International Week enlightens students

By Bonnie Lucero
Staff Writer

Monday, November 15 marked Pacific's kick off to International Week, a series of presentations in the Bechtel International Center aimed at promoting a broader understanding of international affairs.

On Monday, Bechtel International center was honored by a speaker who specialized in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Omar Danaji, a representative of McGeorge Law School, claimed that the recent death of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat marks a time to "Make a resolution in the Middle East.

Danaji emphasized that Arafat's death has started a new era in the Middle East and that this could either lead to disaster or it could lead to new found peace. It is an "opportunity to rehabilitate Palestinian leadership in Israeli eyes."

Rufaro and Paula, two international students studying at Pacific, presented the issues of their respective countries, Zimbabwe in Sub-Saharan Africa and Paraguay in the southern Region of South America.

Rufaro's presentation, titled "Zimbabwe as told by Rufaro", highlighted the epidemic of AIDS and HIV that plagues not only Zimbabwe, but Africa as a whole. "We are young women who left our countries not because we wanted to, but because we had to make a difference," stated Rufaro of herself and her colleague Paula.

Paula presented the issues that Paraguayans face today including the relatively new appearance of political unrest within the countries so called "democracy". She told the heart wrenching story of the death of her cousin by means of political opponents, and introduced her new initiative to stop the violence that is taking Paraguayan and in general, South American lives. "I am sick of reading the newspaper, saying when I grow up, I will do something, Paula addressed her audience, "I am old enough. I can do something."

J.C. was another presenter honored by International Week. A German exchange student from an English University, J.C. gave an European perspective on the current U.S. initiatives in foreign policy, particularly focusing on the War in Iraq and the re-election of Bush as president.

His presentation included over one hundred pictures reflecting on his experience at Pacific and many more interesting tidbits regarding American foreign policy through the years.

"There is some really strong anti-American sentiment especially among the intellectuals [in Europe]," said J.C. But J.C. did not imply that he was part of that group, but rather identified the vast amount of false stereotypes that place borders among people.

International week was established by the Clinton Administration about five years ago in an effort to promote international education. This week is dedicated to identifying "what a huge advantage [an international education and] studying abroad is," claimed Fran Murphy.

International Week at Pacific was certainly successful at portraying the many different perspectives on the world that there are.
1. Don't Panic
The first thing you should do is check what the final is worth in each course. Remember, it is only one component of your final grade. If it is worth 20% or less, you probably won't be able to bring your final grade up or down by more than one grade level (e.g., B to B+), unless you perform extremely better or worse than you have on other exams and assignments during the semester.

2. Don't be too relaxed
On the other hand, you should try to do as well on the final as you possibly can. Furthermore, sometimes the final is a big part of your final grade (30% or more), in which case it is more likely to make a significant difference in your final average. It is better not to go into the final with the idea, "I just need to get x number of points to keep my B (or whatever it is) average." It may not be possible to calculate this accurately anyway, since teachers sometimes compute things like participation grades at the very end.

3. Make time for "renewing" activities
This is NOT the time to stop exercising or doing other things that you find enjoyable. Pace yourself! You will study more effectively if you spread things out and take breaks. But watch the proportions here. Beware of doing 15 minutes of studying followed by a two-hour break to play a video game!

4. Use an effective study method
The key to effective retention is repetition, and not overloading your brain (it can only absorb so much in an hour). Whatever you do, don’t do it all in one long cramming session.

5. Get enough sleep
Don't pull an "all nighter." You will do better if you are rested, and cramming often leads to a superficial and confused knowledge of the material you have studied. There is a reason why sleep deprivation is used as torture. Failure to follow #4 and #5 can lead to writing nonsense on exams.

6. Resist the urge to "party" on days off
Instead, if you have a break in your exam schedule, use it to get a head start on the exams coming up. This can be a time to catch up on missed reading.

7. Arrive on time to your exam
Be especially careful about setting your alarm the night before. Save yourself the anxiety and embarrassment of arriving late.

8. When the exam is over...let it go!
Forget it! Move on to the next one, or go enjoy a break! If you do have major concerns, make an appointment to see your professor at a mutually convenient time.

Here are some alternative sleeping destinations according to some Pacific locals:

Janelle Hunter, Sophomore
"in another persons room (of the opposite sex)"

Mike the Sophomore
"Grace lounge or the bench in front of the burns tower"

Kristen Robertson, Freshman
"Someone I love bed! Or someone I like a lot."

Jay the Washer Dude according to Brett Manning,
"The field house laundry room"

Margot Durlho & Lauren Sandelin, Freshmen
"Mentor class"

Hilary Orzel, Kristen Hess & Leah Mathews, Juniors
"The library where the cushion room is & the sunken field"

Priscilla Park, Sophomore
"The Roof"
A message from Greek Life

Sorority Recruitment

With recruitment just right around the corner you only have one month to choose: To be or not to be, Greek that is! If you've ever had any questions about Greek life, now is your chance to ask. Sorority recruitment begins Wednesday, January 12 at 8 PM with an informational session, which is also your final opportunity to sign up. This is your chance to meet your recruitment counselors as well as members of our four sororities: Alpha Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma and Kappa Alpha Theta.

With sorority life comes many opportunities. Not only lifelong friendships, but leadership opportunities and an overall maturing experience. It takes a special woman to be part of a sorority and we know you all have individual qualities to contribute to our houses! “Being part of a sorority is like having a home away from home,” said Tri Delta President Beth Sun, “There is always someone there for you to talk or just watch TV with. These girls are not just my sisters, they are my best friends!”

Recruitment fees are as followed: Before Christmas break $20 and after Christmas break $25. You must have $20 and after Christmas break $25. You must have a bid, we just want people to get to know everyone better! Bid day is Friday, January 28. Men’s Formal Recruitment has no fee, by attending you are not required to sign a bid, we just want people to get to know everyone better and see what Pacific has to offer.

Fraternity Recruitment

Come learn the truth to the Animal House myths. There will be a formal informational meeting Wednesday, January 19 in the Pacific Theatre followed by tours of all the houses. The event nights are as followed:

Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike), Sunday, Jan 23
Delta Upsilon (Omega), Monday, Jan 24
Sigma Chi, Tuesday, Jan 25
Phi Delta Theta, Wednesday, Jan 26
Theta Chi, Thursday, Jan 27

Bid day is Friday, January 28. Men’s Formal Recruitment has no fee, by attending you are not required to sign a bid, we just want people to get to know everyone better and see what Pacific has to offer.

Spec Ed/Psych/SLP/Students wanted

who are interested in gaining exp. with special needs child
Call Jennie 327-3366
Room & Board Available
Rights group releases child soldier report

By Shone Cipris
Perspectives Editor

A report released in November by Human Rights Watch stated that children are fighting or participating in most of the violent armed conflicts in the world. The report, entitled “Child Soldiers Global Report 2004” indicated that number of under-18 years old fighting in armed groups had not changed significantly in the last few years. Despite the de-mobilization of approximately 40,000 child soldiers following the end of major hostilities in Afghanistan, Angola and Sierra Leone, new hostilities in the Ivory Coast and Sudan have claimed child conscription numbers of over 25,000 in these two conflicts alone. Children (defined by the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child as every human under the age of 18 unless legally emancipated) are reported to have been actively involved in at least 21 conflicts around the globe since 2001.

While the United States’ armed forces do not conscript truly young children (at least not since the Civil War, in which kids as young as twelve served as drummer boys and occasional shooters), it is worth noting that the abovementioned 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child has not been ratified by only two countries: Somalia and the United States. The U.S. will not ratify the Convention due to the clause Article 37(a): “Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age.” Because the U.S. is one of the few industrialized nations that does impose sentences of execution (and life in prison with no possibility for parole) for offenders who committed crimes when they were under 18, this clause was presumably unacceptable to U.S. policymakers.

As to why Somalia hasn’t ratified the Convention, the Child Soldiers Global Report notes that the U.N. Independent Expert “estimated that over 200,000, or five per cent, of Somali children had carried a gun or been involved in militia activities at some point in their lives” during the chaotic political instability depicted in the big-budget Hollywood propaganda flick ‘Black Hawk Down.’ This in turn raises the problem of forced, involuntary conscription of minors into armed service, as was the case in April 2003 when the U.S. military confirmed that minors were being held as enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Three of the youngest underaged prisoners, believed to be between 13 and 15, were released into rehabilitative care after international pressure from human rights groups.

Even the Army commander at Guantanamo concluded that the children had been forced to become insurgents and said they had been “kidnapped into terrorism.” Thus children are forced to atone for the sins of adults.

In the United States, service in the armed forces is unusual in that one does not have to be of legal age to enlist or serve. Not only is this the case, underage kids are actively recruited—I remember that my high school hosted military recruiters for about a week every year. The recruiters would display in the cafeteria hand out promotional material to the kids. It’s a rival that modern high school students are so preoccupied with security (for example, locked doors during school hours keep out non-students), will actively invite military recruiters who are arguable as deceptive and dangerous as any crook off the street. This is especially troubling a time of war; if I were my cafeteria still hosted military recruiters. I lived in a relatively wealthy suburb简便 only a few kids from my school joined the armed forces, including a “casual fatality” who went into the Marine Corps and said they had been forced to become insurgents— I regretful that my high school administration did not have to be of legal age to enlist or serve. Not only is this the case, underage kids are actively recruited.

See MINOR page

Blast from the Past

The drinking ban

By John Lynch (1974)

Alcoholic beverages are now prohibited in University of the Pacific’s Tiger Stadium as a result of complaints made by some faculty members and fans. The Athletic Department harmonized, conveniently digging up one of UOP’s ancient policies that forbids drinking liquor in all public places, including athletic contests.

Suspiciously, similar trends towards curtailing alcohol have been taking place over the last couple of years since President McCaffrey took office. Complaints were reportedly received concerning the fraternities’ involvement with liquor. And dormitory officials screamed when their residents vomited in the hallways and bathrooms from having a “few too many.” But attempts by this administration to impress the community folk with new “crack-down” policies regarding the use of alcohol on campus have flopped. Until now.

In addition to UOP’s present regulation, the Athletic Department and supporting forces strengthened their stand with the Stockton city ordinance that states consumption of liquor in public places is unlawful. On the other hand, the ordinance permits the issuing of temporary liquor licenses for public use. Equally as puzzling is the fact that the Pacific Club, situated in Tiger Stadium, is considered a private organization and thus allowed to serve liquor. Pacific Foundation members can sit inside and sip on a gin n’ tonic but alcohol. The UOP community is primarily one of students. Ways of life are established by them. It is a shame that a group of faculty members and outside people are so easily capable of initiating restrictions that are counter to student beliefs. But it is really the administration that is to blame. It attempts to move people with snappy decisions. Such “showboating” was all too obvious when the liquor ban went into effect comfortably on Homecoming Day, when many parents and alumni were attending the football game. They were spared being “appalled” by the sight of alcohol.

Nevertheless, the booze continues to flow freely around campus. The fraternities have parties and the dorm residents drink to their hearts’ content in the hallways. A significant amount of liquor still finds its way into Tiger Stadium. And since the new restriction went into effect, the sweet aroma of Cannabis has become more evident in the stands. This really must impress the fans and faculty. The administration’s unwillingness to discuss the matter openly with students is deplorable. Rather, it seems it is more important to answer the complaints of outside citizens and impress legislative and city officials in the Stockton community. It is a question of similar attitudes. Whether it be a rock concert or an athletic event, the issues concerned cannot be met “halfway” or in any way be negotiated and compromised by the people. Instead, the entire issue is snuffed.

And most regretful is the UOP’s administrative officials are so easily influenced by these impetuous attitudes concerning alcohol.
Post-graduation routine

By Paige Elisha
Staff Writer

Yesterday, Wednesday, I was on my out of one of the buildings on campus, when an article from a past Pacifican caught my eye. It was a great piece by Seth Wilson about a sense of institutionalization that he felt continually pressing down on him at Pacific. A thoughtful and reflective article, the writing described the way that we, as college students, are being socialized to think and act.

In this article Seth lamented how his life was shaped by deadlines and schedules imposed by Pacific. He described making his way to the dining hall during its hours of operation even though he wasn't hungry; realizing realized that he had to go for dinner while the kitchen was still open.

It was fitting that I came across that article on a Wednesday. Wednesday to me, and to many others, is the “hump day.” I hate that phrase. I think that it sounds absurd. But really, it does describe many of my weeks. Monday is a whirl as I cope to get caught up from the weekend. I spend most of Tuesday thinking that it is Monday. So, Wednesday is the “hump day.” I spend a great deal of the morning wondering how I am going to get all of my work done and I spend the afternoon thinking that I don’t care if I finish it or not-I just want to make it to the end of the week. Thursday I am almost golden and Fridays are usually quick.

That is the sad way that I break down my weekdays. It is similar to the sad way that I break down my weeks and months, in other words, my semester. Six weeks into the semester I have midterms and a few weeks after that I have papers and more midterms. After some time to catch up on reading, I start studying for finals. Take my finals, my semester is over, I have a vacation and I start again.

Seth’s article on institutionalization reminded me overwhelmingly of my life here at school. I have been institutionalized to the Nth degree. After four years at Pacific, my life revolves frighteningly around my school schedule. I find myself not only planning my activities around tests and papers but also defining myself worth by grades and feedback from my peers and professors. My perspective and mood according to how many days remain until the next vacation.

If you think that I have taken academic life too far, that I am a bookworm and college dork, you are not alone. My friends have been known to give me a hard time every now and then. But my social status is not the topic of my article.

My problem is the way that I have begun to look at time and at my life: Make it through Wednesday and then to the weekend. Make it through the next test, through the next paper. Soon, it will be vacation time! I look forward to turning papers in and getting tests over with because I am habitual but also because they give me a sense that I have moved forward and accomplished a task. They give me a definite sense of who I am and where I am going.

Although, at points during the past few years I have felt in a bit of a rut, my habit didn’t really bother me. Now however, I have reached a problem. I am graduating in TWO WEEKS and I realize that my custom of living on this cyclical schedule of papers and finals will not be able to continue.

Post graduation, I am afraid of two things. One, that I will have a hard time adjusting to life without the regularity and affirmation of papers and tests (as sad as that sounds) and two, I will fall right into a new rut. Let’s face it, there must be a reason that such a large percentage of the rest of the population acknowledges “hump day” the same way that I do.

My boyfriend, who graduated from UOP last spring, has given me a glimpse into life after college. He works nine to five, which is more like eight-thirty to six-thirty. He has no midterms, no papers and no finals. (Although his work has a high and low season which serves to both make life more exciting and to give him a break.) From my perspective, he does the same thing day in and day out and it scares me.

During my four years at college, I have been “institutionalized” to evaluate my life according to where I am in my various syllabi. One paper down and two tests next week, winter break is only three weeks away. This is the way that I think and that is what I am looking forward to.

Soon, I will have moved on from this life and I will struggle to redefine my objectives. It won’t be papers anymore but will it be reports and statements, shipments or deliveries?

Will I live my life weekend to weekend, surmounting “hump day” after “hump day”? For a large part, this is the mentality that college has reinforced. Get it through, just get through it.

Graduation is a wonderful period in a student’s life in which they are able to reevaluate their goals and objectives as well as their mentalities and priorities. So while I have a few weeks left (and yes I am constantly thinking about how much better life will be when finals are over), I am making a conscious decision to make sure that no matter where my path leads from Pacific that it will not be from one hump to the next.

Loss of football was necessary

By Ryan Tedords
Guest Writer

December 19 marks the nine-year anniversary of the Board of Regents’ decision to suspend Division IA football at Pacific. The decision, no matter how painful for the Regents in 1995, has been well worth it. Pacific’s athletic teams have thrived in the nine years since football was dropped. The success of the athletic teams is in part to the $1,000,000 a year that the athletic department saves for not sponsoring Division IA football.

Economics is the primary reason why Pacific does not have a football program. Make no mistake, the University would love to have a Division IA football team. It is just not economically possible for a school the size of Pacific to compete with the powerhouse of Division IA college football.

University President Donald DeRosa notes, in a 1996 memorandum addressing the Regents’ decision, “as far back as the 1950’s, President Burns and the Board were troubled by the difficulty of funding our football program.”

While Pacific did have shortfalls in funding Division IA football, the legacy of the program remains a source of pride for the school. From the 1930s-50s the school was perennially ranked in the top 25 in the nation along side the likes of Ohio State, Notre Dame, and Michigan. Legendary head coach Amos Alonzo Stagg walked the sidelines for 13 seasons at Pacific. He retired as college football’s all-time leader in wins. In fact, Stagg is not the only famous football coach with ties to Pacific. Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Jon Gruden was an assistant with the team in 1982.

USC’s head man Pete Carroll is an alumnus. Pacific’s last head coach, Walt Harris, has gone on to build the University of Pittsburgh into a top 25 program.

Despite these success stories, the school could not overlook the rising cost of the program in the 1990s. In 1994 and 1995 football costs exceeded revenue by $800,000. In the program’s final three seasons, Pacific helped off set these costs by playing road games against top level teams. Pacific received close to $400,000 for a game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers on Sept. 24, 1994. While this game provided much needed economic support for the team, it also provided embarrassment for the team. The then number one ranked Nebraska squad trounced Pacific 70-21.

Even if Pacific made the decision to fund a Division IA football program today, few would probably enjoy the games themselves. Pacific football games averaged less than 10,000 spectators a game in the teams final ten seasons. Division IA rules state a team must draw at least 15,000 a game or be subject to removal.

It is highly unlikely Pacific could reach that 15,000 mark today. The University had difficulty selling out the 6,100 seat Spanos Center when Michael Olowokandi, the number one pick in the 1998 NBA draft, was dominating the basketball court.

Even the current men’s basketball team, which may be more talented than any team Olowokandi played on, has seen a little over 3,000 fans at their first two home games.

Many would love to see football played at Pacific again. I am certainly one of them. I may be one of the only students at this University to witness a Pacific football game. Greg Bishop, Troy Kopp, Ryan Benjamin, Aaron Turner, and Jeff Russell are players’ names I still remember to this day. The memories, no matter how great, are not worth the costs of running an entire athletic department into the ground.
**Letters to the editor**

Charity well-meaned, but misses “reality”

Dec. 9, 2004

Having been homeless myself on more than one occasion, I hope my opinion and perspective is well received and respected especially considering that it is genuine and authentic. I sincerely hope that my dear friends at our most esteemed fraternity at this university, Pi Kappa Alpha, do not take offense to this letter since it is not my intention to slight their effort, but merely to present a communication of principles. I realize the good intent behind such a campout, but this “Hit of Reality” is far from any true simulation of homelessness.

Homelessness entails many experiences which have probably not crossed the minds of most people. Try for example the humiliation of urinating or defecating in public because there is no other place to go. Try having to beg for help or for food. Try lowering your face in shame as, out of embarrassment, people actively avoid looking at you because of your less-than-privileged state and not-so-becoming appearance. Imagine how lonely it would be if people didn’t talk to you and tried to pretend you weren’t there as they walked by with their families.

Imagining being elated at the thought of food when someone throws away their leftovers into the garbage adjacent to where you live, a garbage filled with maggots and fluids of unknown origin. Imagine crying in fear of eating something when someone does actually bother to give you a little food because you don’t know when the next time will be that you will have a meal.

Try wandering the streets alone at night. Try getting arrested for sleeping in the only place you could find for the night and try explaining that to the judge. Try visiting the morgue at the city hospital where bodies of the homeless, found on the streets, are left for six months before they are disposed of without so much as a funeral while the city waits for an unknown family to come by and claim the body. The true struggles of homelessness in of itself have the potential to be extremely psychologically damaging.

Pi Kappa Alpha’s “Hit of Reality” possesses none of the significant factors that homeless individuals have to live with each and every day of their lives, not knowing if their fate will change or not. Don’t get me wrong now. I camp out all the time because I love the outdoors. However, I don’t do community service or charity events like this one.

Instead, I make it a point to remember these experiences on a daily basis. When I see a homeless vet, I take the time to stop and ask him about his thoughts and experiences. If I walk into a deli in the city, I always walk out with two of what I intended to buy and then leave one next to the homeless person sleeping on the sidewalk outside the shop. This to me is service. I live each day like it’s my last and I don’t ever take anything for granted. Maybe that’s where we could start making a difference.

Sincerely,
Michael Sebastian Thomas

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**The Pacifican can do better**

While this subject has been touched on in various forums over the course of the semester I feel compelled to express it one final time in hopes that next semester we will see it addressed in earnest. I consider myself a great advocate of the Pacifican and may often be found on the loosing side of arguments regarding the quality and importance of the paper. I have gone out on a limb speaking and writing on behalf of the paper on numerous occasions but there comes a point at which we as readers must draw the line. For me that point has come.

The Pacifican is what I do on Thursday mornings. I look forward to reading it, I encourage others to read it, and I often write for it. You can imagine my disappointment when last week’s edition of the paper was late. I immediately contacted the paper’s advisor, Dr. Dong, and he assured me that the paper would be out within a day. While this assurance served to assuage me momentarily the reality is that the Pacifican has displayed an embarrassing record in regards to reliability and quality over the past semester. Yes, I am the same individual who just two months ago wrote about tolerance and understanding the mountain of challenges that the Pacifican staff faces. That tolerance should not change, and I feel that we as a community have been commendably patient over the past four months.

Challenges however do not absolve a journalistic entity from those pillars of integrity, quality, and a responsibility to reliability. Perhaps in recognition of this, a recently-enacted operational protocol states that the Army will not “assign or deploy military personnel to public relations positions that require public relations specialists. This protocol is meant to reduce the risk of public relations specialists accepting employment in positions that are inconsistent with the Army’s mission.”

While this may be a small step in the right direction of the part of the U.S. military forces, it will do little to change the mindset of the civilians—of all ages—already counted as “collateral damage” in the occupation of Iraq and the inevitable ones who will follow them.

Sincerely,
Eddie Richardson
Class of 2005

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**MINOR from page 4**

Pacific as well. However, I wonder how many kids from the high schools in the less-wealthy surrounding towns got sucked into the military system, with its promises of career training and money for college. It sounds like a good deal, especially to the economically disadvantaged population.

A 17-year old Army private, who cannot legally vote, buy cigarettes or even own a driver’s license (in some states), can be sent off to a battlefield to shoot foreigners. In a letter to Human Rights Watch, the Director of Military Personnel Policy for the U.S. Army stated, “A total of 62 soldiers were 17 years old upon arrival to both Iraq and Afghanistan during 2003 and 2004. These 62 soldiers served in all capacities in the Army.” It is bizarre that a 19-year old soldier can be ordered to drop bombs on enemy soldiers, but can not legally buy a beer or an American car. It’s a strange sort of double standard, to say the least: the assumption that someone can be “old enough” to make serious decisions of life and death, but must be regarded as “too young” when comparing trivial matters are concerned.

Perhaps in recognition of this, a recently-enacted operational protocol states that the Army will not “assign or deploy individuals under the age of 18 years of age, outside of the continental U.S., Puerto Rico or territories of the United States.” As of March 2004, there were no U.S. soldiers under the age of eighteen serving in Iraq.
By Mikey Vu
Lifestyles Editor

As the year is coming to end, I decided it was about that time to make a Best of List for 2004, and instead of sticking to movies as I have done in the past, I decided to do one for music. Now without further ado, I present you: The Top 10 Albums of 2004.

10. The Killers - Hot Fuss

They are one of the most consistent bands of our time, each release as good as the one before (ok, let's pretend Warning! was never released.) American Idiot is a pop punk opera, a very ambitious project that tells the tale of a youth lost in the suburban life of America. Angry, epic, and yet still melodically sound, American Idiot comes off as a well told story instead of a sloppy generic pop punk album (New Found Glory, please, just...just die.)

7. Interpol - Antics

When your debut album is as amazing as Turn On the Bright Lights, how can you even conceivably top it? Easy, reinvent the formula, and that's exactly what Interpol does with Antics. Lead singer Paul Banks brings his voice to the forefront with much more introspective and eloquent lyrics, while the band takes a step back and to the side with a more "pop-ish" approach.

6. The Walkmen - Bows and Arrows

To me, The Killers epitomize all of the music I loved from the 80's. It is like you took a dash of The Cure, threw in a little bit of The Smiths, added two portions of Joy Division, and do I dare? Top it all off with some U2. And that is how you make a good 80's Synth rock album. Bam, kick it up a notch.

8. Kanye West - College Dropout

I was saddened to see my beloved Walkmen appear on The O.C. two weeks ago as a subject of banter between Seth and co. Bows and Arrows further expands on The Walkmen sound, vocally driven rock fueled by a dreamy upright piano. Although not everyone's cup of tea, it's mine, and it's good.

9. Green Day - American Idiot

Anyone who listens to underground hip hop has to know the lethal producers Dan the Automator and Prince Paul, collectively known as Handsome Boy Modeling School. This CD has some of the most unique beats you will ever hear from hip hop's kings of production, and what they have done in essence is create a playground in which their protégés can rap freely. When was the last time you heard Cat Power on a rap album? What about the Rza and The Mars Volta on the same track? Never.

5. Sufjan Stevens - Seven Swans

One of my favorite indie singer/songwriters, Sufjan Stevens has a beautiful voice and his instrumentation is amazing. Seven Swans is much more stripped down than his previous works and on an album filled with religious imagery, it never gets contrite or too in your face. You will never hear a banjo sound so beautiful anywhere else except when in the hands of Sufjan himself. Unless you've seen Deliverance.

4. Handsome Boy Modeling School - White People

This is Elliot Smith's last album before his untimely suicide last year. This CD is poignant and beautifully sad, traits characteristic of not only Smith's music but Smith himself. With songs like the capitulating "Twilight" and the dreamlike "King's Crossing," From a Basement on the Hill is much more than a sum of its parts.

3. Elliot Smith - From a Basement on the Hill

Anyone who listens to underground hip hop has to know the lethal producers Dan the Automator and Prince Paul, collectively known as Handsome Boy Modeling School. This CD has some of the most unique beats you will ever hear from hip hop's kings of production, and what they have done in essence is create a playground in which their protégés can rap freely. When was the last time you heard Cat Power on a rap album? What about the Rza and The Mars Volta on the same track? Never.

2. Franz Ferdinand - Franz Ferdinand

This is Elliot Smith's last album before his untimely suicide last year. This CD is poignant and beautifully sad, traits characteristic of not only Smith's music but Smith himself. With songs like the capitulating "Twilight" and the dreamlike "King's Crossing," From a Basement on the Hill is much more than a sum of its parts.
Franz Ferdinand’s self-titled album has catchy melodies, light-hearted lyrics, and most importantly makes you want to get up and boogie down. Any band whose inspiration comes from the crazy dance music played in gay clubs is fine in my book, and whoever gets to see them on December 8 at Live 105’s Not So Silent Night is extremely lucky. My personal favorite tracks are: Darts of Pleasure, Michael, Dark of the Matinee, and simply put there are no weak tracks on this album, it’s fantastic from beginning to end and I highly recommend you pick it up. Right now.

1. The Arcade Fire - Funeral

This CD is amazing. Simply put, it is easily the best CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and it should be no surprise that an indie band takes the number one spot. What makes this CD so amazing? I don’t know where to start. The soaring melodies, the emotional lyrics, and the whole cathartic nature of the album so aptly named Funeral all add up to an epic that has to be heard. Born out of deaths in the lives of singer songwriter Chassagne, Funeral is an epic that has to be heard. One band takes the number one CD of 2004, and...
Simply the thing she is

By Erin Birmingham

Saturday Night, 8:30 and the show is running a bit late. The audience waits together in the quaint DeMarcus Brown Theater theatre. Simply the Thing She Is by Kate Hawley, exclusively starring Carley Bain, Sam Hicks, Joyce Hub, Carrie Snider, Kate Walters, and Gina Williams was a fun time. As the Director, Gary Armstrong states, “The play is a comedy that gives us a glimpse into a world that is known only to those who populate it: the world of the professional repertory theatre actor”. While the play definitely appeals to theatre buffs, it has funny, touching and thought provoking moments in it that most people can relate to and enjoy.

Carley Bain had some outstanding comedic moments as the character Billie. Her bird seed bra almost stole the show.

Sam Hicks as Lissa (with two S’s) played an excellent protagonist. With her diva outbursts, lies and bummed cigarette addiction she kept the show going. She was the butt of most jokes in the show, and while the audience was supposed to hate her it was obvious that she would have been nothing without her.

Kate Walters never faltered in staying in her ‘mom’ character as Annie. Her 80’s style costumes such as a linen pantsuit in various shades of blue cause an unsettling flashback to a time of flowered spandex and braided sweatbands.

Joyce Hub, as Phoebe kept her ‘I’m so innocent, confused and hopeful’ stitch until her defiant moment in the end where she throws Lissa’s (Sam Hicks) stuffed cat, Mr. Whiskers to the floor. The audience was so proud—our little introvert was growing up.

Bugs (Carrie Snyder) was pure comedy relief. She seemed to have a crush on Billie, and Billie was a girl, but honestly, everyone in the show seemed to have a crush on Billie so that was not too ground moving. Carrie made a great, uh ‘yeah whatever’ face that got the crowd laughing every time. She enjoyed making the play, and after she said, “It is exciting to do a new, very audience heavy play”.

Student Philipp Klaschka says, “I thought it was good. It was entertaining, had good sets and nice costumes. Even though it was about 2 hours, it seemed to go by fast”. It did go by pretty quickly, and the cookies during the 15 minutes intermission were delicious.

For more information on show dates, show times and ticket information, please contact Pacific’s Box Office at 209.946.2867.

Simply the Thing She Is will run until the 11th. Admission for seniors is $5.00, student’s $8.00 and general admission is $12.00. All performances begin at 8 pm.

Interpol: Antics

By Lindsay Santos

Guest Writer

A look into the new album

What is known to be an international intelligence agency that allows collaboration among intelligence agencies worldwide to catch criminals, shares a name with one of New York City’s most stylish popular rock bands of the millennium: Interpol.

The band consists of an ideal quartet: Paul Banks-lead vocals and guitar, Carlos D.-bass, Sam Fogarino-drums, and Daniel Kessler-guitar and vocals. These four men have taken indie rockers worldwide by storm with the release of their two hit albums that fill listeners and fans with heart wrenching lyrics and deep mysticism.

After Matador Records signed the group, Interpol released their debut album of “Turn On The Bright Lights” in August of 2002. The album left fans wanting more twisted, cabin fever like music to morn over.

In September 2004, just two years after the bands first debut album release, Interpol celebrated their second release, “Antics”. The lead singer and mastermind, Paul Banks, once again developed lyrics about numerous disheartened females that scornfully impacted his life with love and broken hearts.

The difference between the two albums is that they have taken the exact beats and radiant harmonies of “Turn on the Bright Lights,” and established more confidence and poise to the mix. Sporadically, Interpol lets songs glide into a state of rage, but they’re not frightened to drag them back to the elegant and beautiful rifts they started out with from the beginning. The top song on the record “Lights” is “The New.”

Roughly over six minutes long, this song is what best defines Interpol’s unique flair and creative talent. It begins as a soft cry to a past love, and transforms into a forceful and dominating verse with Banks singing, “You’re looking alright tonight / I think we should go.”

The lyrics are spine-chilling, but the result is mind gripping for all fans. Interpol doesn’t repeat old sounds; they just take influential music from the ’80s and give it a face lift. Interpol’s sound is purely modern and attention-grabbing to all ears. Through time Interpol’s artistic sound and aesthetic quality will continue to captivate and expand worldwide, but will not happen unless the fans continue to support and appreciate what Interpol has to offer.

Horoscopes

Sagittarius

11/22-12/21

The holidays are a time for reflection. Take this time to reflect on the ones you hurt and ask for forgiveness.

Capricorn

12/22-1/19

Don’t be too hard on yourself – it’s possible to take self-critique too far, you know.

Aquarius

1/19-2/18

You are being seduced by nostalgia. Things are not as sad as they seem.

Pisces

2/19-3/20

You can only spread yourself so thin.

Aries

3/21-4/19

You can’t put this off any longer. You know what you have to do. Time to do it.

Taurus

4/20-5/20

Go ahead and dance if you feel like it. Who cares that you don’t have any shoes?

Gemini

5/21-6/21

This isn’t like learning a whole new language. This is easier.

Cancer

6/22-7/22

An effort that seems like a waste of time will now pay off – if you only persist.

Leo

7/23-8/22

Don’t let hurtful people get to you. You are great-only if you believe it.

Virgo

8/23-9/22

Don’t be a slave to your own competitiveness.

Libra

9/23-10/22

Please the higher-ups – fine. But don’t sacrifice your ethics in the process.

Scorpio

10/23-11/21

The smoke is about to clear. Everything will be revealed again. Stay put.
Senior David Doubley is starting again this season as Pacific's point guard for his second year on the men's basketball team.

Doubley's excellent performance could very well stem from his desire to play his best. "The competition," he said, is his favorite part of the game. "Being able to show you're the best. Let the best man win on any given day," said Doubley. "Doubley's strength is his leadership - his ability to communicate with his teammates," said assistant coach Adam Jacobsen; later adding, "he's definitely a winner. It's pretty unique to find someone who plays to win the game instead of just trying to look good. Doubley does whatever it takes to win the game."

Jacobsen also pointed out the game against Santa Clara on November 23 this season when Doubley led the team with 20 points to win the game. "In the second half, when [the team] needed him the most, he stepped up and made a lot of shots."

Doubley himself is excited to see, "how our team develops. We definitely have talent, and we're just waiting to see how it will all come together."

Both of Doubley's parents were coaches, the biggest cause of his interest in the sport. As a child he would be "the little kid trying to play with the big kids and learn. Now, playing in college has been a big accomplishment. Doubley hopes to stick with the game.

As for the men's basketball team in general, they too are looking forward to another successful season. Last Saturday, they experienced their first loss of the season against Kansas with 80-71. However, it was a close loss against the number two team in national ranking.

Assistant Coach Adam Jacobsen said about the game, "We were disappointed we went there to win." But he and the team continue to stay positive about the experience. Playing a team like Kansas this early in the season, will only help them to improve.

Regardless of the loss, Jacobsen said they will "keep our sights on trying to win a Big West title."
Jennifer Hite-Smith
Sports Editor

The 5th annual bench press competition was on last Friday, December 3rd. It was hosted by Baun Student Fitness Center inside the gym's rubber room. The crowd gathered to “watch our ends go crazy,” said Freshman Matt Young and Vince Perez, friends of men's 150 - 70 pounds winner, Paul Le; and men's under 130 pounds winner, Kurtis Nakamura.

Other winners included men's 131 - 150 pounds winner, Hua Le with a 270 pound lift, men's 171 - 190 pounds winner with a lift of 15 pounds: Sammy Koontz, and men's 191 - 220 pounds winner, Matt Paul, at 285 pounds.

For the women, Lori Iwamasa of the over 140 pounds division won with a 30 pound lift and women's under 140 pounds winner was Jennifer Sexton at 115 pounds.

A new division was added this year: the open division, as this division was meant to allow participants who wished not to be competitive to enter the tournament. The heaviest lift in this division for the male participants was Dr. David Hall with a 250 pound lift and Kim Lien for the women who lifted 120 pounds.

Justin Haruka of the Baun Fitness Center staff was the organizer of the bench press competition for both this year and last year. Haruka stated that both the competitors and the crowd increased from the previous year. He also expressed confidence in the continued increase in interest for the program.

The basic rules for the competition were as follows:

- every competitor receives 3 lifts
- there is no min weight to lift
- once you lift a certain weight you cannot lift a lighter weight
- if you do not successfully complete a lift you can
- highest lifted weight wins
- two feet on the ground
- no bouncing the bar off your chest, but it must touch your chest before you lift
- no bench shirts
- no arching your back more than a fist off the bench

BENCH PRESS: Paul Le puts up 365 pounds to win the competition

BENCH PRESS: Women's winner, Lori Iwamasa lifts 180 pounds to victory

Jennifer Hite-Smith
Sports Editor

Over Thanksgiving break, not every Pacific student went home for Turkey and Pumpkin pie. Nine of Pacific's bravest hit the rough terrain of the Grand Canyon. The trip, put on by the Pacific Outdoor Connection (POC) left at about 4:30pm on Tuesday November 23, drove almost 15 hours between four different POC staff members, and arrived in time to see the sun rise over the canyon on Wednesday morning.

Co-leader and organizer of the trip, Sophomore Kendal Oakleaf, recounted the events of the trip. The group fueled up with breakfast at a lodge, and began their decent. Four and a half miles of switchbacks later, they arrived at the Indian Garden campsite. That was not the end of their day, however; that night they hiked over to eat dinner and share stories at Plateau Point, located 1,000 feet over the Colorado River.

Thursday was longest day of the trip, according to Oakleaf. The group hiked along the Bright Angel Trail five miles to Phantom Ranch, a lodge at the bottom of the canyon. This trail took them across the river to Clear Creek Trail - where the real challenge finally faced them.

“It was a hard trail,” said Oakleaf, “it is not highly maintained and has few participants, but it was awesome - very hardcore," she commented. The base of the trail consisted of shale -- a form of looser flat rocks that tend to slide a little bit under your feet - not to mention that it went two miles straight up.

The group pushed through the challenge though, “It was a good thrill. It was a rush," remembers Oakleaf.

Even after this tiring climb, some of the participants and staff members went on a day hike that afternoon. In all attempts to preserve tradition, and Thursday was after all Thanksgiving, they cooked Turkey, Tofu-rkey, cranberry sauce -- the works -- to celebrate.

They returned home on the same trails and left the canyon on Saturday evening, arriving safely back at Pacific around 6:30am on Sunday.

POC makes time for Turkey

CONGRATULATIONS!

Freshman Dragan Bakic (Split, Croatia) earned Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) Honorable Mention for the Pacific Tigers men's water polo team.
A Power Cat journal entry

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2004

4:00pm- Two charter buses came to pick up a rowdy bunch of Pacific students and alumni to take us to Berkeley to cheer on the women’s volleyball team. The students were mostly women’s water polo players and everyone was wearing their best orange and black. I brought with me my white Power cat jersey; some water just in case roaring for Pacific got me tired, and a scratch post (my claws are getting pretty dull).

4:15pm- On the bus, someone passes around a snack. They called it “lumpia” but I would have much rather had some raw meat.

6:15pm- We arrive in Berkeley. My orange and black stripes stick out in this town of gold and blue.

6:30pm- I’m inside the building with the tiger dancers. Before we go on, they are doing their makeup and practicing their routine. I’m making sure my fur is combed and my whiskers are trimmed. I do a few practice pounces and let out a few roars. I am ready! Plus, that work out at Baun last night sure did get rid of that house cat flab I was seeing on my eyes.

7:30pm- We enter the gym. First I see the Pacific fans looking pumped and excited as usual. Then my stare goes to the Berkeley pep band. First of all what’s up with their costume? Vests and barber shop hats—this pep band looks ridiculous! Things go down hill when I lay my eyes on their mascot, Oski the Bear—should I say Opie the Bear. He looked like Dopey straight from the Seven Dwarfs. If they wouldn’t put me and grandpa in a wrestling ring... (but that’s another story).

Game Overview- When we won the first game 30-26, Pacific fans went crazy. I did some cat-like leaps and high-fived the Pacific fans who had increased to include some women’s soccer players, some men’s volleyball players and some men’s h2o polo players. But the wins were back and fourth— we won the first, then Berkeley pulled ahead winning the second, then we won the third, 20-30, then Berkeley won the fourth and then it went to Rally points for the fifth game. Pacific fans were on the edge of their seats. Our team was holding on. Cheers went out for amazing blocks and power spikes throughout all the games. Sophomore Stevie Mussie was a Pacific fan-favorite, with 21 kills overall. Unfortunately, Pacific couldn’t hold on for the fifth game. We were so close with a four point lead at the very end, making the score 15-11. I definitely let out a few growls of discontent.

Re-Cap—Being on the road cheering on my team made me proud. Sure, we didn’t win, but nothing felt better than to strut past those Berkeley fans every time we were ahead. They feared our players like senior setter Hayley Anderson, and spikers Stevie Mussie, junior Ashley Groothuis, junior Sidney Bennett, and senior Sarah Vinall. I know we even made the other fans mad when we screamed “Hungry Tigers,” or “UOP UOP UOP!” or jumped on top of their cheers substituting “Go Berkeley” for “Go Pacific!” All in all, the Women’s Volleyball team kicked some butt, and I would hop on that bus any day of the semester to show my Tiger Pride again. Besides, cheering is my job. Go Pacific!

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