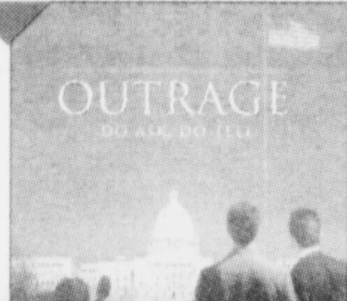




WEATHER TOMORROW

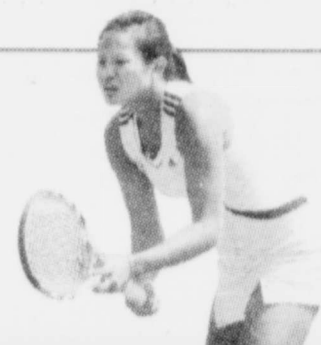
Economists unsure whether recession is over.

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Poly alum recognized for engineering lab

John McCullough
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Cal Poly alumnus Jon Monett recently received national recognition for creating and funding Cal Poly's prosthetics lab.

Last March, Monett donated \$500,000 to the engineering department after learning of the department's desire to increase the number of multidisciplinary projects available to engineering students while he was serving on the dean's advisory board. The funding founded the Quality of Life+ (QL+) laboratory, the first of the QL+ organization Monett founded with the proceeds from the sale of

ing how innovation can help a group of individuals, he added.

Monett, along with Cal Poly engineering students, appeared in a video called "Improving Lives" that was sent to members of the United States Automobile Association (USAA). QL+ was one of two nonprofit organizations featured in the video portion of the USAA Annual Report for "doing the right thing."

"Doing the right thing is not that easy to explain. I did not really think about creating an organization focused on 'doing the right thing,' rather I wanted to set an example," Monett said. "I wanted to show my appreciation

The life lessons are longer-lasting for these Cal Poly students than anything else they learn in the classroom and in textbooks.

— Jon Monett
Creator of QL+ laboratory on campus

his old company, Telemus Solutions.

The lab allows Cal Poly engineering students to research and develop prosthetics and other assistive devices for amputees injured while serving in the U.S. military, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement services.

Monett, a resident of McLean, Va., graduated Cal Poly in 1964 with a degree in industrial engineering.

"I remain extremely proud of receiving my industrial engineering degree from Cal Poly, consistently one of the top engineering schools in the U.S., if not the world," Monett said. "Also, Cal Poly's College of Engineering requires a senior project as a requirement — not every university's engineering program requires a practical application. Lastly, Cal Poly has afforded me the path to a successful career and a rewarding life. I have reached the point in my life where I want to give back — especially to those Americans who are serving our country."

The QL+ lab offers Cal Poly students life lessons that can't be found in a textbook, such as understand-

ing how innovation can help a group of individuals, he added. But I also wanted to create a unique practical environment for Cal Poly engineering students."

Biomedical engineering graduate student Nickolas Butler works in the on-campus lab.

"Our sponsor, Jon Monett, opened the doors to go in any direction with our projects," Butler said. "Sometimes the need is for a specific person; sometimes it's for many people. Our team is doing a prosthetic hand; another group is doing a (wheelchair that goes off-road). We think we can design our hand for under \$5,000."

Electrical engineering senior Sean Tolibas said the grants that allow the lab to run are important to Cal Poly engineers.

"Our labs are very expensive," Tolibas said. "In general, engineers use our private grant money really well. Because of the nature of our labs we can't function off of state money alone so we have to utilize opportunities like these."

Butler said he enjoys working

see Lab, page 2

Jamba Juice 20th anniversary celebration began yesterday



JESSICA BARBA MUSTANG DAILY

Jamba Juice will be offering a buy-one-get-one-free coupon on their Web site good until April 25 to commemorate the company's 20th anniversary. Cal Poly graduate Kirk Perron started the business that was originally named Juice Club in 1990 to offer fresh fruit drinks to San Luis Obispo residents and fellow Cal Poly students. Today, the company has grown from the original shop located on Foothill Boulevard to more than 350 stores throughout the country. The original Jamba Juice on Foothill and Chorro Street will give a free anniversary mug to the first 120 people who visit the store and will be handing out free drinks from 2 to 5 p.m. next Monday, April 19.

RPTA department publishes info on Californians' rec habits

Erin Hurley
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The recreation, parks and tourism administration (RPTA) department recently helped produce the latest California State Parks survey on the outdoor recreation habits of California residents.

Several RPTA faculty members and Cal Poly students worked for nearly three years on "The California Opinions and Attitudes Survey on Outdoor Recreation."

The survey includes the opinions of more than 3,000 California residents on recreation topics like the kind of outdoor activities that they would like to do more and how much they would pay for these activities. The goal of the research is to influence state policy decisions about park management and recreation programs for the next five years to reflect the changing atti-

tudes of Californians.

RPTA department head Bill Hendricks served as the project coordinator. Marni Goldenberg, Jerusha Greenwood and Jeff Jacobs also participated by overseeing focus groups that asked California youth questions about their outdoor activities.

"I hope the results published will help to improve recreation facilities across California. The research showed that most Californians are very interested in outdoor physical activity, especially in parks," Hendricks said.

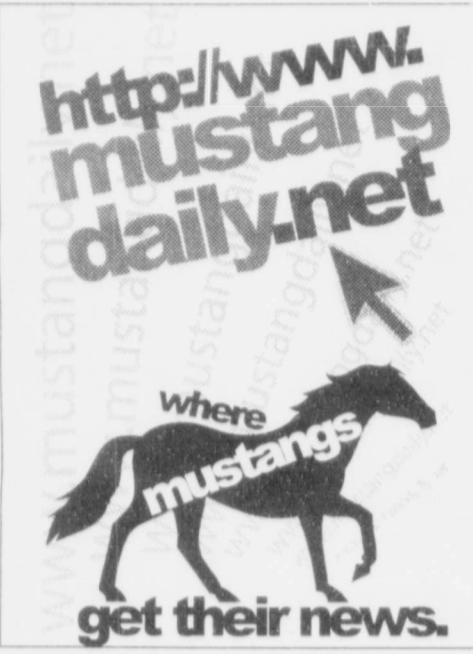
The project began three years ago when California State Parks selected Cal Poly to receive the contract for this year's survey. California State Parks conducts a recreation survey every five years to find out the opinions of both California adults and youth. Philomene Smith of California State Parks was the survey project manager and was involved in the decision to give the survey contract to Cal Poly.

"To appropriately distribute land and conservation funds to institutions around the state, we have to know the attitudes of citizens and what changes they would like to see. The results of this research will be used to guide funding for the next five years," Smith said.

Hendricks said this year's survey revealed that many of California's youth are primarily interested in specialized outdoor activities, such as snowboarding or horseback riding. This year's survey also included a physical activity component, which measured the levels of physical activity done by Californians on a "light, moderate, or heavy" scale. The survey found that most California adults exercised at light or moderate levels.

The RPTA department was aided in its survey research by grants from several outside agencies. The California Agricultural Research Initiative

see Recreation, page 2



Lab

continued from page 1

on this project, and while there currently isn't much work being done in the field of prosthetics, he wishes to continue the work he began at Cal Poly.

"The most rewarding part for us is that our projects immediately improve the lives of the people that our projects go to. We really do improve the quality of life for these people," Butler said.

Recreation

continued from page 1

awards money to California universities with agriculture programs and funded a significant portion of the research. The McIntire-Stennis forestry grant division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture also helped fund the RPTA department's project. Dr. Catalino Blanche of McIntire-Stennis was involved in granting money to assist the RPTA department's research for this project.

"We awarded about \$122,000 to Cal Poly this year, but we must confirm that any intended projects follow our guidelines for forestry research before the money is used. Cal Poly is extremely efficient in producing valuable results with our grants — even more so than schools that are granted more money from us," Blanche said.

Several Cal Poly graduate students were also involved in producing the survey by assisting faculty in running the focus groups. Recent graduate of the Agriculture Master's program Jason Cummings participated in several of the focus groups around Cali-


fornia.

"We went to community centers to ask kids about their experiences with outdoor recreation, and the answers we got were used to decide what would go in the finished project." Cummings said some of the responses he received from the young people were surprising. "Many of the kids in areas around L.A. said they didn't feel safe in parks near their homes. I hope this report can help change that."

The complete results of the survey can be viewed online at www.parks.ca.gov/planning_SPOA.


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Jorge Garibay, animal science freshman



"Rainbow sherbert, strawberries, bananas and gummy bears."

Brendon Soltis, computer engineering junior



"Peaches and raspberries."

Laura Crane, ag business junior



"Apples, Skittles, oranges and steak."

Aaron Soo, computer engineering junior



"Strawberries, Starburst and M&Ms."

Kristin Buck, business administration freshman

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESSICA BARBA

Cuba claims to have around one million excess jobs, according to Raul Castro

Juan O. Tamayo
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MIAMI — The stunning figure was revealed by Cuban leader Raul Castro himself: The Cuban government and its enterprises might have more than one million excess workers on their payrolls.

That's more than one million unproductive workers, out of what official Cuban figures show is a total of 4.9 million people working in formal jobs in a country of 11.2 million people.

And that's part of the explanation, several economists said, for a calamitously over-centralized and unproductive economy that, for example, forces the tropical island to import an estimated 60 percent of the food its people consume. The Cuban government has historically insisted on keeping people officially employed, even in unproductive jobs. Unemployment was last reported at 1.6 percent by the National Statistics Office.

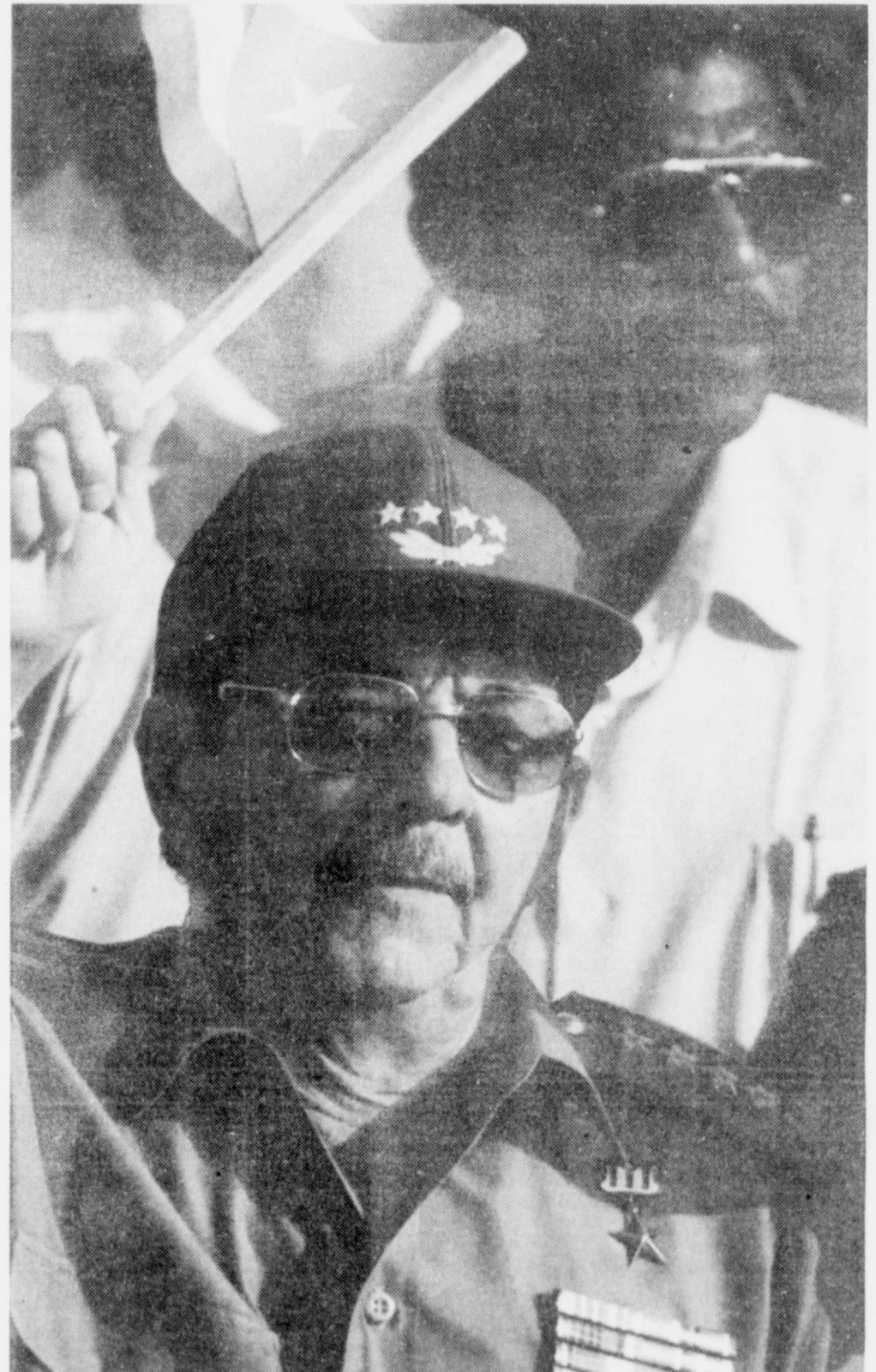
About 95 percent of the jobs in Cuba's formal sector are with the government — ministries, their agencies and enterprises — though salaries are so low, averaging about \$20 a month, nationwide, that many Cubans also have off-the-books work to make ends meet.

But the figures on excess jobs in the government and its enterprises mentioned by Raul Castro surprised even some Cuban economists.

"We know there's an excess of hundreds of thousands of workers in the budgeted and enterprise sectors (and) some analysts calculate that the excess of jobs is more than one million," he said Sunday in a speech to the Cuban Communist Youth.

There are "inflated payrolls, very inflated payrolls, terribly inflated payrolls," Castro said before adding a reassurance: "The revolution will not forsake anyone. I will fight to create the conditions so that all Cubans have honorable jobs."

It was not the first time that Cuban officials have publicly acknowl-



SOUTH FLORIDA MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Raul Castro, Cuban armed forces chief and second secretary of the communist party, waves a Cuban flag during an anti-Cuban Adjustment Act rally in Manzanillo.

edged the government has far too many employees.

The commerce and restaurant sectors alone in Cienfuegos, Cuba's smallest province, have 1,400 too many employees, according to a recent report in the newspaper Trabajadores, run by the government-controlled Cuban Confederation of Workers, or CTC.

The province's education sector also is overstaffed by 1,025, and the sports sector by 500, the newspaper added, quoting Marlen Jimenez, a provincial official of the CTC.

What's more, public health facilities like hospitals and clinics in

see Castro, page 4



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Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT)— Arroyo Grande City Councilman Ed Arnold is now facing two charges of child pornography after investigators allegedly found pictures of underage girls and a video showing a teenage foreign exchange student showering in his home.

Investigators executed a search warrant Jan. 4 at Arnold's residence in Pismo Beach and found "several still images" of young girls, according to documents filed by the District Attorney's Office.

In the same search, police found a video of a naked girl showering that police believe was taken with a hidden camera in the ceiling.

LOS ANGELES (MCT)— Conan O'Brien is going to cable.

The former host of NBC's "Tonight Show," who lost the program to Jay Leno earlier this year, has signed a deal for a new late-night program on TBS, the basic cable network owned by Time Warner. O'Brien's show will start in November at 11 p.m. ET/PT. George Lopez, the comedian who currently occupies that slot, will have his show move to midnight.

"In three months, I've gone from network television to Twitter to performing live in theaters, and now I'm headed to basic cable. My plan is working perfectly," O'Brien said in a statement.

National

WASHINGTON (MCT) — A group of economists on Monday said that it was too soon to know when the U.S. recession had ended, a technical ruling that has more than academic interest in this mid-term election year.

In a statement published on its Web site, the National Bureau of Economic Research said that the usual indicators showed the economy was improving, but that it was too soon to put a date on when the recession ended.

CONNECTICUT (MCT) — The state Supreme Court on Monday dealt another appellate defeat to convicted killer Michael Skakel, rejecting his claim that he deserves a new trial on the charge that he beat his 15-year-old Greenwich neighbor Martha Moxley to death with a golf club in 1975.

Skakel's lawyers, Hubert Santos and Hope Seeley, based their new trial argument on claims of prior judicial error and assertions that they had unearthed new evidence pointing to other suspects.

Skakel was 15 — as was Moxley — on Oct. 30, 1975, the night he is accused of killing her. He was arrested and charged with murder on Jan. 19, 2000, and convicted by a jury after a monthlong trial.

Skakel is related to the Kennedy family by marriage.

International

JORDAN (MCT) — President Obama met with Jordanian King Abdullah II on Monday to discuss Mideast peace talks as well as what to do about Iran's nuclear ambitions as the White House prepared for the formal opening of its nuclear summit Monday afternoon.

Obama and King Abdullah, amid tight security in Washington, agreed that Israel and the Palestinians should avoid actions that undermine chances of reviving stalled comprehensive peace talks between the parties, according to the White House. The United States has criticized Israel for building settlements in East Jerusalem.

POLAND (MCT) — The surviving members of the Polish political elite turned their attention Monday to the delicate task of reconstituting the country's leadership after a plane crash killed President Lech Kaczynski, heads of key institutions, lawmakers and military chiefs.

It was a delicate, often distasteful, task. The Polish people are still mourning streets littered with dying flowers and slick with puddles of hardened candle wax. Kaczynski's body was brought back to Poland, but remains of the other 95 dead were taken to Moscow for identification.

Castro

continued from page 3

eastern Granma province alone have 3,000 unnecessary employees, the newspaper quoted Luis Munoz, a member of the CTC's provincial secretariat, as saying.

"All will remain in their jobs, but depending on the possibilities many will be reassigned to useful and productive jobs," the newspaper noted. "Cuba will never resort to the easy and inhumane formulas of neoliberalism, based on massive dismissals."

Gary Maybarduk, who served as counselor for political and economic affairs at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Havana from 1997-1999, said Castro's comments indicate that he's aware of the massive problems facing an economy battered by the global crisis, three hurricanes and its own massive inefficiencies.

"The government is beginning to recognize its problems, but isn't ready to do anything about it yet because it has neither the capital nor the ability to create significant numbers of new jobs," he said.

"It indicates an incapacity to generate productive jobs that is Olympian, Guinness Book of Records," said Jorge Sanguinety, former president of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy. "But that's been the Cuban government's problem since 1962."

"And that's why underemployment is ridiculously high there," said Archibald Ritter, a professor at Carleton University in Ottawa who specializes in the Cuban economy.

Many day-care centers and even some two-star hotels in Cuba have their own nurses and doctors — not on call, but full time, Ritter said in a telephone interview.

What's more, when the government shut down more than 70 sug-

ar mills beginning in 2002, their 100,000 employees kept 40 percent of their salaries while they trained for other jobs, said Jesus "Marzo" Fernandez, a former top Cuba government economist now in Miami.

Fernandez added that while he was initially surprised by Castro's one-million figure, it made sense in light of recent reports that some Cuban enterprises have shut down because of the lack of foreign supplies needed for production.

Cuba has severely cut back imports in the past year because of a liquidity crisis sparked by drops in its main sources of hard currency — remittances, nickel exports and tourism. Maybarduk noted that Cuba's own statistics show that employment in the "communal, social and personal sector" — not further defined — rose from 951,000 in 2000 to 2.1 million in 2008.

"This appears to be the government soaking up all the people out there who were not in formal-sector jobs, maybe working in the black market," he said.

Sanguinety said the island's government has always kept as many people as possible on official salaries — in part to be able to proudly report very low unemployment figures, in part to keep an eye on them.

"Fidel (Castro) always wanted to have people at work, to control them," said Sanguinety. "They don't want people on the streets, so they sacrifice economic efficiency for political efficiency."

Though Raul Castro told the young communists that no one would be left without a job, he also made it clear that the economic crisis Cuba faces these days requires sharp cutbacks in government spending.

"To continue spending beyond the income means eating our future," he said, "and putting at risk the survival of the revolution."

Schools out, body found at elementary school

Jennifer Squires
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

BOULDER CREEK, Calif. — A school employee found a dead body on an outdoor, second-story balcony at Boulder Creek Elementary School on Monday morning, a grisly discovery that canceled school while Sheriff's Office detectives determine what happened.

The teacher found a white man in his 30s or 40s dead around 7:10 a.m. and called 911, according to Boulder Creek Volunteer Fire District Fire Chief Kevin McClish.

"We basically got there, saw he was deceased and waited for the sheriffs to show up," he said.

Deputies were at the school to investigate Monday morning; blood was found at the scene, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"It's suspicious," Sgt. Dan Campos said. "Everything is suspicious until we know what went on."

Information about the man's identity or how he died has not been released. It also wasn't immediately clear how long the man had been on the balcony.

It's standard procedure for detectives to investigate deaths that occur outside the presence of a medical professional.

Steve Burley, director of maintenance for Boulder Creek Elementary School, said the teachers went into a staff meeting with the school superintendent soon after the body was found. He said the teacher who found the dead man "was shaken up."

The dead man was not a school employee, according to sheriff's Sgt. Bill Gazza.

Students were on spring break last week; Monday was supposed to be their first day back since April 2.

Some school staff had been on campus during the vacation, said Julie Haff, superintendent of San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, who referred further questions to the Sheriff's Office.

The balcony is accessible without going into the building, a free-standing classroom facility toward the rear of the school, McClish said.

The school, which serves about 500 students, is in Boulder Creek, in Santa Cruz County.

Second grader Neal Fleck, 7, came to school with his dad and sister to find the campus closed. Fleck said he didn't know yet why class was canceled, but was happy to have spring break stretch a day longer.

School is planned to be in session on Tuesday, Haff said.



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Is the recession over? Economists aren't sure

Kevin G. Hall
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Most mainstream economists think the nation's deep recession is over, but a special body that makes such a determination took a pass Monday, saying what many Americans intuitively feel, that the data remain inconclusive.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, a nonprofit group of economists, determines when recessions start and end as part of its work in calculating the peaks and troughs of the business cycle.

The bureau's Business Cycle Dating Committee met last Friday and concluded that the jury is still out on the recession's end, announcing that decision on its Web site Monday.

The committee reaffirmed that the recession began in December 2007, but its seven members couldn't determine whether the recession has ended.

"The trough date would identify the end of contraction and the beginning of expansion. Although most indicators have turned up, the committee decided that the determination of the trough date on the basis of current data would be premature," the committee said in a statement. "Many indicators are quite preliminary at this time and will be revised in coming months."

One reason for a cautious view is the stubbornly high jobless rate.

Unemployment remains anchored in the ballpark of 9.7 percent. March employment numbers finally showed a solid gain of around 162,000 jobs, partly aided through government hiring to conduct the 2010 Census.

Although economic expansion usually is marked by two consecutive quarters of growth, the committee wants to see more evidence of strong and consistent job growth as an indicator that businesses are hiring on the basis of a firming economy.

"We will be ready to assign a particular month to the date of the trough when data revisions have settled down and the expansion has continued to the point where a sudden reversal would constitute a new recession and not a continuation of the one that started in December 2007," Robert Hall, a Stanford University economist and the chairman of the bureau's committee, told McClatchy Newspapers. "If current

forecasts hold, that time will come in a matter of months."

Hall was optimistic, however, that the economy is on the mend.

"In my personal view — not in my capacity as chair of the committee — I'd say that despite the fact that the contraction was the deepest by all measures since the Great Depression, the pattern of the recovery, to date, is not terribly different from earlier recessions," he said.

What's different this time, however, is the record numbers of long-term unemployed. Some 15 million Americans are unemployed, 6.5 million of them for half a year or longer. A full 16.9 percent of the work force is either jobless, working part time because full-time work isn't available or wants to work but hasn't looked in the past month because of bleak conditions.

It's why a sluggish recovery still leaves fear about a possible dip back into recession late this year.

"The question is, are businesses going to feel confident enough ... that they think the recovery is firmly in place and therefore they're going to want to hire? And will they have access to credit to do so?" asked Gus Faucher, the director of macroeconomics for Moody's Economy.com, a forecaster in West Chester, Pa.

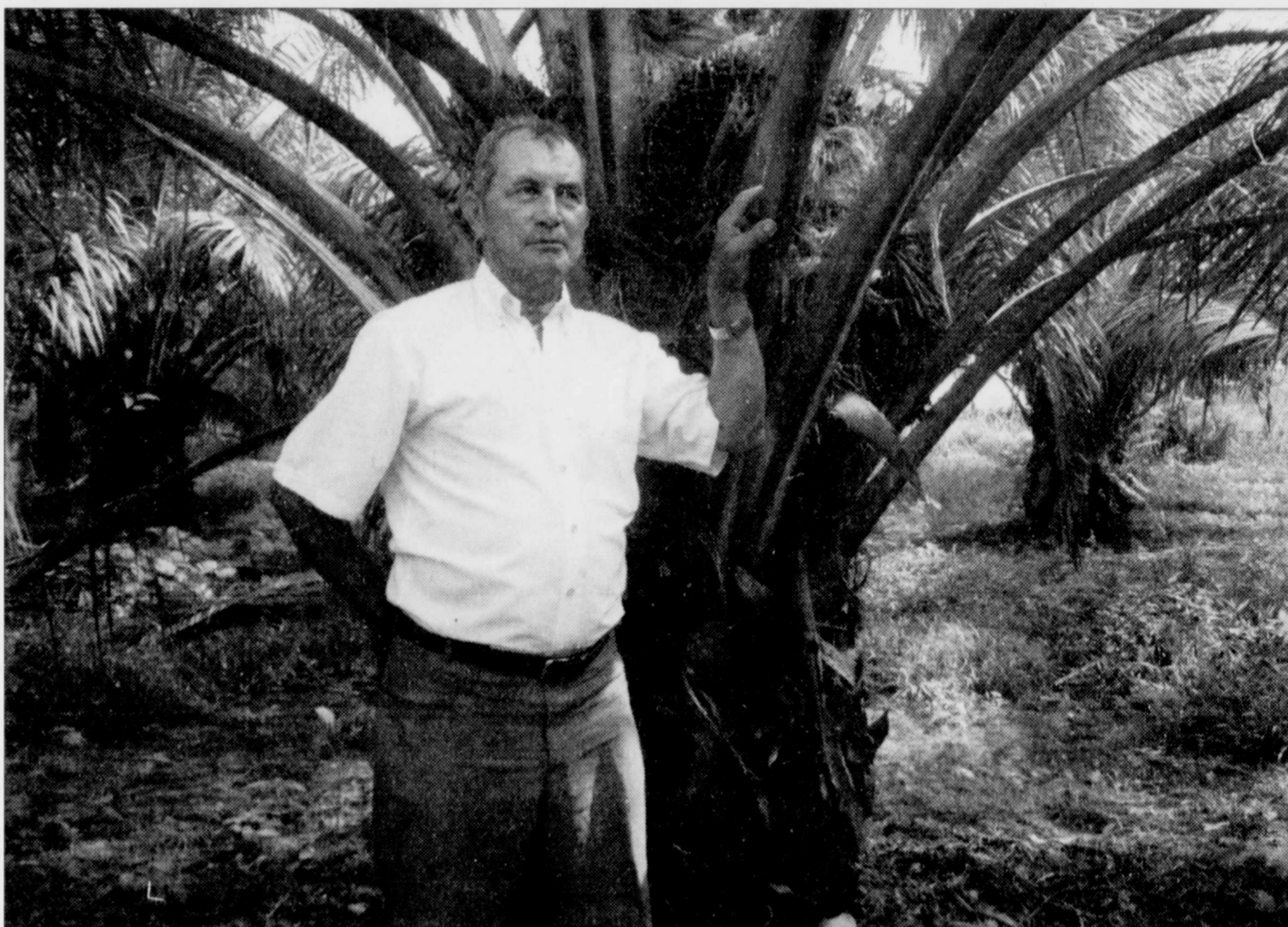
The Obama administration, stung by an overly optimistic unemployment forecast last year, maintained a cautious view.

"We will leave it to outside economists to determine whether the recession is over in technical terms, but for the millions of Americans still struggling, the president will continue to push for policies that lay the groundwork for businesses to grow and for American families to get back on their feet," said Amy Brundage, a White House spokeswoman.

The president of the National Bureau of Economic Research, James Poterba, cautioned in an interview that the committee's work only marks turning points and doesn't capture what ordinary Americans are feeling.

"Recovery and recession are about directions up or down. You can be moving up from a low base and moving down from a high plateau," he said.

A decision on putting a firm date on the recession's end is expected in coming months as more reliable economic data come in, Poterba said.



Farmer Miguel Angel Marquez, of Puerto Wilches, Colombia, stands before a palm infected with a fast-spreading and deadly disease called "PC" that is devastating whole swathes of Colombia's African palm industry.

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Science Café at Downtown Brew, 1119 Garden
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sampling in the Gyre I

Friday, April 16
Science Café at the Kennedy Library, 2nd Floor
Café Lounge, Bldg 35 at Cal Poly
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sampling in the Gyre II

Saturday, April 17
Science Café at the Exploration Station,
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Pride Center to host documentary for Day of Silence Wednesday night

Kelly Cooper

KELLYCOOPER.MD@GMAIL.COM

The Cal Poly Pride Center Allies will be showing the 2009 documentary "Outrage" on Wednesday. The film, which exposes closeted gay politicians who actively campaign for anti-gay legislation, is being held in honor of Day of Silence.

Held this year on April 16, Day of Silence involves high school and college-aged students taking a vow of silence to address the problem of anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ally) behavior, such as vocal and physical harassment. Be-

ginning in 1996, it has grown into the largest student-based campaign to bring attention to LGBT issues. But because some students are unable to participate, the Pride Center is showing the film in honor of the event.

Student-coordinator for the Pride Center and physics senior Brandon Boswell, who organized the event, expects a crowd of about 30 and said the film will help depict LGBT issues on campus as well as in government.

"These are your politicians, and they're still in office right now. And there's probably still many more that

are closeted that we don't even know about," Boswell said. "I think it speaks not just about gay rights, but about politicians that are voting just to appease certain people."

Boswell said the film will be a good supplement for those who support Day of Silence, not only because participating may not be feasible, but because it's harder to make a statement on a college campus of 20,000 students compared to a high school body of 2,000.

"It's mainly held at high school-level. It's not very prevalent because campuses are so big, whereas in high school you saw those people every

day," Boswell said.

Biological sciences senior Seth Winkenwerder said class assignments, his positions as student coordinator at the Pride Center and his role as a peer counselor with PRISM, Cal Poly's LGBT peer counseling and mentoring team, are difficult to do without speaking, especially around people who are not aware of the event.

"In college, often times the people that you work with or have class with are people that you've only known for a couple quarters, or had just met out of the purpose of taking that class," Winkenwerder said. "You don't have enough of a connection to rely on non-verbal communication to get your point across."

However, participation is not entirely impractical at the college level. Journalism sophomore Ebony Chetto, the Student and Life Leadership student assistant for the Pride Center, plans on contacting her friends and professors prior to the event.

"I probably will talk to them or write them an e-mail before. Usually the professors are cordial with this event, and I'm really excited to participate. And the more people who do it, the bigger impact it will have," Chetto said.

Whether students participate, the

film will be a way to look into LGBT issues. Boswell discovered the film after the Pride Center showed a film in February 2008 by the same director, Kirby Dick. The film, titled "This Film is Not Yet Rated," addresses censorship and movie ratings.

"It was about films that got rated 'R' or 'NC-17' for seemingly ambiguous standards," Boswell said.

After viewing the film a few weeks ago, Boswell said it was a suitable film to show because of its intimate look into the personal lives of closeted gay politicians and their adamant campaigns against pro-LGBT legislation.

"It was more about hypocrisy more than it was about politics," Boswell said. "It was pretty eye-opening to see how closeted some of these politicians are and voting against things that they should supposedly support."

The film not only focuses on the scandals of closeted politicians such as Idaho senator Larry Craig and Florida governor Charlie Crist, but also openly gay politicians such as congressman Barney Frank and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. Thus, the documentary intends to provide an unbiased look at homo-

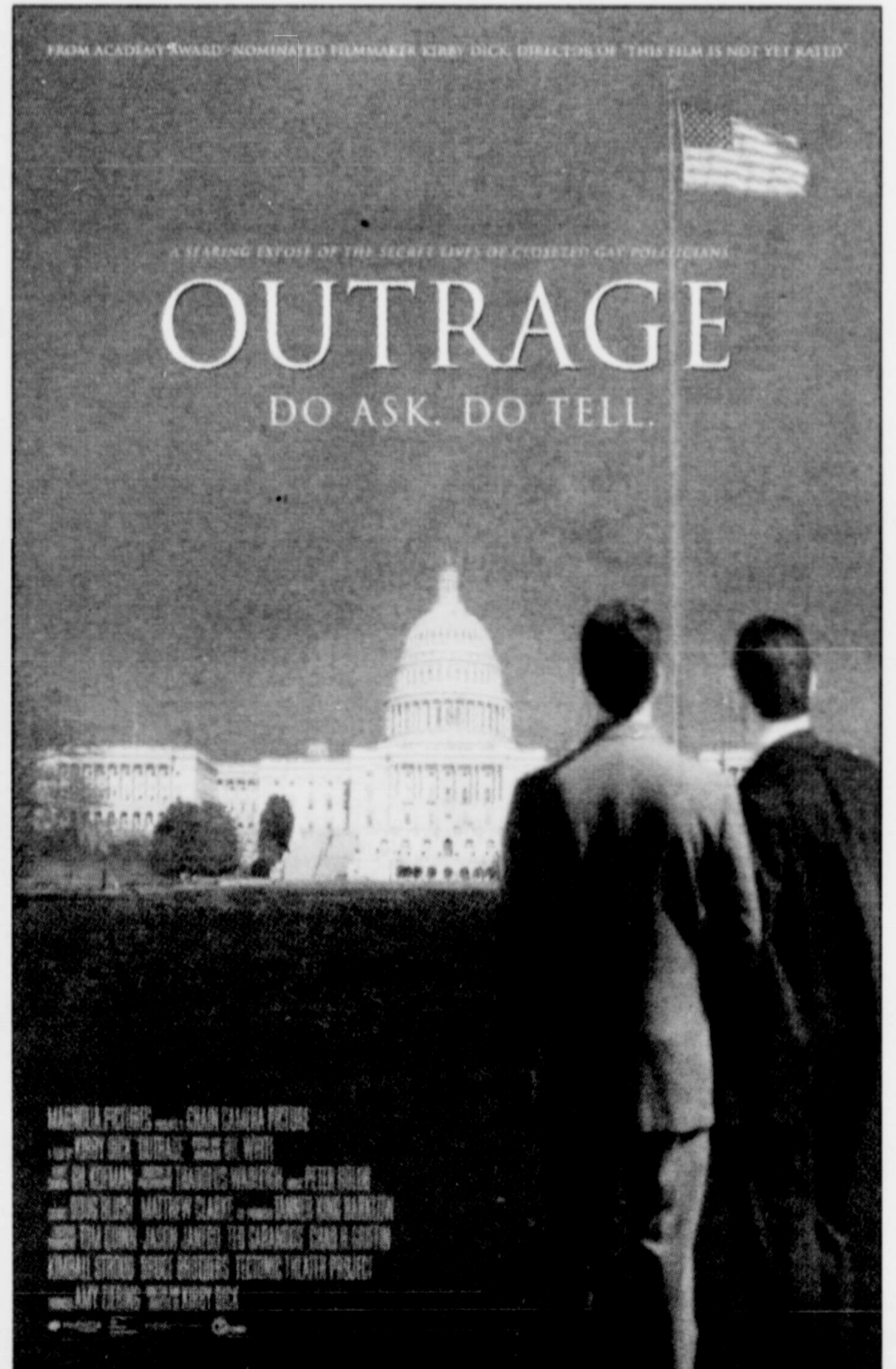
see Documentary, page 8

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COURTESY PHOTO
"Outrage," directed by Kirby Dick, exposes closeted gay politicians who campaign for anti-gay legislation. The film is being shown for Day of Silence April 16.

Rectal exams and sex share a common bond



Sometimes in life, it's OK to be selfish.

At a recent doctor's visit, the physician asked me whether I'd prefer to give a urine sample or have my rectum swabbed to check for syphilis. Unfortunately for me, the physician's assistant who was asking me which method I'd prefer was charming. We'd already struck up a lively conversation about how frequently I should be having routine STI checks, and also briefly talked men. We seemed to be getting along fine. As a health care provider, I'd give her two thumbs up for bedside manner.

The problem was that I chose to give a urine sample, but for the wrong reasons. I liked this woman, and didn't want to do anything that would affect our "friendship." I'm sure she would have been professional, but in my mind, exposing myself to this woman would have ruined her day. This was someone who, as part of her job, tells people they have HIV. And I was worried that performing medical tests on my (most likely healthy) ass would make her uncomfortable. Worried enough to not get a test that might, conceivably, have saved my life.

The fact that other people's feelings are important to us is what separates people from (most) animals. When it originated in us, the human race gained the power of community, since we were now driven to not fight amongst ourselves. When making a decision, we weigh the benefits versus the hardship they would cause others.

The same process exists in the decision to have sex. When I decide, the other person's feelings count for some-

thing. While this protects me from being a rapist, or any of other type of asshole, it doesn't always result in what's best for me.

I've been known to have sex when I didn't actually want to, but the other person did. Whether I have nothing better to do, or whether I don't want to make a scene, sometimes things happen. Sometimes, I later wonder whether it was a good idea or not.

There could be many reasons why refusal could be difficult. You could see this person every day, you could work together or they could know your parents. They could be the nicest person in the world, or they could have just been really nice that night. They could have bought you dinner, and although you know that you're not obligated, you might feel a little selfish for wanting to have your cake and not eat it too.

There are many reasons why you should refuse sex: If you or your partner have a disease, the protection you're using won't stop the spreading of any disease, if the person is under 18 and you're not (according to the law), if the other person is drunk or for some other reason could not be thinking clearly, if they are your cousin or if you don't want to.

It is safer to not have sex if you're even a little unsure. It's easier said than done, but while you might miss out on sex, sex may be wor-

see Sex, page 8

Beach cleanup and after party honoring Earth Day planned for Saturday

Dave Meyers

DMEYERS.MD@GMAIL.COM

An Avila Beach cleanup will feature more than people picking up trash.

The event, held in light of National Earth Day, is sponsored by the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, Firestone Walker Brewing and Nectar Ales. Mr. Rick's Beach Bar and Night Club is also collaborating on the event and will host an after-party, featuring local reggae band The Kicks and DJ Shaggy this Saturday.

"Sounds like a righteous beach cleanup," said local surfer and Cal Poly nutrition senior Lindsey Mitchell after hearing about the event.

The event will not only leave one of the most popular local beaches clean, but also further environmental efforts by the Surfrider Foundation.

The San Luis Bay Surfrider Foundation is a local branch of a nonprofit international group that helps to protect the world's oceans. They have been working to protect and maintain the quality of Central California oceans and beaches for more than 25 years.

The beach cleanup is open to all who would like to participate and will begin at 10 a.m. at the Avila Beach Pier.

Evan Dyer, a representative from Firestone Walker and Nectar Ales, said he is excited about another opportunity to support a local environmental cause.

"We're going to try to get back in the creek and get people covering every inch of the beach to find as much trash as we can," Dyer said. "Avila Beach is a pretty awesome place. We want to do anything we can to keep it that way."

The beach cleanup will finish around 1 p.m., and participants are encouraged to stick around for the after party, which will begin on the Mr. Rick's patio at 2 p.m. and has no cover charge. The patio borders the Avila Beach boardwalk and The Kicks will be playing sets throughout the afternoon with DJ Shaggy filling in the gaps.

Mr. Rick's booking and promotions manager, Levi Caron, is partnering on the Earth Day event to raise funds for the Surfrider Foundation.

There will be barbecue tri-tip sandwiches for sale and massive amounts of Nectar Ale, Caron said. To support the cause, Mr. Rick's and Nectar Ales have agreed to

COURTESY PHOTO

The Avila Beach cleanup is being held in light of Earth Day. The cleanup and after party is open to anyone who wants to participate.

donate three dollars for every pint of Nectar Ale sold to the Surfrider Foundation.

"We are very grateful to have the collaboration and support of Firestone Walker and Nectar Ales," said Jeff Pienak, chairman of the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. "We love partnering with them on our events, and we also love their beer."

Dyer said Firestone Walker and Nectar Ales have chosen to support the Surfrider Foundation as often as possible because they share a love for the Central Coast.

Though the Surfrider Foundation holds regular beach cleanups, this will be the first event for national Earth Day.

"I think this really has the potential to become an annual thing," Caron said.

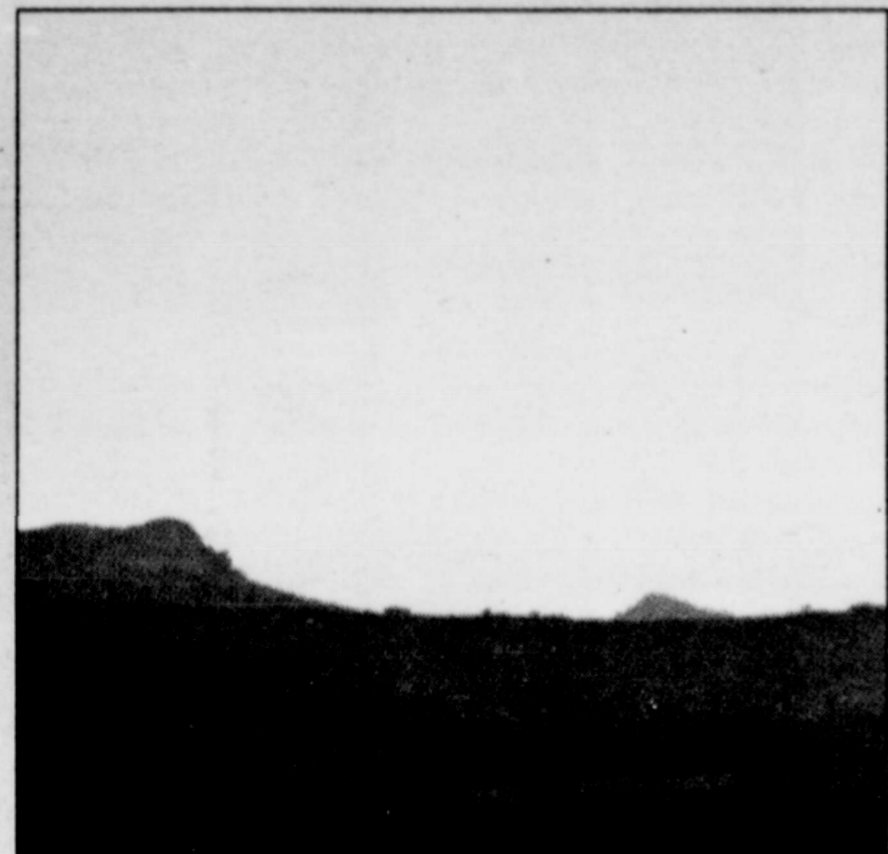
The Kicks is also very excited about being a part of the event. It is

an increasingly popular band who deliver a soulful blend of roots-era reggae, jazz and ska music.

"It going to be a fun one," Kicks lead guitarist Mike Claire said. "Anything we can to support a good cause, especially locally, we jump on the opportunity. With many of our band members being surfers, we definitely love what the Surfrider Foundation does."

All the members of the six-piece band are Cal Poly alumni and the majority of them met in the dorms their freshman year. Most of the them lived in a house together their second year, where they played music nightly and established the foundation for what would become The Kicks.

"We just started jamming together regularly and having a great time," Claire said. "That's where the name The Kicks comes from; we just jammed for kicks."



picture of the day
by Ryan Sidarto
"Daybreak"

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"Exorcist" author brings philosophy and thrill to new novel

Nick Owchar
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the annals of demonology, William Peter Blatty falls somewhere between St. Augustine and Joss Whedon.

He isn't the first person who's ever written about demons and demonic possession, but he has provided us with one of the genre's most memorable novels, 1971's "The Exorcist." There had been disturbing stories before, but nothing — especially when Blatty teamed up with director William Friedkin for the 1973 screen adaptation — so terrified audiences about the possibilities of the diabolical in ordinary people's lives.

For Blatty, though, the story's success remains beyond his wildest expectations.

"I honestly thought I was writing just a one-shot," the 82-year-old author said in a recent phone interview from his Maryland home. "At the time, comedy writing was over for me, and nobody would hire me to write anything dramatic. What I had left to write was the idea for 'The Exorcist.' I never imagined what would happen."

What happened was a mega-best-seller: More than 13 million copies, according to some estimates, have been sold in the United States alone. Several more novels — and films — followed, giving Blatty more opportunities to explore the workings of divine redemption and demonic evil. His new novel, "Dimiter," pub-

lished this month, is similarly preoccupied with good and evil, with the mysterious and the miraculous, although it is also something of a departure.

Set in the 1970s, "Dimiter" introduces us, in a riveting opening scene, to an enigmatic inmate in an Albanian prison during the gray days of Enver Hoxha's regime. The man coolly withstands unbearable torture and then escapes, vanishing like a phantom ... only to later turn up in the Holy Land. He becomes a shadowy presence in the lives of several people, including an Arab Christian policeman and a Jewish doctor, both of whom puzzle over several mysterious deaths somehow linked to this figure, who is named Paul Dimiter.

If you look more closely, the story also makes a sly, theological nod to the essential mystery of the Gospels that Christians everywhere celebrated on Sunday: the Resurrection. Blatty has taken a message of religious faith and enfolded it within a fast-paced plot for a basic reason.

"I had to make a page-turner," he says, "or else who would want to read it?"

The demonic is a hot commodity today, but don't try to credit Blatty as the elder statesman of this surge in horror movies, books and TV shows. He wants no part of it.

"When I look around the culture, it makes me want to projectile vomit," he says, recalling that infamous moment in "The Exorcist."

"The more blood, the more chainsaws, the better. The studios have so debased the tastes of kids that that's all the kids want now."

This might sound strange coming from the author of a novel renowned

**The more blood,
the more chainsaws,
the better.
The studios have
so debased the
tastes of kids that
that's all the kids
want now.**

—William Peter Blatty
author

for its creative — and harrowing — use of puke, spinning heads and a crucifix, but Blatty's brand of horror has always been about more than shock effect. Characters wrestle with metaphysical doubts even as the bodies pile up.

Some people forget the philosophy — just as studio execs forgot Blatty's abilities as a comic writer after "The Exorcist."

"Their eyes glazed over when I

pitched comedy ideas. It was as if I had done nothing else before "The Exorcist," says the man who wrote the screenplay for "A Shot in the Dark" and other film comedies. "It was as if I had landed on this planet just with that book under my arm. It made me insane."

Blatty's voice is warm and generous — it's easy to catch the inflection of the New York City streets where he was born, the son of Lebanese parents. He's passionate about his Roman Catholicism: It has carried him through many personal trials, including a bout of cancer 15 years ago and the loss, in 2006, of his 19-year-old son, Peter, after a sudden illness. "Dimiter," in fact, is dedicated to him.

Today, Blatty's faith is, to use a familiar religious adage, rock solid.

"I don't think I'm on a search anymore," he says serenely. "I've come to virtually a complete rest in my faith."

The author sounds very much like Moses Mayo, a truth-seeking neurologist in "Dimiter." Like Blatty, Mayo is humbled by the universe's mysteries. Where others find a conflict between science and faith, Mayo sees a glorious complementarity. He marvels at how "in the subatomic world ... electrons, like saints with bleeding hands, are reportedly seen in two places at once." Mayo's early morning musings, as he walks the halls of Hadassah Hospital, form a quiet counterpoint to the tightening circles of intrigue as Dimiter's story slowly comes into focus.

The germ of "Dimiter" dates to the filming of "The Exorcist." Blatty recalls sitting in Friedkin's office reading in the New York Times about a Jesuit priest executed in Albania for baptizing infants in a prison camp.

From this, the near-mythological figure of Dimiter started to take shape. Other ideas came along — wthe story of Saul's conversion into

St. Paul, narrative inconsistencies among the four Gospels and the geography of Jerusalem. Blatty traveled there and conducted countless interviews with doctors and lepers, and with local police about crime lab procedures and ways to poison someone without leaving a trace.

When he was finished, Blatty had a giant stack of notes, typed, single-spaced. But no sense of organization.

"Writing had never been a problem for me," he says. "A comedy novel? I could get it done in six weeks. You need a screenplay? Sure, six weeks. Then 'Dimiter' came along and took years."

Other projects intervened in the years that followed. When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, Blatty says, he prayed to the Virgin Mary, promising to finish the novel if he recovered. He did, but he stalled on his promise — that pestering question of organization again. Then, two years ago, as he and his wife Julie were attending Mass, the book's structure came to him in a flash of insight.

"I felt like I had received a gift," he says, "or maybe it had been there in my unconscious all along. Who knows? It's all a mystery."

Mystery — it's everywhere in "Dimiter," which Blatty hopes to bring to the big screen with Friedkin as director. But religion isn't the only medium in which mystery exists — you find it in science and secret intelligence, as well as simpler things, such as the love between friends and family. All of these overlap in "Dimiter," although Blatty insists it isn't necessary to understand every level to appreciate the story.

"You can read it just as a thriller and that's great," he says. "If you have faith, though, it might strengthen it a little more. If you're agnostic, it might give you a few clues you never had before. The message is there if you need it."

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Documentary

continued from page 6

sexuality in politics.

Most people are finding out about the film through word of mouth or Facebook. Cuesta College student Derek Sisting, a member of the Pride Center Allies Facebook group, is especially excited to see the film not only because of the social interaction, but also to see how the presented political issues are effecting the LGBT community.

"I just really want to learn as much as I can about why these politicians are doing what they're doing," Sisting said. "I mean, they're the ones who are making our laws, so it's important to stay informed."

Whether attendees hope to gain insight into the deceptive campaigns of closeted politicians, look further into LGBT issues, or simply see an interesting documentary, Boswell hopes that all will get something powerful out of the film.

"Even if you were someone who, say, didn't support gay rights, you could probably still watch the film and feel that you don't like hypocrisy and you don't support these particular politicians," Boswell said.

The film will be shown at no cost in the University Union, room 220 at 7 p.m.. A short discussion will follow the viewing.

Sex

continued from page 7

risome, even regretful. If you aren't sure if it's best for you, it probably isn't.

Sometimes we have to overthrow our instinct of being considerate of others. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how many people you've offended or blue balls you've created. What matters is that you feel good about yourself and your actions.

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Scrabble should keep with tradition

The longer I'm alive, the more I love Scrabble. Whether playing with my family or with good friends, I always have a good time. Plus, it consistently provides me with a good challenge, whether it's beating an accomplished foe or topping my best personal score.

When it comes to the game, I'm pretty traditional: I don't like using a dictionary for help and get frustrated when time constraints or a difficult board preclude a correct finish to a game.

So you can imagine my weeping and gnashing of teeth when officials announced last week that the new version of the game will allow for the use of proper nouns in regular play. This undoes the 80-year-tradition of allowing only common nouns, in addition to words that make up the other parts of speech.

After searching the Mustang Daily's wire service for a re-

count of this abomination, I came up empty handed. And since I could not let the occasion pass without putting something in the paper, I was implored by good conscience to write something myself.

And although today some news organizations were reporting that the rule change would only apply to a new 'Scrabble-like' game released from and not Scrabble itself, the problem remains either way.

Mattel officials say the reason for the rule change is to "encourage younger people" to enjoy the game and to increase sales, which are lower than in years past. However, the term 'younger people' might as well be replaced with the harsher 'dumber people.' Instead of digging deep into intelligences honed by reading and critical thinking, Mattel assumes the youth of today would prefer the cop-out method of naming any proper noun that comes to mind or any product they happen to see lying around the room when playing.

And when I say 'any proper noun that comes to mind,' that's exactly what I mean. As far as what is acceptable, the verdict will lie with the players. Unlike the current rules, which feature official word lists, the most popular being the Tournament Word List (TWL), there will be no official inventory of acceptable people, places or things that count as actual words in the

new game.

That means anything will go. It means MTV-crazed tweens could play 'Snooki' and 'Speidi.' It means my less-Scrabbled friends could play any word she or he sees in the room, like 'Pepsi,' 'Intel' or 'Coors.' Although these words garner small point numbers by themselves, it's the little things that add up.

Speaking of the little things, it's sometimes the tiny words that make for big scores. Besides chance, Scrabble is about strategy. My personal method is racking up huge point numbers with small words.

Over the years, I've perfected the two-letter-word play, sometimes (often) making three or four words at once, by building a word directly next to another. It's my answer to my opponents' bingos (seven-letter words), which give the player an added 50 points (although I'm slowly getting better at those, too).

It took me a long time to learn all the two-letter words; I even have a list taped up by my desk for reinforcing memorization during downtime at work. Sure, enthusiastic Scrabble novices can remember the standard 'Qi,' 'Za,' and 'Xi' to get out of tough spots, but what about the subtler 'Si,' 'Ti,' 'Ya' and the other 94 accepted words (all legitimate common nouns or interjections or verbs), which can add a lot of points to a score, depending on where they're played.

World-record-holding-Scrabble-scorer Michael Cresta, who went down in history with his game score of 830 points in 2006, also set the record for the highest-scoring word, 'quixotry,' for which he earned 365 points. Although chance and smarts more than likely came into play for Cresta's big move, I'm sure none of it would be possible without a lot of practice. As a player who only breaks 400 once in a blue moon, I can attest to the power of training in perfecting strategy. And to discredit all those years of hard work in favor of easy plays would be a travesty.

Furthermore, the traditional rules have worked for a reason; Scrabble is

a science. It was designed around the English language and the number of times of words and letters appear compared to others.

Scrabble was invented by American architect Alfred Butts, who built his own board after carefully figuring out the frequency with which the 26 letters of the English alphabet appear.

Although I can't speak for him, my guess is that Butts would not be happy with the rule change, if only because of the challenges it poses to the 100-letter tile supply. Certain proper nouns have changed the frequency of certain letters in everyday speech. Of course, all language changes with time, but this is just ridiculous. Who could have anticipated vowel-less band names like "MGMT" or the perhaps acceptable, but ultimately problematic, misspellings like the ones in "Inglorious Basterds?" And what about horrific singer 'Ke\$ha' and her misspelled hit "Tik Tok," both of which could be played with the help of a blank tile or two. Through all the language changes, interjection additions and slang shifts, Scrabble has accommodated the English language for nearly a century while keeping the rules fairly constant. But this might be too much to keep up with.

If Scrabble keeps evolving to keep up with all these new nouns, the next thing to change will be the point designations. And I don't know what I'd do without counting on a 10-point Z or Q at the end of a game to deliver that final blow to my valiant opponent. I can't imagine a world with 10-point Es or two-point Ks. And I don't think I'm alone.

So please, Mattel, keep the old rules, and don't release a dumbed-down version of my favorite game. This change will set an awful precedent in the already-precarious Scrabble world. And Scrabble lovers, do your part and play the right way. Keep Scrabble a beacon of stability and smartness in our already questionable culture.

Emilie Egger is a history and English senior and Mustang Daily editor-in-chief.



Earth Day celebrates its 40th anniversary

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, was celebrated by more than 20 million Americans across the country, striving to uphold the natural environment as a global issue. That date is seen as the turning point in the environmental movement of the 1970s, as three major pieces of legislation grew from the rise in consciousness across the nation and world, be it the Clean Air, Water and Endangered Species Act. Together, they are seen as the most notable pieces of environmental legislation in the United States history.

Over the years, Earth Day has continued to be a time to reflect back upon Mother Earth, whom we often take for granted. It is a time to look forward with a positive outlook for a brighter future of environmental stewardship, as we collectively share the ability to transform the very es-

sence of our existence. The 30th anniversary in 2000 was celebrated with the theme of climate change, calling for an increase in action towards mitigating the ill effects of a warming climate. This spurred awareness in the minds of millions of people across the world, and has since transitioned towards methods to increase sustainability at the community level.

The celebration of Earth Day is stronger now than ever, as more people support protecting the health of the environment. People from across the nation are promoting the 40th anniversary of Earth Day with events that encourage members of local communities to become active participants in support of a healthier environment by raising awareness and galvanizing individuals to take action.

As we approach the 40th anniversary next Thursday, April 22, the passion for giving rise to a movement based on a genuine concern for Earth has never been greater. Here on campus, the Empower Poly Coalition and ASI have decided to promote Earth Day by celebrating a week-long event called Focus SLO, Earth Week 2010. The event will be held at locations across campus from April 19 to 24. The event will support themed days, including recycling, energy conservation, sustainable food systems, transportation and water. The events during the week involve a club fair on Monday, yoga and acoustic music on Tuesday, a resource fair and trade show, a real food challenge workshop and a speech by Hunter Francis and Auden Schendler on Wednesday. On Thursday, events will include a live art performance, a concert featuring

Killa Gorilla during UU hour and a special bike night event. On Friday, Career Services and Net Impact will host a green job fair in Chumash Auditorium. On Saturday, the third annual Be The Change Conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference intends to inform students of the necessary skills to be effective leaders on campus.

Focus SLO is a perfect time for us Cal Poly students to show our dedication to protecting the environment. So drop by a few events during Earth Week and show your support.

For a complete list of the events during Focus SLO, visit www.focus-slo.com.

Tyler Hartrich is a city and regional planning senior, Empower Poly coalition vice president and Mustang Daily columnist.

write a letter

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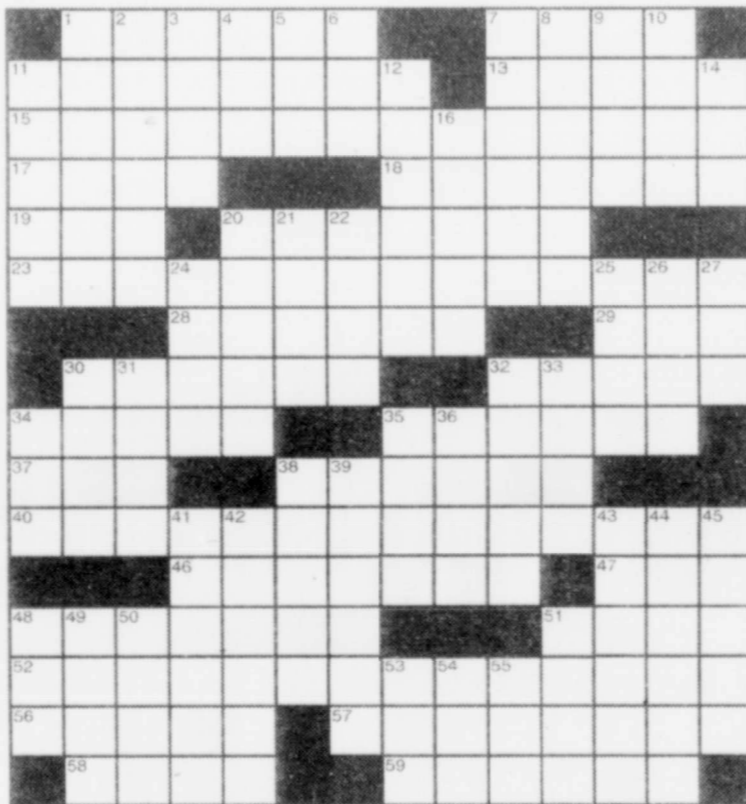
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0309

- Across**
- 1 Telltale sign
 - 7 Stick in one's
 - 11 Paid no attention to
 - 13 Protection
 - 15 With 23-Across, famous "opening" line
 - 17 Heavy coats
 - 18 Respectful acts
 - 19 Rapper ___ Rida
 - 20 Says "Nice job!" to
 - 23 See 15-Across
 - 28 "Given the situation ..."
 - 29 Alberto VO5 product
 - 30 With 35-Across, source of 15-/23-Across
 - 32 Support for an ear of corn
 - 34 "Olympia" artist
 - 35 See 30-Across
 - 37 Belief system
 - 38 Like 10, but not X
 - 40 15-/23-Across location
 - 46 "England hath long been mad, and scarr'd ___": Richmond in "King Richard III"
 - 47 Lost soldier, briefly
 - 48 Hall providing entertainment
 - 51 "Dear" columnist
 - 52 Creator of 30-/35-Across
 - 56 Family name in early violin-making
 - 57 "Our Miss Brooks" star of 1950s TV
- Down**
- 1 Tiny biological channel, as in the kidney
 - 2 Aligned
 - 3 Waterman products
 - 4 Weird
 - 5 ___ dog (Chinese breed)
 - 6 Playfulness
 - 7 Not so stormy
 - 8 Go over and over, as arguments
 - 9 Spellbound
 - 10 Cinematic scene-changer
 - 11 Chewy confection
 - 12 Captain Cook landfall of April 1769
 - 14 His or her: Fr.
 - 16 Comes up short, say
 - 20 Suggest
 - 21 Restraint
 - 22 Amount of money that can be raised?
 - 24 "What will you ___?"
 - 25 "Zounds!"
 - 26 Depend (on)
 - 27 Yellowstone roamer
 - 30 -
 - 31 "I didn't know I had it ___!"
 - 32 Knucklehead ___ Paul Winchell dummy of old TV
 - 58 Like two peas in
 - 59 Emphasize

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	R	O	P	E	R	C	A	S	S	A	V	A		
I	R	O	N	O	R	E	A	L	L	U	R	E	S	
C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O	S	P	R	I	N	G	
E	V	E	L	O	S	O	O	T	T	O	A	T		
T	E	X	A	S	Z	E	T	A	S					
	B	U	F	F	Y	S	U	M	M	E	R	S		
C	H	E	E	R	I	O	N	I	E	C	E	S		
L	A	P	F	E	E	A	N	A	H	A	T			
A	R	I	S	E	S	D	E	B	T	O	R	S		
W	I	C	H	I	T	A	F	A	L	L	S			
	A	T	A	R	I		Y	E	A	T	S			
A	L	A	N	C	N	B	C	G	O	O				
J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N	W	I	N	T	E	R	S
A	B	A	N	D	O	N	A	T	E	I	N	T	O	
R	E	T	A	S	T	E	Y	E	A	S	T	S		



- Puzzle by Jeffrey Wechsler
- 33 Lab ___
 - 34 Alex Doonesbury's school, for short
 - 35 Lawyer's assignment
 - 36 Silver coin of ancient Greece
 - 38 Open-air lobbies
 - 39 Fix, as a boot
 - 41 ___ blaster
 - 42 Classic tale in dactylic hexameter
 - 43 Some Iraq war reporters
 - 44 Cuba ___ (rum highballs)
 - 45 Store, as supplies
 - 48 Org. that promotes sugarless gum
 - 49 Blue-skinned deity
 - 50 Jacket fastener
 - 51 Suffix with Frigid-
 - 53 Hosp. hookups
 - 54 Acquire
 - 55 Raucous laugh syllable

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su | do | ku

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	9			7				2

EASY

99

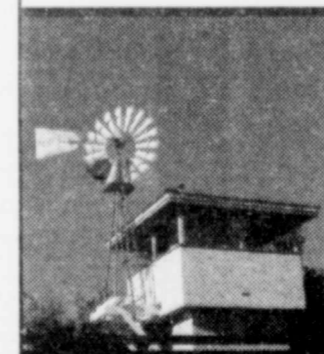
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Wong

continued from page 12

spread her high school career out to five years. She'd leave class around 1:30 every day to go practice tennis for three to four hours.

That same discipline has carried over to her work at Cal Poly. While balancing the demands of intercol-

legiate sports and maintaining a 3.8 cumulative grade point average might seem overwhelming for some students, Wong seems to take it in stride. At the very least, she does not complain about it.

"Sometimes she's come to practice and you can tell she's a little worn around the edges," head coach Hugh Bream said. "But she never once complained or used that as an excuse."

Wong said, while she does get tired sometimes, she doesn't regret her major.

"I think it challenged me for the last four years a lot," she said.

According to history freshman and Wong's doubles partner, Alexa Lee, Wong's success in both school and athletics is unusual.

"I know that when her professors find out that she's an athlete, they are

amazed at how well she does on and off the court, because biomedical engineering takes up so many hours," Lee said. "The College of Engineering is one of the most competitive at Cal Poly."

Wong explained that she likes setting challenges for herself.

"Obviously it's a tough major, but I just had to stick it through," Wong said. "And that's just helped me with life in general. There's always going to be things you don't want to do."

That isn't to say that it's always easy for her, either. Wong said, while she used to drink black tea a lot, lately she's come to appreciate something with a little more caffeine.

"First thing I do (in the morning) is turn on my coffee-maker," Wong said. "I guess I'm addicted. I try to get the Costco brand because I drink so much of it."

Despite a busy schedule, Wong does take time off to hang out with friends or sometimes even watch a little television.

"My guilty pleasure is The Bachelor," Wong said. "It's embarrassing. But I haven't been able to stop watching it."

Wong added she also likes watching sports like basketball and, of course, tennis. As for post-graduation plans, Wong said she's a little nervous.

"I'm not sure what I want to do afterwards, if I keep going to more school or look for a job," she said. "Hopefully, this summer I can figure it out. I think I'm going to stop tennis for a little bit just to figure everything out."

Matsui

continued from page 12

who followed him to California) that was presented to all the Yankees during last fall's World Series victory parade. Tuesday, he will share one last big moment with the Yankees, receiving his world championship ring. Girardi said he expected Yankees fans to be "extremely loud and thankful" in their greeting.

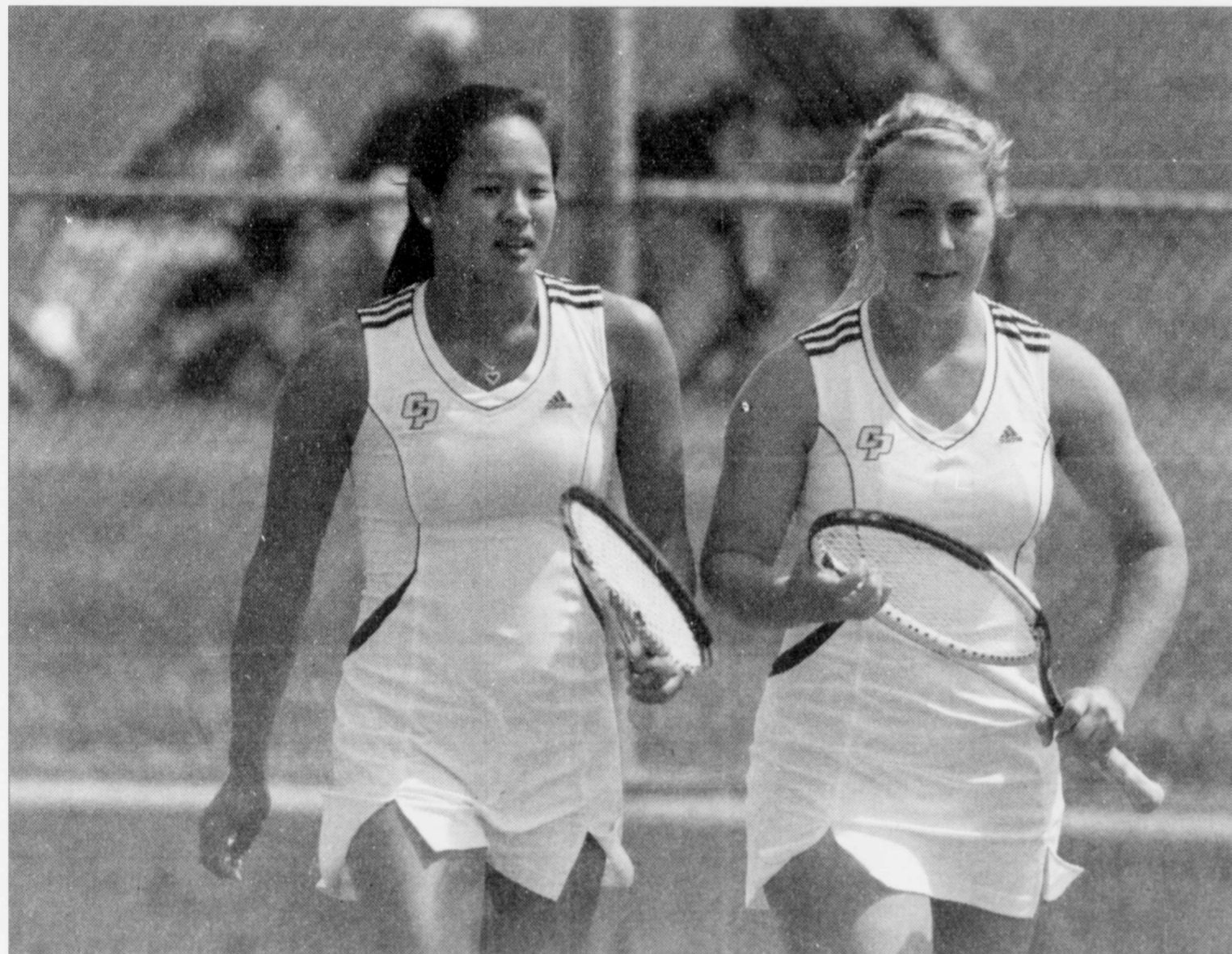
"To me," Girardi said, "it's going to be good to see him and give him his ring, as well, because he deserved it. But that's the way this game is. You build relationships with players, coaches and managers, but things change. Not the way you feel about them, but things change."

And Matsui clearly has crossed over to the other side.

"I'm going to put my head down and focus on the mitt," today's Yankees starting pitcher, Andy Pettitte, said of facing Matsui for the first time. "Try to make him feel uncomfortable. Try to get him out. He's obviously a great player, a thrill to play with. It'll be good to see him in the days after I pitch. Not (Tuesday), that's for sure."

The words used by the handful of Yankees, in describing the scene for the home opener, were "weird" and "strange." Pettitte noted how the old stadium next door is mostly vanished. "It's gone and it's not going back up," he said.

While Matsui, on the other hand, is back.

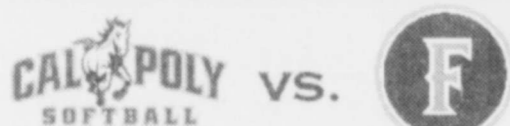


RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Steffi Wong (right) and Alexa Lee (left) defeated Santa Clara's Carmen Pham and Jessica Agra in doubles last weekend.

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

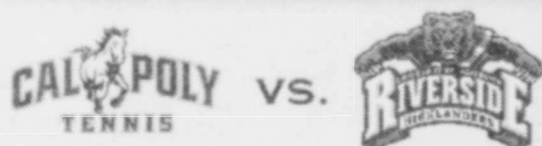
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Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

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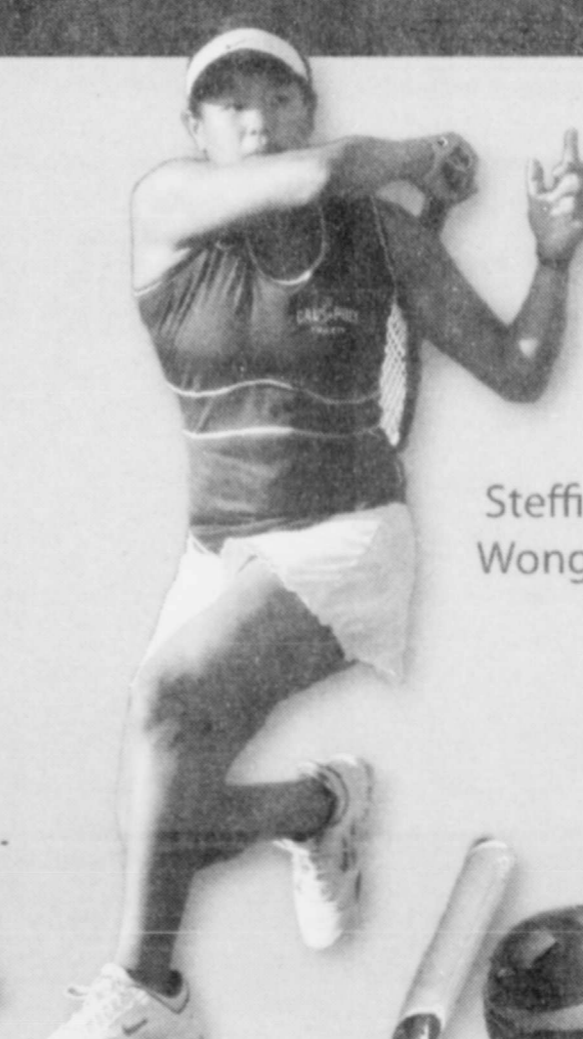


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WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Senior Steffi Wong isn't afraid of a little challenge

Aimee Vasquez

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When senior Steffi Wong was 4 years old, a neighbor found her wandering down the road near her home in rural Canada. Wong's mother, Lily, said she came home to find the house quiet and the children supposedly napping.

far as she could get from her home. Now, as a senior, she's helped her team earn a No. 58 national ranking and a 13-5 record, while also graduating with a biomedical engineering degree this spring.

"I think I try to challenge myself as much as possible," Wong said. "Because I think it will help me grow."

She added this is one of the reasons she moved all the way to Califor-

nia, didn't quit her difficult major and stuck with tennis.

The sport has been a part of her life since before she could walk. Wong's mother said she and her husband, who met in dental school, both play tennis. But in Canada, public tennis courts are almost impossible to find. So when Wong was a baby, her parents built their own.

When she was about 10 years old, she caught the attention of Canadian coach Casey Curtis.

take anyone."

Even at that young age, Wong showed a propensity for the game. But in order to pursue it, she had to sacrifice a lot. For example, in high school, Wong would go to bed at 9 on Friday nights before tournaments.

She attended a private Anglican school and initially played volleyball, soccer and other sports with her friends. But as a junior, Wong decided to pursue no other sport but tennis. She also

see Wong, page 11

I think I try to challenge myself as much as possible ... because I think it will help me grow up.

—Steffi Wong
Women's tennis senior

"And then the doorbell rings and my neighbor comes up and asks me, 'Does your daughter have pigtails?'" she said.

On that particular day, the young Wong woke up from her nap and decided to explore. Unbeknownst to her grandmother and nanny, she climbed out of the crib, opened the garage door and started wandering the neighborhood in shorts and bare feet.

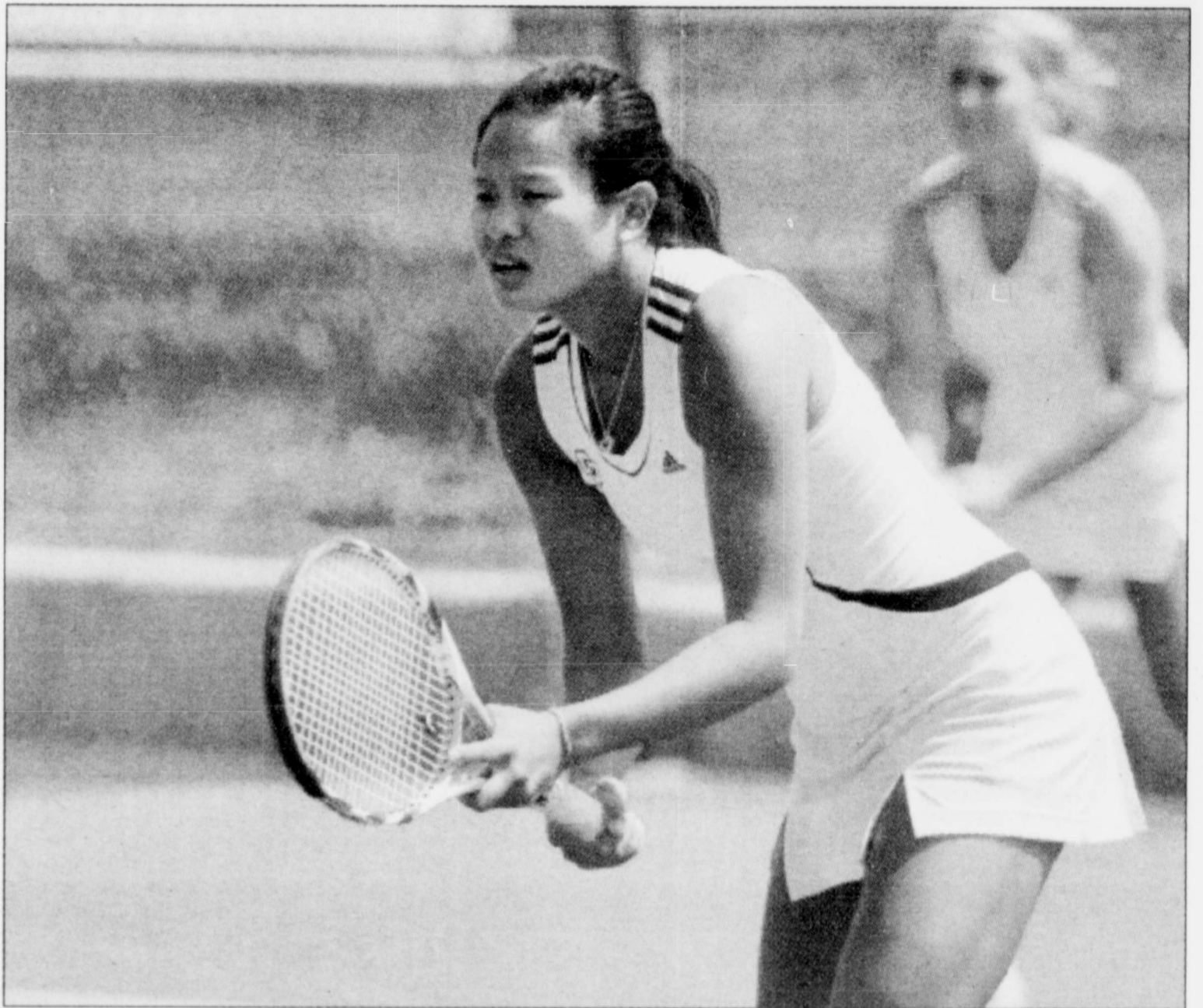
Eighteen years later, she may have lost the pigtails, but Wong is still independent. When she decided to come to Cal Poly, the school was about as

nia, didn't quit her difficult major and stuck with tennis.

The sport has been a part of her life since before she could walk. Wong's mother said she and her husband, who met in dental school, both play tennis. But in Canada, public tennis courts are almost impossible to find. So when Wong was a baby, her parents built their own.

"The kids had a tennis court in our backyard to play on," Lily Wong said. "Steffi learned to walk there. She learned to do a lot of things there."

And ultimately, Wong learned not only to play tennis, but to play it well.



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO
Steffi Wong (above) has been an instrumental part of her team's success this year. This season the Mustangs have a (13-5) record.

Hideki Matsui is back in New York, wearing Angels colors

John Jeansonne

NEWSDAY

Though there remains no definitive evidence that ghosts from the original Yankee Stadium have followed the team across the street to its new palace, a familiar soul most certainly will reappear Tuesday, possibly to haunt his former mates in their 2010 home opener.

And seeing Hideki Matsui dressed in the garb of a celestial being, a member of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim after his seven thoroughly professional seasons with the New York Yankees of the Bronx, will be a bit spooky.

"It's going to be strange," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "All

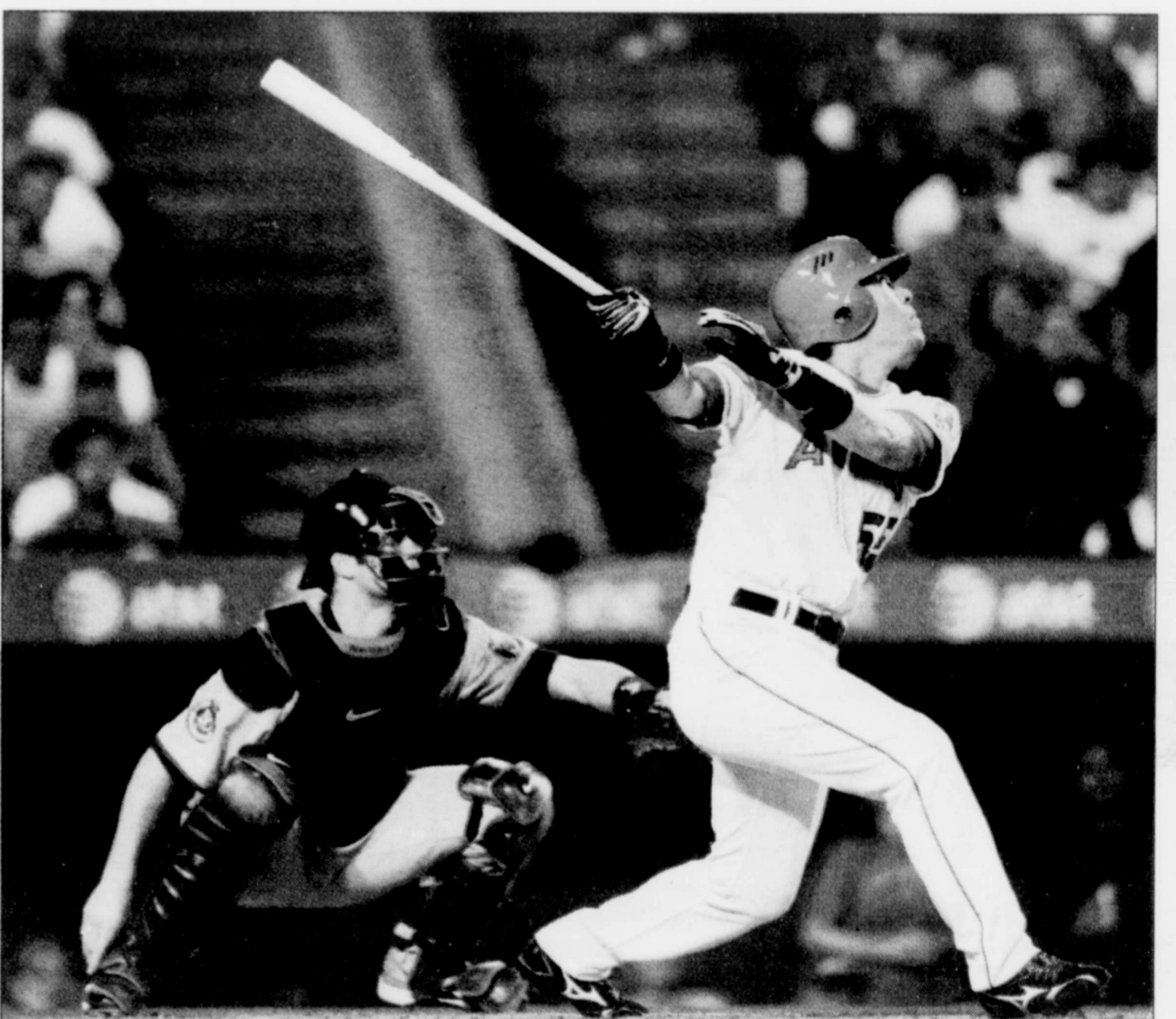
we know is him in pinstripes. He's probably going to look kind of funny in red."

"I saw a picture of him in spring training," outfielder Brett Gardner said, "and saw him on TV the other day. It didn't seem quite right."

Matsui still will be wearing No. 55. He still will be twitching his right elbow, waiting in the batter's box, threatening the sort of offensive impact that earned him the MVP award in last year's World Series, when he hit an otherworldly .615 with three home runs and eight RBIs. After his first six games on the West Coast, he is batting a robust .417, with two homers and five RBIs.

The large contingent of Japanese media still will follow his every move. Shingo Horie of Japan's NHK broadcast network estimated that easily 25 to 30 reporters and cameramen are chronicling his Angels exploits, as they did when he was a Yankee. Reporters from Japan, Horie said, generally spend three years on the Matsui beat, relocating to the United States from spring training through the World Series.

Matsui already has a \$100, gold-plated key to New York City (as does his translator, Roger Kahlon,



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO
After playing seven seasons in the Bronx, Hideki Matsui (above) will return to Yankee stadium — just wearing a different jersey.

su|do|ku
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

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

see Matsui, page 11