

"We have a pretty awesome group this year," Milich said. "Records have been broken all across the board and they're going to keep getting broken."

One of those top athletes who is swimming laps around the competition is biochemistry freshman Matthew Wagoner.

Milich had much to say as he proudly discussed some of Wagoner's many swimming related accomplishments.

"Matthew was a high school All-American who qualified for the United States Olympic Trials in the 1500 meter freestyle" Milich said. "He had a top-ten time in the 800 meter freestyle and also qualified for the 400 meter freestyle in the National Championships."

see Swimming, page 11

Volleyball takes on Xavier in first round of NCAA Tournament

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

This is a must-win day for the Cal Poly volleyball team as they go dig or go home in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament today at Ohio University.

The 16th-seeded Mustangs (21-7, 15-1 Big West), who earned their second-consecutive Big West Conference title this year are riding a 12-match winning streak that can come to an end tonight if they fail to topple Xavier (24-10, 11-2 Atlantic-10) — a team they lost to 3-1 at the San Francisco ASICS/Coca-Cola Invitation Sept. 14.

Following the Poly-Xavier

match-up, host Ohio (26-5, 15-1 Mid-American) will take on Purdue (18-13, 11-9 Big Ten). The winners of both contests will meet on Saturday evening in hopes of advancing to the Stanford Regional in Palo Alto on Dec. 7 to Dec. 8.

Xavier, the only team in the sub-regional that the Mustangs have faced this year, placed second in the Atlantic-10 West Division this season as it fell 3-0 to 15th-seeded Dayton in the Atlantic-10 tournament championship match. Poly has an all-time record of 1-2 against Purdue and it has never faced Ohio.

Cal Poly 'has' never made

it past the third round in 13 NCAA Tournament appearances and is 11-13 all-time in the NCAA Tournament.

The Mustangs stamped into the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 1981 and returned for nine straight showings. For 10 years, Poly saw no tournament action. Then, after the 1999 campaign, the Mustangs entered the big dance in 2000 and 2002. This year marks Poly's first second-consecutive playoff appearance since the 1981-89 run.

Although the Mustangs will be battling in Ohio, the event can be heard on ESPN 1280 AM.



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Junior middle blocker Jaclyn Houston (shown above spiking the ball in the Nov. 16 match against UC Riverside) and the Mustangs will face Xavier tonight in the first round, riding on a 12-match winning streak.