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WEATHER TOMORROW

An alcoholic shares his experiences in AA.

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Thriller 'Predators' comes out Friday.

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Men's basketball looks to improve in all aspects.

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Student wins six figures playing poker



ROB MATHIS COURTESY PHOTO

Cal Poly English senior Michael Linn won \$609,493 in the seventh World Series of Poker \$1,500 No-Limit Hold 'em championship on July 1 after competing against 269 other players for 11 hours in Las Vegas.

Karlee Prazak
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A Cal Poly English senior defeated the competition and raked in a large sum of money for his first-place win in Event 49 at the World Series of Poker (WSOP) in Las Vegas.

Michael Linn won the seventh \$1,500 No-Limit Hold 'em championship Thursday, July 1, according to ESPN's WSOP coverage. With the victory, Linn captured his first gold bracelet — at the age of 22 — and pocketed \$609,493.

Linn said his victory came after 11 hours of playing against 269

other competitors.

"It is kind of hard to wrap your mind around it," Linn said. "It hit me when I got my bracelet."

Linn received his engraved gold bracelet the day after his win during a ceremony as the U.S. national anthem played. While he

see *Poker*, page 3

Cal Poly opens new M.B.A. program in Santa Barbara

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The Orfalea College of Business is extending its master's program in business administration to Santa Barbara this fall. It will be the first in the area but will soon be joined by two other universities.

Cal Poly's M.B.A. program will target the working professional, with night classes available twice a week at the Canary Hotel in downtown Santa Barbara.

Brian Tietje, who is leaving the

associate dean position at the Orfalea College of Business to be the dean of Continuing Education, said the M.B.A. program will take about two years to complete and benefit anyone interested in business.

"An M.B.A. is perfect to get the basics of business," Tietje said. "You don't need a degree in business to take our M.B.A. program."

University of California, Santa Barbara, does not offer an M.B.A. program or have a business school. Dean Dave Christy said that a person

see *M.B.A.*, page 3

Science and Mathematics demolition plans announced

Tim Miller
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Cal Poly will reveal how the new Science and Mathematics Building demolition and construction will impact the campus later this month.

The plan shows what parts of campus will shut down to accommodate demolition and construction of the new building, which will be located in the middle of campus, between North Polyview Drive and Via Carta.

"It's going to disrupt this part

of campus," said Philip Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "It'll be tough for two and a half years."

The difficulty will be worth it, Bailey said. The new, six-story building will be almost 200,000 square feet and have enough study space to rival the University Union.

While most of the north end of the building has already been emptied, summer classes will end in August, Bailey said. To start the major demolition of the building,

see *Demolition*, page 3

LAPD arrest Grim Sleeper serial killer suspect

Maura Dolan, Joel Rubin and Mitchell Landsberg
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — For more than decades, the killer had eluded police. His victims, most of them prostitutes in South Los Angeles, had lived on the margins of society, and their deaths left few useful clues, aside from the DNA of the man who had

sexually assaulted them in the moments before their death.

A sweep of state prisons in 2008 failed to come up with the suspect or anyone related to him. Then, last Wednesday, came startling news: A second "familial search" of prisons had come up with the identity of a convict whose DNA indicated that he was a close relative of the serial killer suspected of killing at least 10

women and one man.

Working through the July 4 weekend, Los Angeles Police Department detectives drew up a family tree of the man, then began analyzing all the men on it. Were they the right age? Did they live near the murders? Was there anything in their background to explain why the serial killer had apparently stopped killing for 13 years, then resumed in 2003?

From that painstaking process, according to LAPD officials who requested anonymity, one man, the prisoner's father, emerged as a likely suspect. A team of undercover officers was sent to follow him, and they came up with evidence, in the form of a discarded slice of pizza, by which to analyze his DNA. On Tuesday, they confirmed that the DNA matched that of the suspect in the serial killing spree.

see *Suspect*, page 2



GARY FRIEDMAN LOS ANGELES TIMES

Items are removed from the Los Angeles, Calif., home of Lonnie David Franklin, Jr. on July 7. Franklin was arrested on 10 counts of murder and one attempted murder. Police allege that he is the Grim Sleeper serial killer.

"I've been here since 1976 — that's how long I've known him. I'm not pretty shocked, I'm all the way shocked."

— Eric Robinson
Los Angeles resident

Suspect

continued from page 1

On Wednesday morning, one week after the DNA match of the state prisoner, police turned up at the South L.A. home of Lonnie David Franklin Jr., 57, and arrested him without incident, authorities said.

Prosecutors later charged him with 10 counts of murder and one count of attempted murder, apparently stemming from the assault on the only victim who is known to have survived.

As word of the arrest spread across South Los Angeles, a contradictory picture of Franklin emerged.

Franklin was a garage attendant at the LAPD's 77th Street Division station in the early 1980s, according to sources. He worked as a garbage collector for the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation during the years that the first spate of eight killings took place, beginning with the death of Debra Jackson, 29, on Aug. 10, 1985, and ending with the death of Alicia "Monique" Alexander, 18, on Sept. 11, 1988.

Franklin has at least three prior convictions, two for felony possession of stolen property in 1993 and 2003, one for misdemeanor battery in 1997, and one for misdemeanor assault in 1999, according to court records. He was sentenced to a year in jail for the first stolen property charge and 270 days for the second one.

On a tidy street of single-family homes in South Los Angeles where Franklin lived for decades, residents

described him as a kind and compassionate neighbor who volunteered in the community, helped the elderly residents of the block and fixed their cars for free.

"A very good man. His daughter just graduated from college, I believe," said Eric Robinson, 47. "He's a good mechanic, worked out of his garage. I've been here since 1976 — that's how long I've known him. I'm not pretty shocked, I'm all the way shocked."

Just last week, Dante Combs, 27, said he visited Franklin to ask him to install a timing belt on his car.

"You needed your car fixed, he'd do it dirt cheap. He'd help you out however he could, cut your grass, put up your Christmas lights," Combs said as he stood behind the yellow crime tape that sealed off Franklin's block. "He helped all the elderly on the block."

"As far as I know, he couldn't be this man," Combs added. "Then again, you never really know a man."

But in the afternoon, family members of the Grim Sleeper's victims began arriving on the block. The serial killer apparently got the Grim Sleeper nickname because of his dormant period during the 1990s. Many of the killings occurred not far from Franklin's home, and the family members said they needed to come to his home to bear witness.

"She was found on Western and 92nd, in a dumpster," said Diane McQueen, 55, as she stood behind the crime tape, clutching a funeral program for Janecia Peters, the last victim attributed to the serial killer. "It hit my family real hard. I had lost

hope this day would come. I feel a lot of joy it did at last."

"I wanted to see what his house looked like, what his neighborhood looked like, the place where he grew up," Bonnell Alexander, 47, brother of victim Alicia "Monique" Alexander. "It was curiosity. What I found was that it wasn't far from where I grew up. His neighbors looked like the people I see every day. They weren't aliens. And he wasn't hiding in the community."

In announcing the arrests, District Attorney Steve Cooley praised the LAPD and the California Department of Justice, which carried out the DNA "familial search" after Attorney General Jerry Brown approved the use of the relatively new tool.

Only California and Colorado have formal policies that permit the use of software to troll for DNA profiles of possible relatives of a suspect.

After years of futility, the LAPD stepped up its investigation of the serial killing case in 2007 when Police Chief Charlie Beck's predecessor, William J. Bratton, formed a task force to work exclusively on the case.

With so many years having passed since the killer first struck and the police only belatedly linking the long string of victims to a single killer, the team of detectives was left at a severe disadvantage.

Investigators pored over old case files in search of important clues that might have been overlooked. They tried to recreate the seedy, violent world of South Los Angeles in the 1980s that the early victims and kill-

LOS ANGELES TIMES
An LAPD sketch is shown of the suspect wanted in a series of murders dating back to 1985. Prosecutors said they have charged Lonnie David Franklin Jr. with 10 counts of murder, noting that he is eligible for the death penalty.



er had inhabited.

One after another, leads that at first seemed to hold promise dissolved frustratingly into dead ends. But with public pressure mounting, the detectives tried whatever approaches they could, however seemingly far-fetched. They asked undercover vice officers to collect DNA samples from middle-aged African-Americans arrested for soliciting prostitutes, hoping to identify a suspect. The entire department was put on notice that members of the task force were to be summoned to homicide scenes that resembled the work of the serial killer in any way.

Most tantalizing was a 911 phone call an LAPD operator received in 1987. The caller said he had seen a man dump 23-year-old Barbara Ware's body out of the back of a van into an alley and gave the vehicle's license plate before hanging up. The night of the call, the van was traced back to a now-defunct church in the area, but detectives at the time failed to pursue the lead aggressively, much to the dismay of Dennis Kilcoyne, a veteran LAPD homicide detective who headed the task force.

Kilcoyne and his team tried, 20 years later, to breathe life back into the investigation of the van. Detec-

tives tracked down about 10 men associated with the church and took DNA samples to test against the suspected killers. A visit to the retired deacon at his home outside of Macon, Ga., turned up nothing. So did a visit to a Florida prison, where they traced a man whose fingerprints were found in the van. His DNA didn't match the killer's.

The hunt epitomized the agonizing slog the detectives faced day in and day out.

"We never gave up on this investigation, not for one minute," Beck said in a statement issued by his office. "Our detectives worked relentlessly following up on every lead they received. Their hard work has resulted in today's apprehension of this vicious killer. I am hopeful that the hard work of these men and women will bring some closure to the families who tragically lost loved ones during the last 23 years."

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Demolition

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fences are to be put up during Week of Welcome, which starts Sept. 15, or earlier. However, the removal of asbestos and other materials may start as early as the end of August, he said.

The project, which has been in the works for more than 15 years, received the money needed to continue plans and complete construction.

"We were very unlucky. We thought we would occupy in fall 2008," Bailey said.

Funding for the new building came mostly from a \$400 million state bond, which added \$105 million to the \$19.5 million raised by private donations, Bailey said.

The state had previously approved funding for the design of the building and another bond will provide for the furniture in the building, putting the total project budget at \$136 million.

The \$400 million bond supplied the University of California and California State University systems with funding for similar building projects.

The architect company, Zimmer Gunsul and Frasca Architects, has been working on the plan for a year. Gilbane Construction Company is now working with the architect to finalize the plans.

Some of the projects Zimmer

Gunsul and Frasca Architects have worked on include designing more than a million square feet of space for Microsoft and the Portland International Airport.

Gilbane Construction Company is familiar with the Cal Poly campus, having built the Engineering IV building, which was more than half the size of the new Science and Math Building.

There is no way the total estimate will exceed the \$136 million Cal Poly has for the building, said Bob Kitamura, head of Cal Poly Capital Projects. He said nothing could happen to make the total cost to the university exceed the estimate.

"It won't," he said flatly.

Along with reconstruction of the Science and Math Building, an upgrade to the Central Plant will provide the new, larger building with air conditioning, said Joel Neel, senior associate director for Cal Poly Capital Projects.

The upgrade will increase the chiller capacity to handle what is required for the Campus Master Plan and put the entire campus on the same cold-water loop.

The plant's cost is set at \$12 million, which will come out of the \$105 million bond, and maintenance will be paid by the state, Neel said.

Bids are currently out for subcontractors on the project but will be settled by the end of the month, said Barbara Queen, the project manager for the Science and Mathematics Building.

M.B.A.

continued from page 1

would have to travel all the way to Ventura to receive an M.B.A.

"There is nothing serving the Santa Barbara market, so it was an opportunity for us," Christy said.

Cal Poly will be first to offer the M.B.A. program in the area, but Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business will be offering its program in spring and Cal State Channel Islands will open sometime in the next school year.

Douglass Gore, director of public relations for Graziadio School of Business at Pepperdine University, said the college is reaching out to University of California, Santa Barbara graduates and has arranged facilities with the Mosher Alumni House at UCSB.

"We're not worried," Gore said about the competition. "We are a 40-year-old program, servicing the area out of Westlake for years. We're fully accredited and we're ranked."

Lisa Chance, a corporate account representative for Pepperdine, said the cost for one unit for the fully employed M.B.A. program is \$1,352. For the entire program of 52 units, the cost would be \$70,304.

Gary Berg, dean of extended education at Cal State Channel Islands, said the college has planned to serve higher education in that area since the campus opened in 2002.

"We welcome competition,

but we feel we have a place in serving students in that region," Berg said. "We see it as part of our mandate."

The website for Cal State Channel Islands says the course fee for its M.B.A. program is \$550 per credit. It is possible to finish the M.B.A. with 33 units if the student has the appropriate prerequisites from an undergraduate business degree, otherwise, the M.B.A. will take 49 units.

Since three schools are planning to have M.B.A. programs this year, Cal Poly relies on affordability and teaching methods to attract students.

"We have a learn by doing philosophy at Cal Poly, and our faculty are steeped in that tradition of learning," Tietje said. "Also cost, we're cost competitive. Our program will cost about \$2,000 a course. If you play that out to 15 courses, it is about \$30,000."

The \$30,000 will cover everything from textbooks to parking, said the website for Orfalea College of Business.

A person can find cheaper M.B.A. programs but they do not compare to accredited programs that are committed to excellence, Christy said.

Christy said M.B.A. programs are an investment and recent fees imposed on all CSU's are influencing the way costs are determined.

"We want to make sure that our pricing permits us to provide a high quality experience, but doesn't price us out of the market," Christy said.

To combat higher prices and provide more experience in distance learning, two-thirds of the program will be taught in person by a Cal Poly faculty member and the remainder will be taught online.

Bradford Anderson, a law lecturer for graduate business programs at Cal Poly's business college, said in an e-mail that the online portion will support what the students learn in class as well as challenge students to apply the skills learned in lecture.

"The online modules are designed to be available at a convenient time for them to view, and not a 'live' televised feed," Anderson said.

Although both the faculty and the college are ready, Cal Poly has only been taking applications for a couple of months.

Since the program hasn't had a full year to recruit, class sizes may be smaller. Orfalea College of Business has extended the application deadline to Aug. 1, said Victoria Walls, assistant director of graduate programs at the business college.

"We have been taking applications since mid-May and it takes two to three weeks for us to receive an application from the database," Walls said. "We have one applicant so far, but the process is long. I suspect that there are some others in the pipeline."

Christy said that he is not concerned about having some small enrollment in classes in the first year.

He said that enrolling in an M.B.A. program is a big decision for people to make.

"One thing that we know about students pursuing an M.B.A. is data shows that they think about it for a full three years before they actually enroll. We're going into a market where that door wasn't open," Christy said. "Part of it's going to take time for people to get their arms around it."

Poker

continued from page 1

asked to have Estonia's national anthem played, tournament officials refused his jestful request, he said.

"I try to be serious while I'm playing, but it's not the hardest life to live, so I have fun with it," Linn said.

Fifty-seven gold bracelets are handed out during the series, which runs from May 27 to July 17, said WSOP spokesperson Dave Curley.

For Linn, playing in the world series became reality last year when he decided it was too good of an opportunity to pass up, he said.

Roommate and long-time friend Danny Bragonier said Linn will be very successful as a professional poker player.

"(Linn) plays pretty aggressively. He likes to bet and doesn't like to fold," Bragonier said. "It's only his second world series and he's already won a bracelet."

Curley said the popularity of poker among people in their twenties has grown rapidly, resulting in younger players winning gold bracelets.

Linn's decision to enter the world series at age 21, the minimum age requirement, paid off. In 2009, his earnings totaled \$40,000, bringing his total world series earnings to approximately \$650,000.

Linn, who has been playing competitively for five years, said he was turned onto poker after watching a friend play during his freshman year while living in Sierra Madre dorm on the Cal Poly campus.

"I saw my friend playing, and I was all, 'I can do that,'" Linn said.

Linn considers poker his "career for the time being." Although

he logs roughly 20 hours per week playing online poker, his gambling comes second until he finishes college, he said.

His uncle, professional poker player Barry Greenstein - who according to his website has earned \$6 million and nabbed three WSOP gold bracelets - also stresses the importance of school before poker. Despite the poker knowledge at hand, Linn said Greenstein will not share any secrets until he obtains a college degree.

"Until then he's just my uncle, and I'm just his nephew," Linn said.

Furthermore, Linn said it's important to maintain a "normal life" outside his poker career, and he takes pride in having a lucrative social life to balance his academic priorities.

When asked about playing poker with friends, Linn said he likes to play anyone who "likes giving away their money."

When he isn't bringing in the cash or working on his English degree, Linn enjoys playing basketball competitively. His intramural team at Cal Poly boasts a four-year Division-I winning streak, he said.

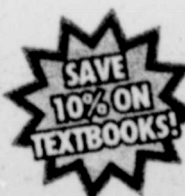
He and Bragonier both spoke about another first-place win they shared this year - they are 2010 Downtown Brew Beirut Tournament champions. Linn said this victory is comparable to his WSOP event win.

So far, Linn has competed in the world series twice, and this year he will play in a total of four events.

Linn started his attempt to take the first place crown in the 2010 Main Event, Wednesday, July 7, and was still competing in the event at press time.

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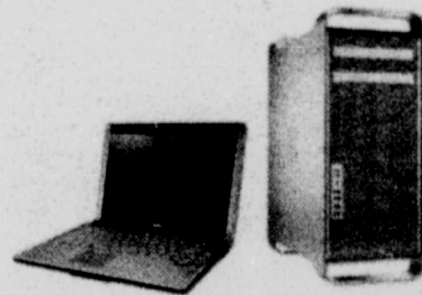


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Top six books to read this summer vacation

Beth Shirley

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If you're like me, summer means you have time to read what you actually want to for a change, instead of Newtonian Physics, Organic Chemistry or even a Jane Austen classic.

Reading is a great way to keep your mind stimulated. If you're off for the summer, reading means not slipping into a beach coma before fall quarter. If you're one of the few experiencing the tragedy of summer school, these books offer some respite from the dryness of textbooks.

Before picking up "Twilight" to "see what all the fuss is about," here's a list of six books I recommend to keep the juices flowing and still relax this summer.



"Everything is Illuminated" by Jonathan Safran Foer

I have to admit that this was one of those books that actually caused me to laugh out loud on several occasions and, on several others, to

cry like a baby. The story teeters between Foer's journey to find the woman who helped his grandfather escape from the Nazis in Ukraine, told by his Ukrainian guide who delightfully mangles the English language, and the history of the town they are seeking. This hilarious set-up begs thought-provoking questions, like "Is love real, and what is it?" and "How do we cope with a haunting history we had no part in?"



"What is the What" by Dave Eggers

This book follows the true story of Valentino Achak Deng, one of the Lost Boys, the refugee children of the war in Sudan. Eggers masterfully weaves Deng's life and trials in Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, with one day in his life in Atlanta, in which he is pushed to his limits. Deng's tragic story, while heavy and sobering, is also at times sweetly romantic and occasionally humorous, and is coated with his enduring faith in human beings, which leaves

the reader inspired and motivated rather than simply depressed.



"A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole

Ignatius J. Reiley is a classic comedic, yet entirely unique, figure: grotesquely obese, self-centered, lazy and with an entirely too high opinion of himself. Recent college graduates may find his inflated self-worth and obnoxiously verbose vocabulary particularly hilarious — and oddly relatable. The novel is set in New Orleans where Reiley lives with his mother after obtaining a master's degree and tries and fails at several different career paths, making for a disturbingly comic read.

"Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

In this hilarious twist on the classic novel, Elizabeth Bennet is still the heroine, but in a much more obvious sense. She is driven to save her town in the aftermath of a zom-

bie attack, but finds it difficult in light of the distraction caused by the timeless hunk, Mr. Darcy. Though the humor is less dry and more obvious than in Austen's original, this book manages to maintain the same themes of love, vanity and the complicated mother-daughter relationship.

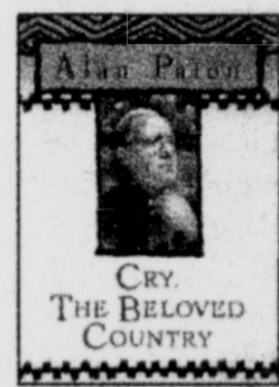


in Johannesburg and is accused of murdering a white man. Paton captures the tensions of a country with a horrific past and on the verge of social upheaval. This is one of my favorite classics for its pure ability to break your heart and still give you hope that change can come to the most dire situations.

"Sh*t My Dad Says" by Justin Halpern

More than one million Twitter followers have been enjoying reading the ridiculously non-PC things Halpern's father says on a daily basis. While the tweets summarize good one-liners from the 74-year-old man, the book is a touching, yet hilarious, development of the relationship between him and his son and all of the shit he says along the way. This may not be one to take with you on a baby-sitting gig this summer, but you may find the real characters as fun to follow as the tweets.

Sh*t My Dad Says



"Cry, the Beloved Country" by Alan Paton

With the World Cup going down in South Africa right now, you may want to brush up on your knowledge of the country's history of complex race-relations. Paton's novel is a great way to do just that. It is centered around the story of black pastor Stephen Kumalo whose son has disappeared

This article was originally published June 7, 2010.

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picture of the week
by Nita Hn

"Counting Sheep"

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Third installment of 'Predators' continues to scare viewers

Lewis Beale

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Bacon and eggs. Stripes and solids. Lennon and McCartney. All perfect matches. And at the multiplex, there's at least one combo that can't be beat:

Science-fiction and horror.

That's right. If you're looking for a solid case of the creepy-crawlies, nothing tops a flick in which some extraterrestrial slime thing is chasing a humanoid around a space ship, isolated Earth outpost or hostile planet. Like in "Predators," opening Friday, in which killer Earthlings are dropped on a distant orb and find that they're nothing more than chum for some nasty-looking ETs.

The "Predator" movies are "an evolution out of 'Alien'; the difference is that 'Predator' is us," says Scott Allie, editor of the "Predators" comic book series. "'Alien' is just a killing machine, and we don't presume it has any intelligence. The Predator is more physically dangerous than us, and they might be more resourceful. They do what we do, and they might be better than us."

"There are a lot of things (the Predators do) that compare to us," says "Predators" director Nimrod Antal. "They take trophies, which make them materialists. In our film, we explore another facet of the predator universe, and that is predators killing predators. And as human beings, we are really great at killing one another. They also hunt, which taps into our most primordial common denominator."

In other words, they might be a little like us, but the Predator is one scary off-worlder. And the feeling we're up against an implacably hostile alien force we can't communicate with is at the core of sci-fi horror.

Certainly that's been the case

since 1898, when H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" jump-started the genre. In that book, martians arrive on Earth, destroy everything they see and are only defeated when they prove defenseless not against our man-made weapons, but Earthborn viruses.

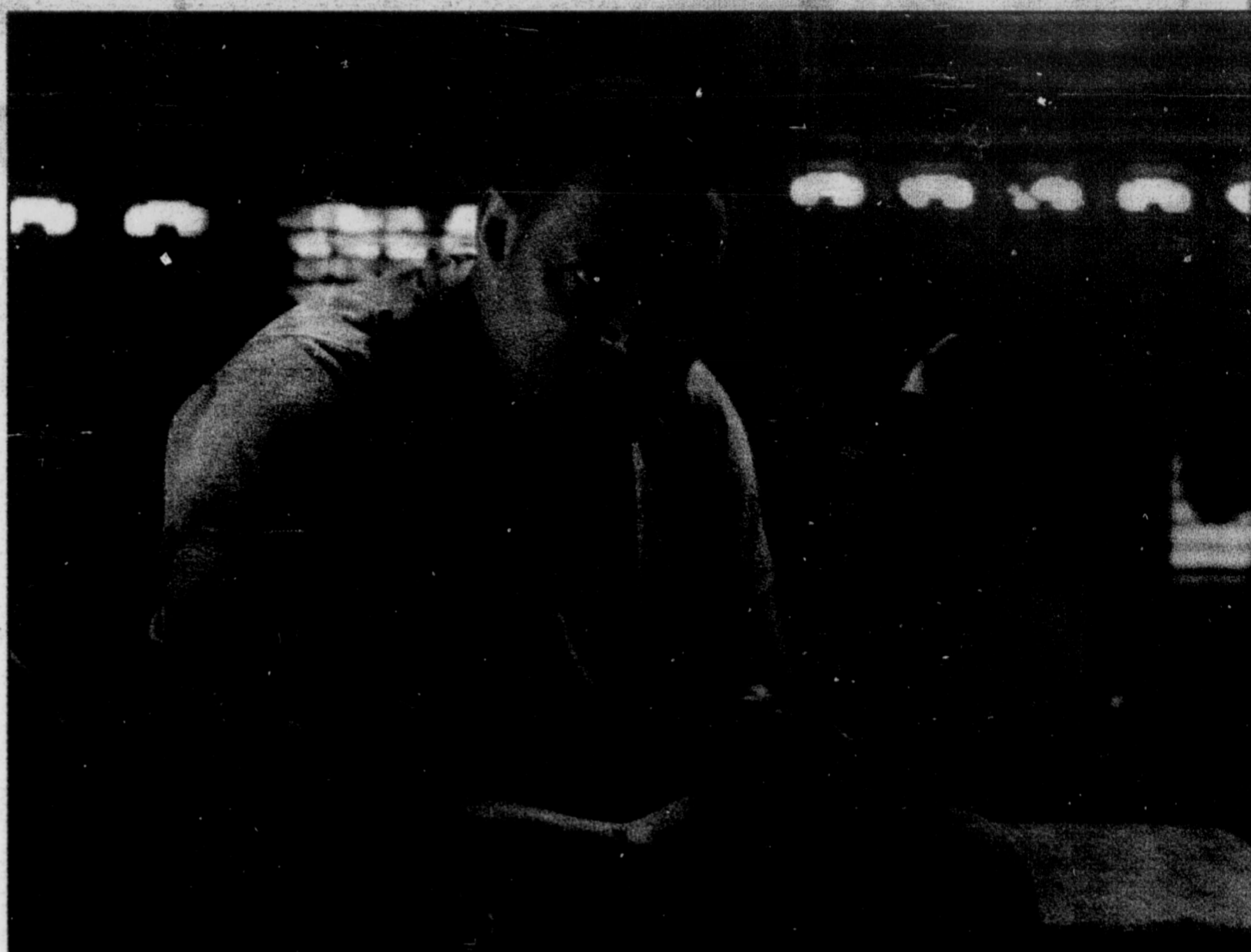
Science fiction and horror "both deal with the unknown, and science fiction tries to show the unknown within a rational framework," says Rob Latham, editor of the scholarly Journal of Science Fiction Studies. "Horror tends to push it in the direction of the unknown that's menacing or horrible. Some of the most famous science-fiction novels have horror elements to them."

The whole concept of formerly unknown ETs coming out of nowhere and causing harm "has to do with the sense of being afraid of someone with more power than we have," adds Eric Rabkin, a University of Michigan English professor and author of "Mars: A Tour of the Human Imagination."

"And if they can come to us," he adds, "that's different than when we go to them. If they can get to us, they have more power than we do. We've always looked at things this way."

But sci-fi horror is not just about terror. Ever since what is arguably the first science-fiction novel, "Frankenstein," which deals with issues like what it means to be human, the sci-fi-horror combo has also served as a metaphor for our deepest fears and desires. In the 1950s, for example, post-bomb concerns translated into a distrust of science, as seen in movies like "Them!" (giant mutated ants) and "Godzilla" (another atomic mutant).

Fast-forward to the "Alien" series, and you get what Latham refers to as "body horror" concerns, in which "there's a lot of body anxiety — the alien will get inside you, it will invade you."



COURTESY PHOTO

Laurence Fishburne stars as Noland, a veteran of the human-Predator wars in 20th Century Fox's science-fiction horror, "Predators." The movie is the third release in the Predator trilogy and will be in theaters Friday, July 9.

These movies also "deal with sexual issues," Rabkin adds. In "Aliens," "Sigourney Weaver's character is a mother fighting another mother over the future of mankind."

"There's a lot of anxiety in the second alien movie about reproduction," Latham says. "It's the good mother Ripley who will defend the little girl against this evil alien mother. There's a lot of slime, which clearly has to do with body processes. And when Ripley has a nightmare that the alien is bursting out of her, it's almost like birth."

Like the "Alien" series, the "Predator" films play with metaphor. The first, released 12 years after the end of the Vietnam War, takes place

"in the jungle, and we're fighting an enemy we can't see," Rabkin says. "During this time, Americans have started to pay real attention to what was going on in Vietnam. By the time we get to 'Predator,' we have seen footage of troops walking around and not knowing what hit them."

But, Antal says, the appeal of the Predator is more elemental than a military metaphor. "When we sit down and say, 'Let's make a list of monsters,' vampires, zombies and werewolves are forever on that list," he says. But after seeing the first "Predator" film, it was obvious "We were in the midst of a classic. We had seen a monster step in, introduce himself and forever take

his place in the monster rogues gallery. We were among greatness, and that's what brings you back."

Ultimately, these films all come down to that most elemental fear, of things that go bump in the night. Factor in some drooling, scaly creature from another world, and you've got the perfect fright-night entertainment.

"Science fiction explores the unknown," Allie says. "The oldest and strongest emotion is fear, and the strongest fear is the fear of the unknown, and that's at the heart of horror. Life on other worlds is the ultimate question mark for us. With such a giant question, it's natural that our brains go to dark places."



COURTESY PHOTO

Academy Award winner Adrien Brody portrays Royce, a mercenary whose skills are put to the ultimate test when he faces alien Predators.



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Mustang Daily

"I don't know what it is, but I just do it with my hands."

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'One alcoholic talking to another can keep two drunks sober'

My name is Chas. I'm an alcoholic. I stumbled into my first AA meeting in fall 1997. I had been a hard drinker for 20 years and a serious drunk for the last 10. I had lost my job, was about to lose my family and was having serious health problems. My doctors said I had to stop drinking.

That was impossible. Life without alcohol was unimaginable. I had been an anxious, jumpy kid and a shy, morose teenager, and for decades I'd suffered from depression and panic attacks. Drinking wasn't a problem but a solution: Booze made me feel normal.

Over time, I required a lot of it — beer before breakfast, to steady my nerves, then one to two fifths of vodka through the day and deep into the night.

I no longer enjoyed it. I needed it. But I knew it was killing me. For years I had tried to stop drinking, or at least slow down. I tried exercise and acupuncture, self-help books and special diets. I was prescribed psycho-pharmaceuticals and spent hours with psychiatrists.

I tried everything but AA, and I wasn't about to try that. My father had gotten sober with AA's help, so had all three of my younger brothers and my one living uncle. I was happy for them, but I knew it wouldn't work for me. I wasn't a joiner. I detested the idea of group therapy. I was allergic to organized religion and any concept of God. I thought AA was a sort of spiritual Ponzi scheme — half Scientology, half Tupperware party.

But alcohol brought me to my knees — nearly literally. By the time I turned 42, I was in constant pain and couldn't walk without a cane. The doctors said I needed two hip replacements, but they wouldn't operate unless I quit drinking for two months.

I hadn't gone that long without liquor since junior high school, and I'd proved I couldn't stay sober on my own. So I did the unthinkable: I called a friend who was sober and said, "I need to go to one of those meetings."

We went to a church in the Valley. I sat and listened for an hour. I heard nothing that moved me or gave me hope. The bumper-sticker wisdom of the program was idiotic. The ardent cheerfulness of the group was repellent. The emphasis on God, or a Higher Power, was offensive. I hung my head and told my friend I was wasting his time. I wasn't going to read the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," get a sponsor, work any steps or pray to a God I didn't believe in.

My friend said, "That's OK. Can you go home and try not to drink tonight?" I said I could try. "Can I take you to a meeting tomorrow?" I said he could. "That's all you have to do," he said. "Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous."

Seventy-five years ago, two drunks — Bill, a failed New York stockbroker, and Bob, a disgraced Ohio proctologist — had a similar conversation. Bill had discovered that talking to other alcoholics about his alcohol problem diminished his need to drink. He helped Bob stop drinking and together they began working with others. A few weeks later their first successful convert, a Kentucky man known as Bill D., took his last drink. Their friendship turned into the fellowship that turned into AA, probably the most significant social movement of the 20th century.

I didn't take a drink that first night. My friend took me to a meeting the next day, and the next. Slowly, reluctantly, I admitted I was powerless over alcohol and that

my life was unmanageable. I came to believe that some power greater than myself — the meetings, the program, God, whatever — might be able to help me with my problem, if I was willing. I became willing.

The doctors replaced my hips. My wife and children didn't leave. My health returned. I published my first book, then another. I got back on the tennis court, started motorcycling again and took up snowboarding. I got an AA sponsor and worked the 12 steps. I determined to live my life on a spiritual basis, made a written inventory of my errors and misdeeds, made restitution where possible, then tried to show other suffering alcoholics how they might recover too. In time I began to feel a sense of peace, ease and happiness that I had never known. I haven't had a drink in almost 13 years.

I don't know why that happened. Most alcoholics never make it to AA, and many who make it don't stay sober. But I know how it happened. That's what I share with the newcomers I meet at the meetings I still attend: what I was like, what I did about it, and what I'm like now. That's what I hear from others too, men and women, gay and straight, older than I and younger, with more sober time and less, talking frankly about their struggles and their solutions. Some were gutter drunks who'd lost it all; others were Hollywood honchos who'd lost nothing except their souls. Almost all of them came

through the door as I did, broken and brought to their knees. Almost all of those who stayed, and succeeded, surrendered to the program and worked the steps.

Last weekend more than 40,000 of them, from 90 countries, gathered in San Antonio to celebrate their independence from alcohol and to mark AA's anniversary. They were part of a worldwide fellowship of, according to AA's figures, more than 2 million sober alcoholics — about 1.2 million in the U.S. — who meet regularly. At the birthday celebration, members talked about their drinking, and the miracle of their not drinking. In the end, that's their weapon against alcoholism, and the simple, elegant secret of AA that Bill and Bob discovered in 1935: One alcoholic talking to another can keep two drunks sober.

As Alcoholics Anonymous celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Los Angeles Times asked an AA member to write about the group and how he came to join. Following in the tradition of the organization, he is using his first name only.



Before even addressing the issue of plagiarism, I'd like to ask what kind of critic reads dozens of other people's reviews before even watching a movie? Not to put too fine a point on it, but that's the stupidest review

technique ever, unless you want to be sure to completely erase your own voice and opinion from your review. Cut-and-paste is a lot faster and more direct, bro. I'm not sure what you hoped to accomplish other than misappropriating a byline, but it sure wasn't to become a movie critic.

— Kurt D
In response to "Columnist expresses regret for negligent transgressions"

How does \$1.5 million just slip through the cracks? I would hope using donations would be a top priority, especially of that size.

— Nick
In response to "Engineering dean dismissed"

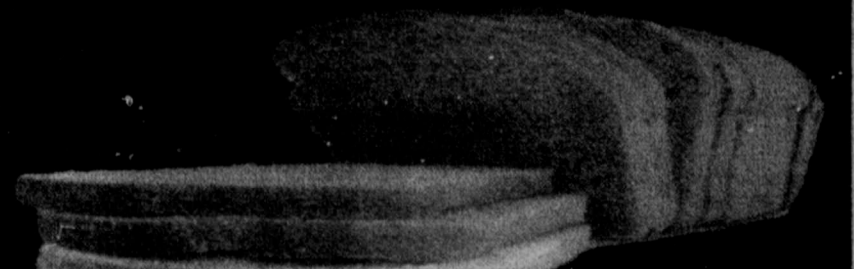
I wish I could have known about this, I never saw a flier downtown, and never go on Facebook.

— Brigham

In response to "Unruly gathering ordinance passes without protest"

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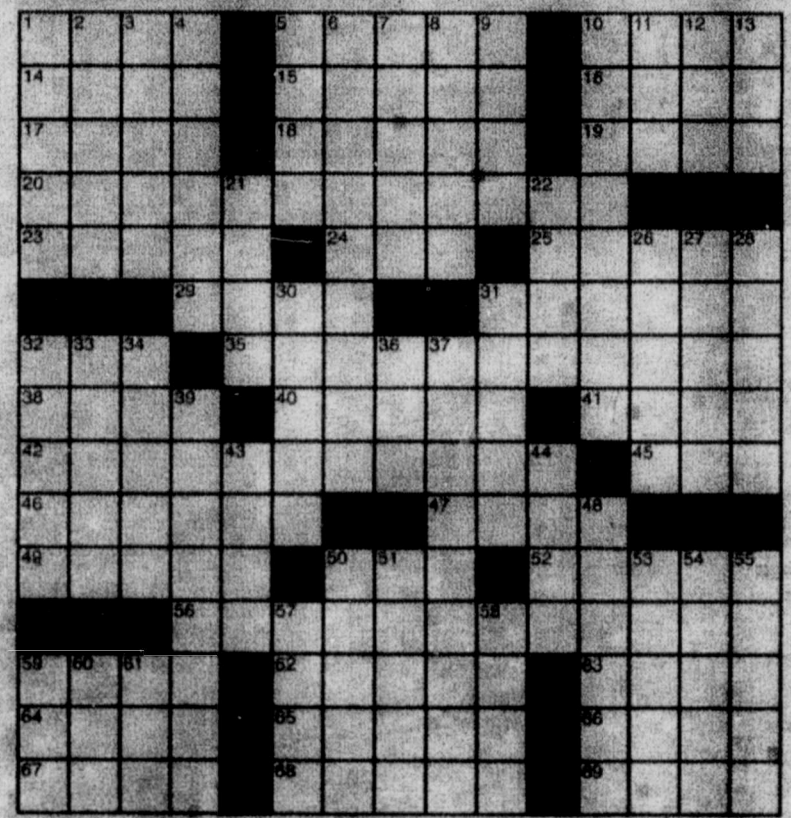
J. CARROLL

Screen Printing & Embroidery

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0602

- Across**
- Japanese beef center
 - Speck in the ocean
 - Visitor to Mecca
 - Sources of gold, e.g.
 - Clichéd
 - Holder in the Obama cabinet
 - Bye lines?
 - Prickly plant
 - Looney Tunes manufacturer
 - Metaphorical target of attacks
 - Roundup animal
 - Speck in the ocean
 - Tribesman of Kenya or Tanzania
 - Broccoli
 - It makes jelly gel
 - Grab most of
 - Captor of Wendy Darling
 - Bears, in Baja
 - Boxer Ali
 - Stanley Gardner
 - Game show originally titled "Occupation Unknown"
 - The Cisco
 - Beach, Fla.
 - Bit of dust
 - Oslo Accords partner of Yitzhak and Bill
 - George Harrison's "All Those Years"
 - Some border patrol cops
 - Dance with fiddlers and a caller
 - New Mexico native
 - One of 101 in a googol
 - Cuisine that includes pad see ew
 - It may let off steam
 - Grande (Québec's main drag)
 - Diary fastener
 - Unwanted engine sound
 - Richter scale event
 - Sawbuck halves
- Down**
- Mentholated smokes
 - Go round and round
 - Color that blends well
 - "Sanford and Son" aunt
 - Amazon.com ID
 - Compensation during a work stoppage
 - "Rawhide" singer Frankie
 - Poem of lament
 - La, e.g., from 1805 to 1812
 - Ibuprofen target
 - Circumference section
 - Olympian Thorpe
 - Beverage store buy
 - Il (razor brand)
 - Eclipse, to the impressionable
 - Image on many a birth announcement
 - Garlicky sauce
 - Sporting tattoos, slangly
 - Like Indian summer days
 - Forte's opposite
 - Errata
 - Vitamin label amts.
 - Agenda part
 - + 4
 - Aldorf's canton
 - troppo (moderately, in music)



Puzzle by Adam Cohen

- Cowboy's greeting
- Milo of "The Playboys"
- What a shut-out team may lack
- Up to, in ads
- Severance package payments?
- Trying hard
- "Slumdog Millionaire" garb
- Sicilian spewer
- Kitt in a cabaret
- Like a ballerina
- Movie bomb of 2003
- Post-surgery regimen, for short
- "Give it a rest!"

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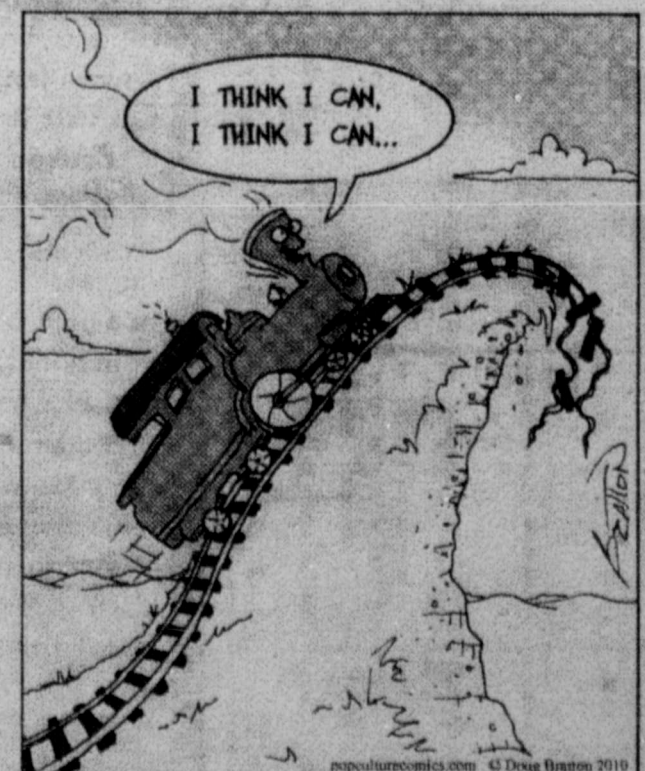
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MUSTANG DAILY

Men's basketball uses chemistry on the woodwork



BRIAN DE LOS SANTOS MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

The Cal Poly men's basketball team went (12-19, 7-9 Big West) last season, a four-win increase from the season prior. The Mustangs also returned to the Big West tournament after a one-year hiatus and defeated Long Beach State 73-69 in the first round.

Amanda Sedo

AMANDASEDO.MD@GMAIL.COM

What is the main focus of head coach Joe Callero and the Cal Poly

men's basketball team this off-season?

Improvement.

Whether it be on the basketball court, in the classroom or as a com-

munity member, Callero said he wants his players to continue to improve in every aspect of their lives.

And they are doing just that.

On the court, the team went 12-

19 this past season, compared to 7-21 the season before.

In the classroom, the entire team now has an average GPA of 2.8, with no one receiving less than a C in any class. Will Donahue, one of the team's leading scorers early last season, was deemed academically ineligible midway through the year; he now has full eligibility.

This might be only fitting for a team constantly reminded by the words "no limits to improvement" displayed on the grease board in the locker room.

The improvement also extends to team cohesiveness. The team has arranged barbecues, hiked Bishop Peak and camped, as a way to bond.

It's a great way to uncover other team members' strengths, creating a mutual respect between the players, Callero said.

"It's putting people in different positions where different guys might be better at something than they are on the basketball court," he said.

If you talk to any member of the team, they all call themselves a family. After seeing the team improve on the court last season, Callero's techniques prove to be working.

Upperclassmen passed the ball freely to freshmen, sharp shooters passed to the big men; each player had confidence in his teammates.

For example, while playing against South Dakota last season, senior guard Lorenzo Keeler drove

to the basket with 32 seconds to spare, and instead of forcing a shot, he made an extra pass to freshman Kyle Odister, who hit a three with a few seconds left on the shot clock — propelling the Mustangs to a win.

However, with Keeler leaving — a player who averaged more than 16 points per game — comes the expectation that the other players will have to step up their game.

Notable players expected to be the new foundation of the squad are guard Shawn Lewis and forward David Hanson — both of whom tallied double digit points per game a season ago. Redshirts Amaurys Fermin and Chris O'Brien may also be asked to step in for lost starters. Also, forward Jordan Lewis, who scored a season-high 16 points against Long Beach State, served as somewhat of a sixth man last season, and may be able to climb his way into the starting lineup this season.

"Whether I'm getting more minutes or not I'm just happy to contribute," Lewis said.

Lewis said he has been hitting the weight room and working on quickness and agility. He's also been working on both his jump shot and three-point shot to complement his already tough defense.

However, Lewis still knows the importance of team chemistry. "In order for us to be more successful, we (still) have to keep growing as a family," he said.

Or as Callero puts it, improve.

Former Cal Poly catcher signs contract with San Diego Padres

mustang daily staff report

MUSTANGDAILYSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Former Cal Poly catcher Ross Brayton signed a free agent contract with the San Diego Padres.

Brayton's signing is the fourth among players on the 2010 Cal Poly roster. The other three were drafted in June — junior pitcher Matt Leonard (38th round, Cincinnati Reds) and senior outfielders Luke Yoder (40th round, Boston Red Sox) and Adam Melker (44th round, St. Louis Cardinals).

Leonard is playing in the Arizona Summer League for the Reds in Good-year, Melker is on the roster of the Batavia Muckdogs in the New York-Penn League and Yoder is with the Red Sox rookie league team in the Gulf Coast League.

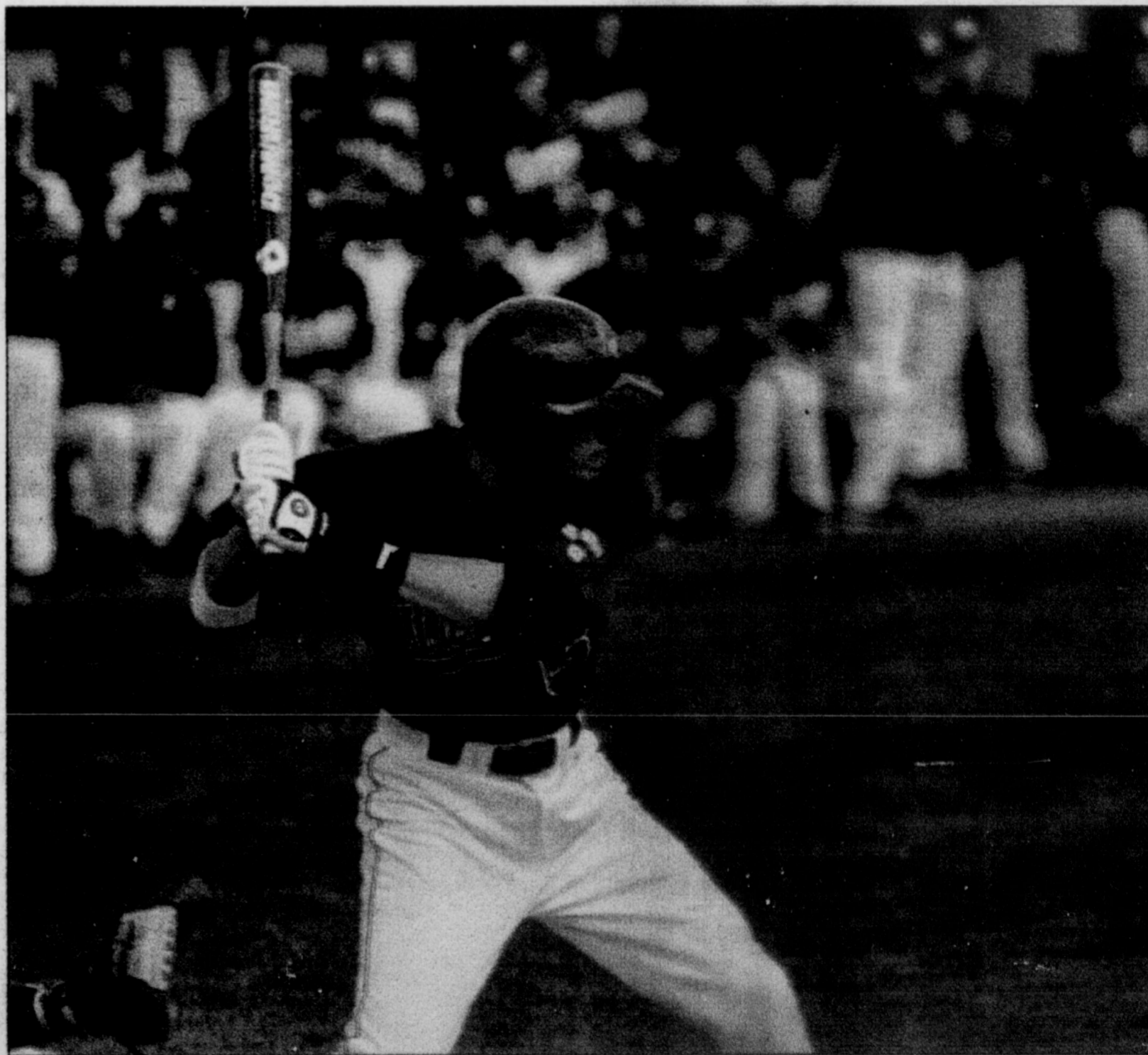
Now Brayton, who hit .320 with 25 RBIs in his senior season with the Mustangs, joins his former teammates in the minor leagues; he is now a member of the Padres' rookie league team.

Last spring, Brayton hit solo home runs at Fresno State and Arizona State. He went 7-for-13 in the season-opening USC series and produced six-game and nine-game hitting streaks. His season totals include 15 multiple-hit games and seven multiple-RBI contests.

Brayton, who missed the final 10 games of the 2010 season with a concussion, hit .393 as a junior to help the Mustangs advance to the NCAA Tempe Regional. He had a nine-game hitting streak and compiled 15 multiple-hit games and nine multiple-RBI contests. Brayton's lone home run was a ninth-inning three-run shot against Cal State Bakersfield.

Brayton played two seasons at Modesto College and hit .313 as a sophomore and .360 as a freshman. He was a three-year varsity starter, two-time Trans Valley League first-team honoree and landed a spot on the all-state small schools team as a senior at Escalon High, finishing 40-for-86 at the plate as both a junior and senior (.465 average).

Brayton helped Cal Poly finish the 2010 season 23-32 and 10-14 for fifth place in the Big West. The Mustangs won 13 of their last 18 games after a 10-27 start, producing just under 10 runs and 14 hits a contest in the final five weeks.



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Former Cal Poly catcher Ross Brayton hit .320 with 25 RBIs in his final season as a Mustang. The Modesto College transfer also hit .393 his junior season — his first year with Cal Poly. He missed the final 10 games of this season with a concussion.

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