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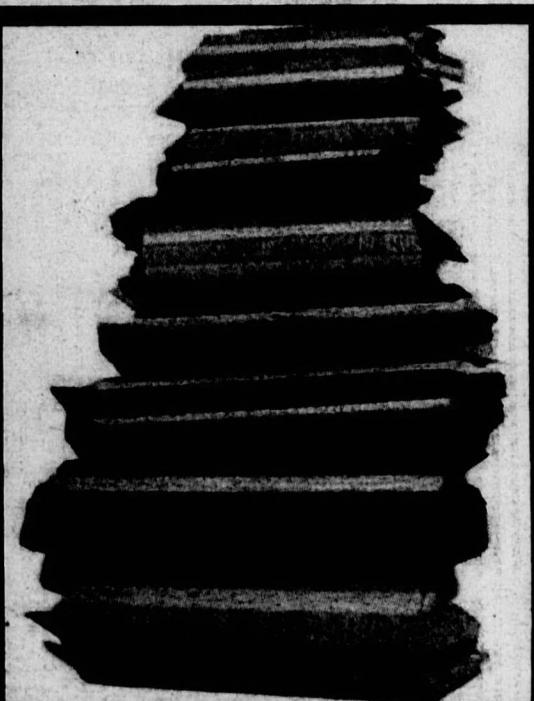
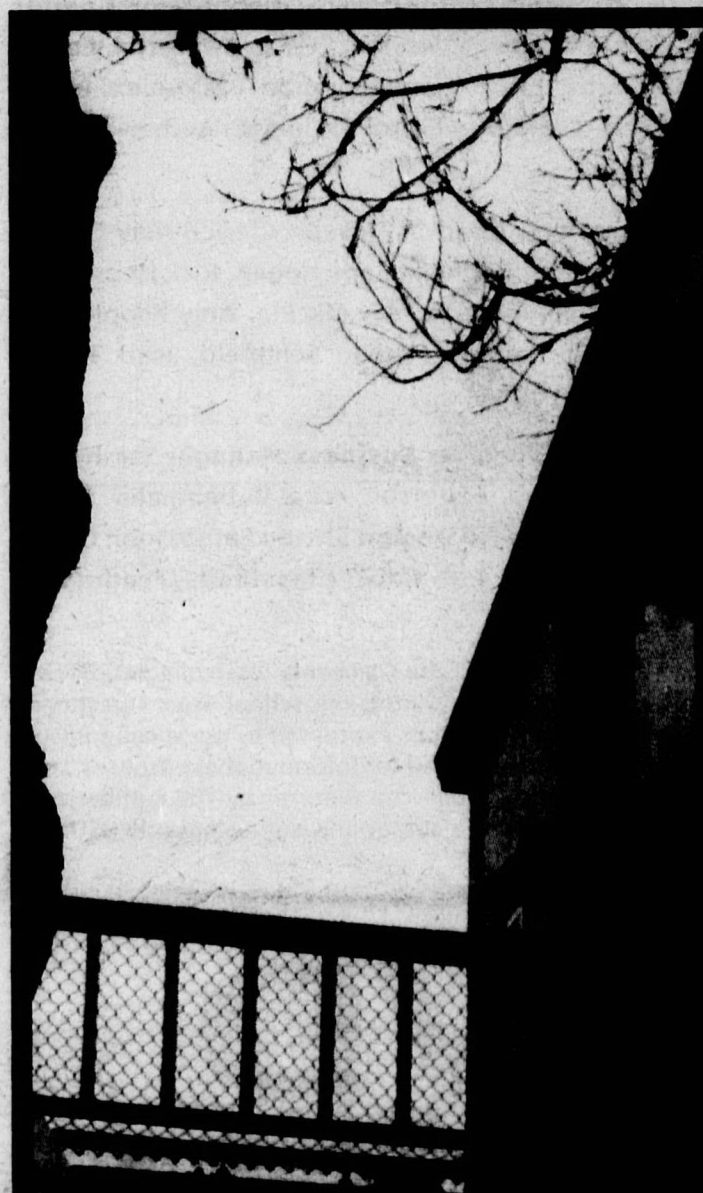
The Lumberjack

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Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Arcata, Calif.



The battle over on-campus housing

CAMPUS

Going abroad

Language, culture and appropriate technology combine for second annual study abroad program in Mexico.

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Congressional miscommunication

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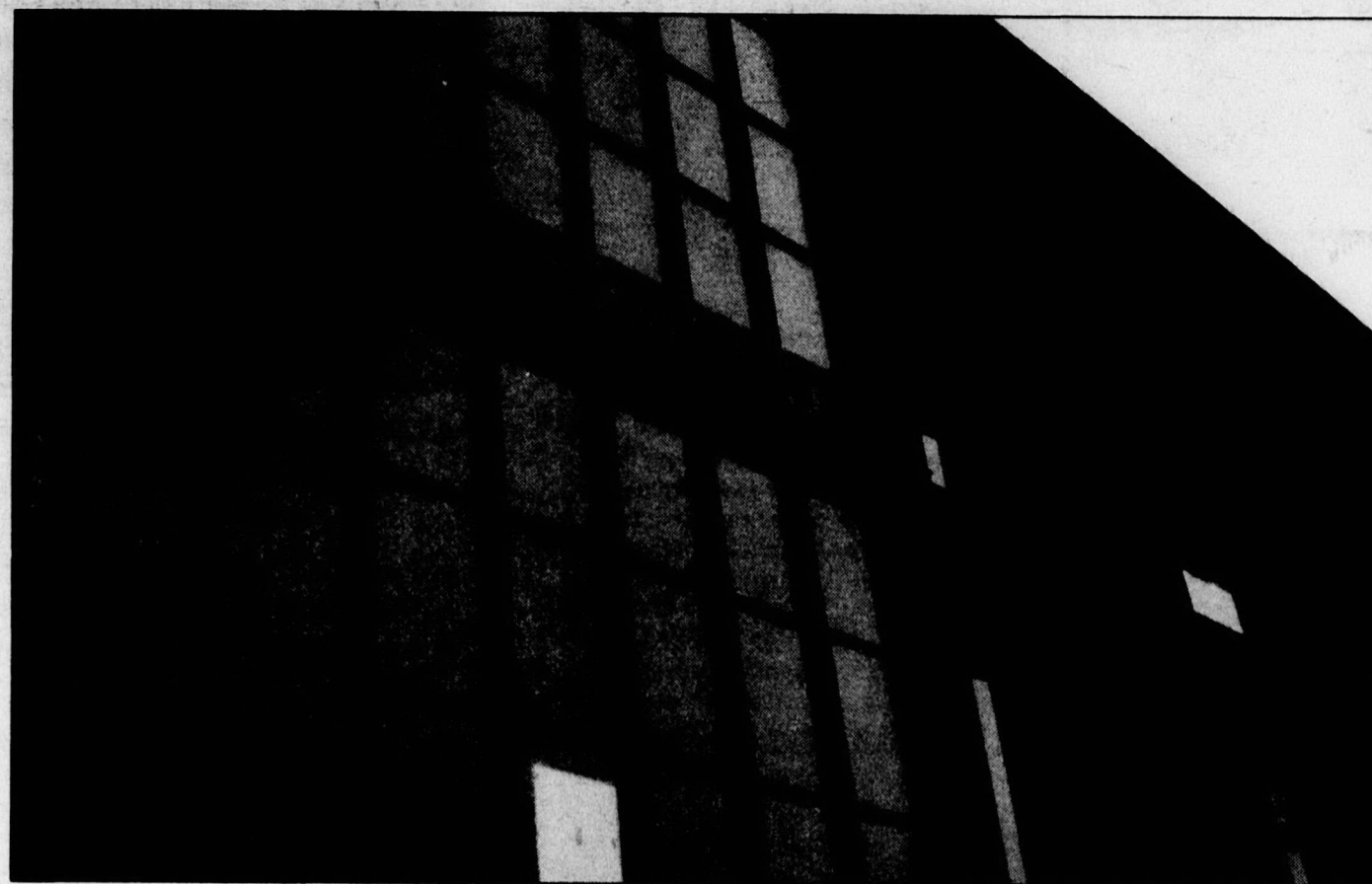
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Housing costs may spike again

If Richmond approves, fee increase will cover utilities, inflation



Rick Hedstrom

View of the residence halls on March 27. Students living in on-campus housing may face new fees.

Karina Gianola
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Students attending public universities in California may be spared increases in general fees for the upcoming fall semester, but that doesn't mean certain students at HSU won't end up paying more.

In January, a preliminary draft of the California budget included funds to cover a proposed 8 percent general fee increase for all schools in the California State University system. Laura Kerr, director of government affairs for the California State Student Association, said the legislature will likely approve that section of the budget.

At HSU, however, the Student Fee Advisory Committee recently passed a recommendation for a residence hall fee increase of 2.5 percent. John Capaccio, the housing director, said the current annual cost of living in a double room is \$4,051, while a single costs \$5,116. With the 2.5 percent increase, students living in double and single rooms next year would pay roughly \$100 or \$125 extra, respectively.

Steven Butler, the vice president of Student Affairs, said state money can't be used to fund on-campus housing.

"The residence halls are not funded by any tax dollars," he said. Butler said the residence halls run solely on the payments made by students living in them. Even if the government gave HSU all the money it needed, Housing would still have to rely on funds from students. The last time residence hall fees increased was during the 2004-2005 school year.

On Monday night, the Residence Hall Association held a symposium on the fee increase, designed to provide an opportunity for students to voice their opinions on the issue. John T. Carter, the coordinator of the event and ad designer for The Lumberjack, said most people in attendance supported an increase greater than the 2.5 percent the advisory committee suggested.

"The majority of people strongly favored a 5 percent fee increase on the condition that [increases] don't continue to happen," Carter said. He said most of the people at the

symposium were involved with the Housing Department in some way.

Butler, who voted against the increase because he wanted it to be larger, cited many reasons for raising fees, ranging from the rising costs of utilities, staffing and inflation. He said it was unfortunate, but a fact of life, that the costs of living have to be passed on to students.

Another reason for the fee increase was because Housing has to build up a reserve fund, in addition to paying the basic costs like utilities, Butler said.

"(Housing) has to look 10 years out," he said. "At some point we need to think about building new residence halls." Butler also said bathroom remodels and fire safety upgrades are paid for with reserve funds.

Capaccio said the ideal size of the reserve fund is 10 percent of the overall housing budget, \$650,000 for this year. For the past four years, the reserve fund has been working with less than half that amount.

"If this fee increase isn't approved, we would lose \$80,000," Capaccio said.

Nicole Alvarado, Associated Students president, said raising housing costs is a necessary step and, as a member of the student fee advisory committee, she helped to recommend the 2.5 percent increase. However, anything beyond that would be unreasonable, she said.

"I think that in a time when students are being locked out because of accessibility in student fees we want to make they aren't bearing the brunt of the cost on their backs," she said.

Alvarado said raising fees will help right now, but better attention to the budget can help prevent costs from getting out of hand.

"The fees won't cover all the needs of the residence halls," she said. "We need to work on practicing better conservation." If students living on campus are careful about their energy use, then the high cost of utilities won't

be such an issue, Alvarado said.

Many students who live in the residence halls aren't happy about the possibility of paying more money to live on campus. Like Alvarado, they say they understand that fee increases are inevitable, but could be avoided by paying attention to where money is going.

Lydia Hicks, an interdisciplinary studies junior and living group advisor, said she understands why increases in fees are necessary, due to a tight budget. Hicks said better planning on the part of the university could prevent fees from rising in the future.

Kienan Parr, a political science sophomore who lives on campus, said he would like better access to the residence hall budget.

"I would want to see a full-on hardcore report of the costs before fees increase," Parr said. He said he thought all current residents should receive a copy of the report.

Although the Student Fee Advisory Committee has already recommended the fee increases, Richmond still needs to give his final approval, which Butler said is expected in the near future. If approved, the fees will be in effect for the fall 2006 semester.

Richmond was in Washington, D.C., and not available for contact on Monday. Jane Rogers, HSU's public affairs director, wrote in an e-mail that she had spoken to Richmond, and he hadn't made a decision on whether he would approve the increase.

"He is taking all the information under consideration before deciding," she wrote.

Whether or not the cost of living on campus goes up next semester, Butler said it will have to happen sooner or later.

"I see (the fee increases) as necessary and appropriate," he said. "You have to balance the rising costs. You can only do so much before the rates have to go up."



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Sunday, April 9th

Fathom
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+ DJ Innit
(industrial EBM noise electronic)
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Summer in Parras opens door to cultural learning



Parras program students from 2005.

courtesy of Tressie Word

Amy Popplewell

picklehellama@hotmail.com

The "Summer in Parras, Mexico Program" is continuing for the second annual year after the pioneering start of the partnership between HSU's Spanish and Appropriate Technology departments.

The program was designed to create a link between the two departments. Participants travel to Parras live with a host family and are paired with Mexican students. The pairing allows each student to practice his or her non-native language.

"One of the aims is to create the [Summer in Parras, Mexico] Program to open a space where a student feels they are doing something for the world," said Professor Francisco de la Cabada of the Department of World Languages and Culture.

This year's summer in Parras begins May 22 and students will head home by July 28.

The students will earn 18 units: eight in Spanish, eight in engineering (appropriate technology) and two in the new course, "Spanish—Poetic Discourse of the Desert."

Students will also experiment with appropriate technology in relation to the region's needs. This project includes passive solar water heating, repairing adobe, organic gardening with orphans, and working with Lechugilla, a natural fiber used to weave baskets or brushes.

This year's projects also include work installing wastewater treatments and photovoltaics (solar panels).

"They go as students of their [Parras] appropriate technology that they do out of necessity," said Environmental Engineering Professor Lonny Grafman.

The Parras program was

created for a variety of reasons. The experience gives students a practical application for using their second language and developing a better vocabulary. Also, appropriate technology is a key factor in the life of Parras.

The administrations of both HSU and the Universidad Tecnológica de Coahuila (UTC) are excited about the program and encourage its growth. The three directors of the program, Francisco de la Cabada, Lilianet Brintup from the Department of World Languages and Cultures and Lonny Grafman, are all enthusiastic about its potential. They are hoping the ratio of participants will eventually include half HSU students, a quarter domestic students, and a quarter international students.

Last summer a group of 24 students and faculty traveled to the town of Parras in northern Mexico with the intention of immersing themselves in the desert-land lifestyle and culture.

In turn, the students gained much more than they expected. They learned from the people of Parras, as the locals learned from the students in return, but more importantly they bonded through partnerships made in this program, specifically the partnerships between the school communities of HSU and UTC.

The two communities made such a great connection that Grafman said the streets were filled with tears as the American students departed.

The directors are confident that this program embodies the philosophy of HSU in that it connects communities, gives students a perspective of their role

see PARRAS, next page

School server meltdown

HSU's server buckles under post-Spring Break traffic

Brian Early
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Students and faculty returned from Spring Break to find they could not access one of today's most important communication tools: e-mail.

Older equipment and a flood of users caused the system to become temporarily inaccessible at the beginning of last week.

Many, like graduate student Juliette Bohn, rely heavily on e-mail for day-to-day communication. "It generally reduced my productivity hardcore," she said.

Interdisciplinary studies senior Abigail Rohr was flustered by the slowdown of the e-mail. "It certainly annoyed me," she said. "It raised my stress level."

The e-mail meltdown kicked the Information Technology Service Department into late-night action. ITS shut down the e-mail system for four hours last Wednesday night to install a larger information pipeline.

Nick DeRuyter, manager of University Computer Services, said Monday at the ITS Advisory Committee he and others had been documenting the bottlenecks for the past three years. It was because of this documentation that the ITS department convinced President Rollin Richmond in January to fund crucial upgrades to the system in hard budget times.

Last week, only part of the equipment had been delivered. After Wednesday, the third day of e-mail, DeRuyter made the

decision to take the system down to upgrade it.

Interim ITS Director Ann Burroughs said, "It's all we had, so we did it."

The upgrade unclogged the bottleneck. ITS separated the Axe server (the mail server) from Sorrel (the Web server), which increased the overall capacity from one to two gigabytes, fully alleviating the e-mail slowdown. Burroughs reported to the committee that between Monday and Wednesday the e-mail server spent nearly 80 percent of the time accessing e-mail. Thursday morning the wait time was less than 5 percent.

Many forces working in concert created the slowdown. First, the technology is six to eight years old - antique in the computer industry. E-mail was accessed through a switch that also connects HSU Web pages, at one gigabyte apiece. With two gigabytes of input, it had only one gigabyte for output, creating the bottleneck.

Second, large quantities of mail collected over Spring Break. As people checked their e-mail less, it piled up. When everybody returned and simultaneously checked their e-mail, it created a backlog of information that bogged the system during the peak points of the day.

Third, the campus spam filter processes large amounts of e-mail, most of which never makes

it into the system. On a typical day, roughly 250,000 e-mails are processed; only 40,000 make it into mailboxes, while the rest is considered junk.

ITS is the silent partner of the university that students, faculty and staff rely on for information: Webmail, HSU Web pages, Moodle and Blackboard to name a few. ITS is as integral to the workings of the university as Plant Operations - in the background, without fanfare, keeping the university running.

Van Matre Hall, the building next to Founder's Hall, is the hub of electronic information. Stacks of computer servers stand tall in a secure room, cooled from air that comes up from the small holes in the floor.

It is in this room where the ITS managers fix the campus computer issues.

The Help Desk, the reference center for many campus computer problems, received over 85 calls and numerous walk-ins wondering about the status of e-mail. Josh Mohland, a religious studies senior who works at the desk, said, "I think we have more students using Gmail and Yahoo now."

If you have problems with e-mail or other university systems, check out the ITS Web site, with links to the system status, at www.humboldt.edu/~its/index.shtml.

PARRAS

continued from previous page

in the world, and is a pioneering program between the Spanish and Appropriate Technology departments.

UTC wants to create a similar, but smaller scale, version of CCAT on their campus with a dorm specifically dedicated to it, which will go hand-in-hand with the area.

In Parras there are 400-year-old adobe buildings. The first winery in the Americas is also there, founded in the 16th century.

"It's like an oasis in the middle of the desert," Brintup said.

The directors said the area is hot and dry, similar to Mediterranean weather and perfect for swimming.

Among the beauty lie problems, like black water running through the canals, which need treatment.

Those are the types of real life hardships that the American students can learn to solve hands on, and they can see how it affects this community in a positive way.

"The most important teaching is how much they are going to learn about themselves," de la Cabada said.

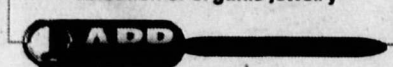
Students are strongly encouraged to be involved with this now-annual program and are welcome to sign up to join them in their efforts.

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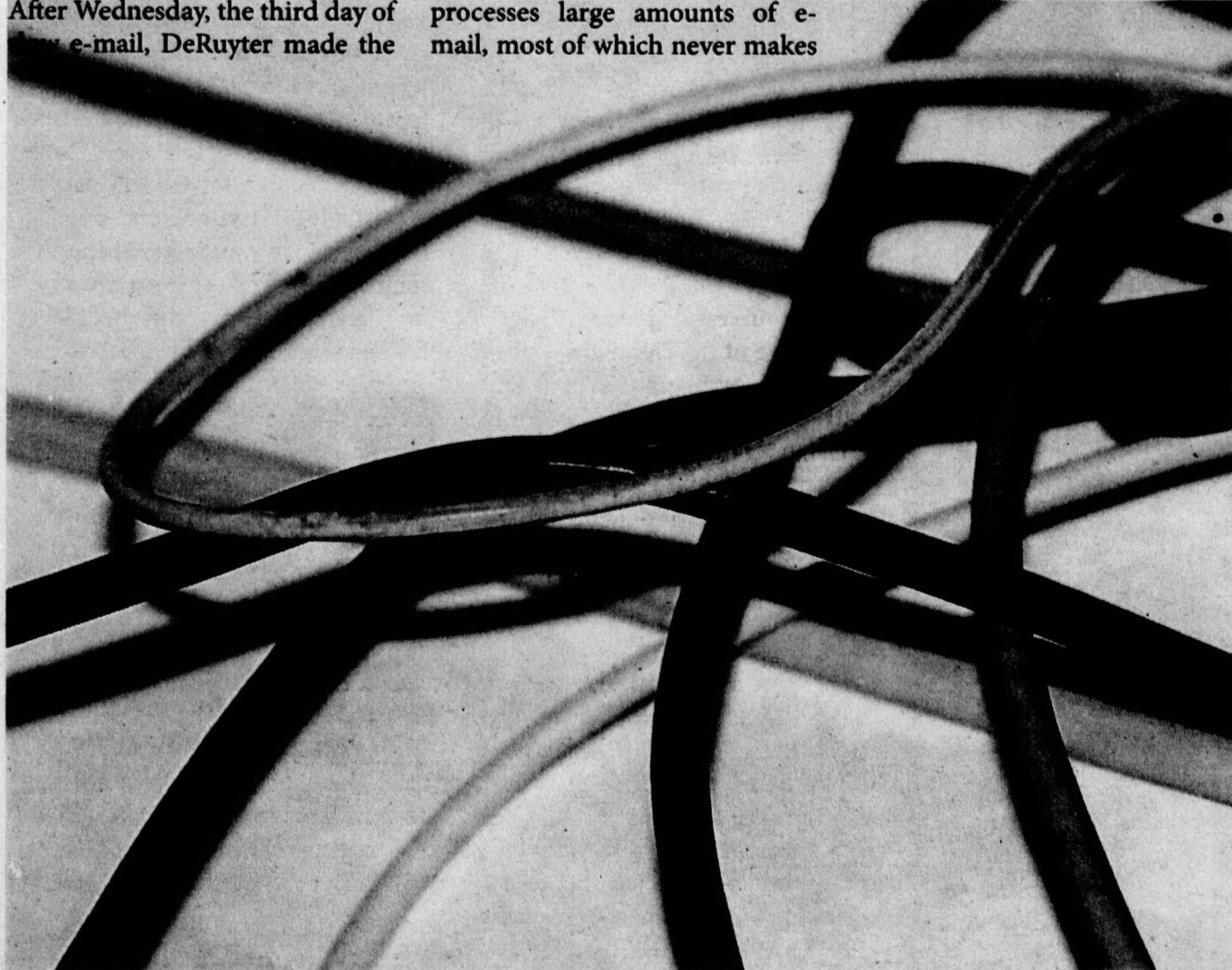
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Film fest sheds light on gay cultural problems

Documentaries about sexual diversity resonate with students

Jill Koelling

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Joy Domingo, a psychology senior at HSU, had never attended Q-Fest before, but found the theme of this year's film festival—cross-cultural queer issues—intriguing.

"I saw one of the movies, 'Saving Face.' I like that they are focusing on different ethnicities, which is wonderful," she said. "Visibility and education are so important."

Students and community members challenged stereotypes and found inspiration at the Fourth Annual Cross Cultural Queer Film Festival. The festival took place in the Kate Buchanan Room at HSU, March 23 to 25, and was free to all students and members of the community.

The films emphasized and celebrated gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer issues and experiences from a multicultural perspective.

"I think it brings about awareness," said Marylyn Paik-Nicely, director of the HSU Multicultural Center. "We learn more about what's out there in the world. It's about learning about a culture and who people are."

Marjory Sebastian-Watkins attended Q-Fest for the second time this year. "I think it's a great opportunity for students and the community to get together. All of the films I have seen so far have been fabulous," she said.

The films shown at this year's Q-Fest focused on queer issues from cultures around the world. "We elected films that we felt hadn't been seen on years past," said Brian Yarish, an art history senior at HSU. "The films were significant in the fact that they aren't something you see in mainstream American culture."

"One of the things we tried to do was choose films that speak to the diversity of sexuality around the world," Yarish said.

He helped to organize Q-Fest for the first time this year and was involved in

"Some people believe that racism and sexism and classism are dead, but they're not. I think it's unsafe to assume that diversity is going to flourish if we don't talk about it."

choosing "Juchitan Queer Paradise," a documentary about the small town of Juchitan in Mexico. A local legend says that the patron saint of the city carried a bag filled with homosexuals on his back. When

the bag was opened, the men tumbled out in Juchitan. Consequently, this small village became a place of tolerance, according to the Q-fest Web site.

"I really love documentary film," Yarish said. "I was really inspired that a film was made about this community in

southern Mexico. They're doing something revolutionary, and they're doing it on their own terms."

"Hopefully Q-Fest changed someone's mind and brought about some social good," he said.

Among the other films shown at this

year's Q-Fest was "Saving Face," the story of Wilhelmina "Wil" Pang, a promising New York surgeon who struggles with juggling her career, her responsibilities to her family, and her relationship with her girlfriend.

"The Business of Fancysocialing" was also shown, a film based on the poetry of Sherman Alexie about Aristotle Joseph and Seymour Polatkin from the Spokane Reservation and their reunion 16 years after their graduation from high school.

"Beautiful Boxer" is based on the real-life story of Parinya Charoenphol, a Muaythai boxer who underwent a sex change operation to become a woman.

"Some people believe that racism and sexism and classism are dead, but they're not," Yarish said. He said refusing to believe that these issues are irrelevant and having events and discussions about them helps to challenge stereotypes and bring about social responsibility.

"I think it's unsafe to assume that diversity is going to flourish if we don't talk about it," Yarish said.

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Unconstitutional?

Lawsuit challenges legality of process

John Osborn
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President Bush recently signed a bill into law that cuts funding for student financial aid and Medicare.

The catch? It didn't pass the House and Senate in the same form.

The bill contains \$39 billion of cuts — with provisions reducing funding for Medicare and education being the target of opposition by Democrats.

Changes that affect students are numerous: Interest rates for Stanford and PLUS loans will change to a fixed-rate of 6.8 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively as of July 2006. Limits on subsidized and unsubsidized loans will increase, and fees have been added for loan consolidation. The bill also offers limited and temporary special grants to students majoring in relevant national security fields like foreign language.

There were no increases in Pell Grant funding, as hoped by many Democrats.

The controversy over the bill began when both the Senate and the House passed

different versions of the bill in fall 2005. In order to reach an agreement, the House-Senate Conference Committee met on Dec. 19 — a compromise was reached and a report drafted.

In response, Public Citizen, a nonprofit

must pass the same legislation for it to become public law. President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 passed by the Senate into law Feb. 1.

This bill directly affects Public Citizen because they usually file suits with the

"At least on the Democrat side of the aisle, none of them knew there was an issue with the bill when they voted."

Karen Lightfoot

Minority Senior Policy Advisor for the Congressional Government Reform Committee

consumer advocacy group, filed a lawsuit on March 21 claiming that the bill was unconstitutionally signed into law. The basis of the lawsuit was that a filing fee increase for district court cases of \$100 due to take effect on April 9 injured the organization.

According to the Bicameral Clause of the Constitution, the Senate and the House

district courts, Adina Rosenbaum, attorney for Public Citizen, said. "The bill wasn't passed in a constitutional way."

That same day the House passed the conference report, but three days of debate in Senate produced an amended version of the Deficit Reduction Act with passed 51-50 — Vice President Dick Cheney cast the tiebreaking vote.

According to the lawsuit filed by Public Citizen, a Senate clerk made a change, for reasons unknown, to the bill when transmitting it to the House for vote.

"It's pretty unusual for this to happen," Rosenbaum said.

What was changed was a provision of the bill pertaining to the amount of time Medicare would cover oxygen equipment costs for recipients — from 13 months to 36 months. Originally, there was no timetable for these costs.

The House, on Feb. 1, passed the bill with the vote being 216-214. A Senate clerk again changed the provision back to 13 months as originally voted on in the Senate upon being transmitted back to the Senate to be sent to the President for signature.

"At least on the Democrat side of the aisle, none of them knew there was an issue with the bill when they voted,"

see LAW, pg. 9

State senate considers bill on DU

Local chapter of Veterans for Peace helps educate community

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The California Senate is currently considering a bill to test members of the California armed forces for traces of depleted uranium.

Depleted uranium is created by concentrating an isotope from natural uranium and enriching it. It is commonly used by the military as a heavy metal, which is said to be superior for combat, and used to make nuclear weapons, munitions like artillery shells and bullets, and tank armor.

"The criteria for calling this [depleted uranium] safe are really suspicious," said Peter Aronson, who initially introduced the bill to Senator Wes Chesbro last September.

"It kills inhumanely, it kills non-combatants and it kills indiscriminately," he said.

Aronson is a member of the Humboldt chapter of Veterans for Peace, an anti-war activist group, and heads the Weapons

of Mass Destruction/Depleted Uranium Committee.

A spokeswoman for Chesbro's office said the bill, SB 1720, is being designed to reflect a Federal resolution. Connecticut and Louisiana recently passed similar

"Once you get exposed, it can be in your body for years."

Laura Simpson
member of Veterans for Peace

legislation, and several other states are reviewing bills.

Under the proposed bill, a report to a veteran affairs committee of soldiers' possible exposure to depleted uranium will be required, along with an assessment of pre-deployment training in case of exposure to depleted uranium.

Aronson said a registry will provide public access to this information, and federal testing for internal exposure to depleted uranium will provide troops with knowledge of what they were exposed to. An outreach program would help facilitate services for the troops.

When munitions containing depleted uranium hit an object, radioactive dust is released into the air. There are three levels of exposure. Level one is when shrapnel enters the body. Level two is when a person is exposed to uranium by handling equipment made with uranium, and level three exposure is when dust is inhaled.

"The real risk is breathing it," Aronson said.

The effects of depleted uranium are still being researched by the military. Aronson said these facts have not been fully disclosed to the public.

The United States Government Recruiting office in Eureka was unable to comment

on the use of depleted uranium.

Depleted uranium has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, meaning the amount of time it takes for a radioactive substance to lose half of its radioactivity. The damage uranium causes is irreversible. Aronson said side effects linked to exposure to depleted uranium include immune deficiencies, cancer, birth defects, side effects in the lungs and motor skills.

John Avalos of HSU's Veterans Upward Bound went through training during the end of the first Gulf War and said he did not use depleted uranium. He said that soldiers undergo nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) training, though he said he is unsure if this includes depleted uranium.

The use of depleted uranium is a violation of international law, though a number of countries have used it.

see URANIUM, next page

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URANIUM: Effects on soldiers, civilians

continued from previous page

Avalos said the military would be incriminating itself if it admitted to the continued use of depleted uranium.

Avalos said the military was unaware of the risk at the time of the Gulf War.

"If using something they don't know has health risks, then they find out later, how can we hold them accountable?" he said.

Avalos said a lot of people came down with Gulf War Syndrome after returning from the war, although it may not be a result of depleted uranium.

"It takes awhile to find a correlation," Avalos said.

He added that extensive testing and research through VA hospitals would make this connection more apparent.

According to the Center for Disease Control Web site, ingesting large amounts of uranium may "cause severe health

effects, such as cancer of the bone or liver" as well as kidney damage and lung cancer.

"Once you get exposed, it can be in your body for years," said Laura Simpson, a member of Veterans

"We're talking about an issue that has to do with humanity."

Laura Simpson

member of Veterans for Peace

for Peace.

The United States government first used depleted uranium in the 1990s in the Balkans and the Persian Gulf. Over 300 tons of depleted uranium were used in the first Gulf War.

Gulf War troops were later found to have been at higher risk of exposure. Many of the soldiers returned to the battlefield

without knowing what safety precautions to take. Troops who were victims of friendly fire may have gotten embedded fragments in the skin, and been exposed to depleted uranium while climbing on or cleaning up the military equipment. After the Gulf War, the military stated it would further address the safe use of depleted uranium.

Simpson said the issue doesn't only affect soldiers, as civilians and the children of soldiers can also be exposed to depleted uranium. Civilians living within the vicinity of depleted uranium have a higher rate of cancer and birth defects, she said.

"We're talking about an issue that has to do with humanity," Simpson said.

Online fraud

Arcata police warn of e-mails asking for bank information

Cerena Johnson

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A new banking scam is making its way around Arcata.

Recently, customers reported receiving e-mails claiming to be official bank mail. The e-mails state there is a problem with the customer's account, and then request that the customer provides personal information, such as account numbers, to fix the problem. When the customers give the information out, money is then stolen from their account.

Similar scams have appeared throughout Eureka and Fortuna. Sgt. Ron Sligh of the Arcata Police Department said this is a frequent problem. Sligh said people should be reminded that financial institutions already have all of a customer's information and never need to ask for it again by phone or through e-mail.

"You never want to give out information to someone who is calling to request it," he said.

"A lot of it happens over the phone," said Dana Williams,

assistant manager at U.S. Bank in Arcata. Williams said she hadn't heard of customers receiving e-mails, though she said elderly people are often targeted through phone fraud. Williams said if it were really U.S. Bank calling, they would already have information that only the customer is able to verify, such as a mother's maiden name.

The Arcata branches of Wells Fargo and Washington Mutual were unavailable for comment.

Banks try and prevent fraud by telling customers not to give away account information.

Laura Madsen, a Universal Associate at Umpqua Bank in Arcata, said if a customer were to give out information and then have money stolen from the account, Umpqua would close the account and open up a new one. In order to recover as much money as possible, the customer would need to fill out a dispute form.

Police are sometimes able to track down how the money was

withdrawn — such as when checks are produced. At this point, the police can check if it's a forgery, which is punishable as a felony.

Carl Eggleston, an HSU math junior who runs a web server, said he has seen fake e-mails from Citibank, Bank of America and North Coast Credit Union.

"It's been going on for about a year," Eggleston said. "They look identical to the Web site."

The Lumberjack has also received e-mails claiming to be from Pay Pal, an online payment service.

Sligh said a good precaution is to ask for the number of the person calling and requesting the information, then call the local bank to verify it.

Another form of fraud customers should be concerned about is the use of old checks from a closed bank account. Sligh said old checks should be burned or shredded so that someone does not start to use them.

LAW: Miscommunication?

continued from pg. 7

Karen Lightfoot, Minority Senior Policy Adviser for the Congressional Government Reform Committee, said.

It is unclear whether President Bush knew that there was a difference between the Senate and House versions of the bill, but some claim that there

"The bill wasn't passed in a constitutional way."

Adina Rosenbaum
Attorney for Public Citizen

was communication between the Republican leadership in Congress and the President.

The lawsuit filed by Public Citizen states that a statement signed by both House Speaker Dennis Hastert and president pro tem of the Senate Ted Stevens stated that the House and Senate passed similar bills.

Also, in a letter to Representative Nancy Pelosi on March 15, Representative Henry Waxman said that the mistake was not technical, but rather was an attempt by Republican Congressional leaders to

push through controversial legislation.

"In a subsequent article in the Wall St. Journal, House Speaker

Dennis Hastert admitted to knowing prior to the House vote," Lightfoot said.

According to the article, Hastert said that he learned of the error only

hours before the President was to sign the bill. The White House was warned and when Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist went to the bill signing, they expected only a "mock ceremony."

President Bush went ahead with the signing anyway.

If the lawsuit finds the bill unconstitutional, then it will be returned to Congress for further consideration, Rosenbaum said. "The government has 60 days to respond to the suit," he said.

Students and drugs

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) recently won a lawsuit against the Department of Education, which applied a \$4,000 fee to a Freedom of Information request made by the group.

The government justified the fee because the information was not in the interests of the public and may be used for commercial gain.

The information pertained to a state-by-state breakdown of the number of students refused financial aid because of drug convictions.

The government agreed to waive the fee and provide the organization with the requested data by March 31, or face losing the case.

The data showed that more than 200,000 people nationwide

have their financial aid affected because of drug convictions.

SSDP and the American Civil Liberties Union launched separate lawsuits last week to challenge the constitutionality of preventing students from obtaining aid if convicted of drug crimes.

Press release from Public Citizen

Officers injured during downtown arrests

Arcata police officers arrested two individuals Saturday night after an altercation between the two resulted in the officers being assaulted.

John Eric Vandebossche, 23, and Edwin Joseph Vandebossche, 21, were arguing in the downtown area when two officers approached them.

The men were intoxicated, and the situation escalated when the two began to wrestle each other.

John Eric Vandebossche pushed one of the officers away and tackled another when they tried to break up the fight.

Edwin Vandebossche struggled with a third officer, knocking her to the ground.

John Eric Vandebossche continued to struggle and was pepper sprayed. Both men were taken into custody.

The female officer sustained shoulder injuries and was treated at St. Joseph's Hospital. One other officer sustained

minor injuries that didn't require medical attention.

John Eric Vandebossche was booked into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility for battery of a peace officer, resisting arrest, fighting in public and public intoxication.

Edwin Joseph Vandebossche was booked into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility for resisting arrest, fighting in public, and public intoxication.

Press release from APD

- Compiled by John Osborn

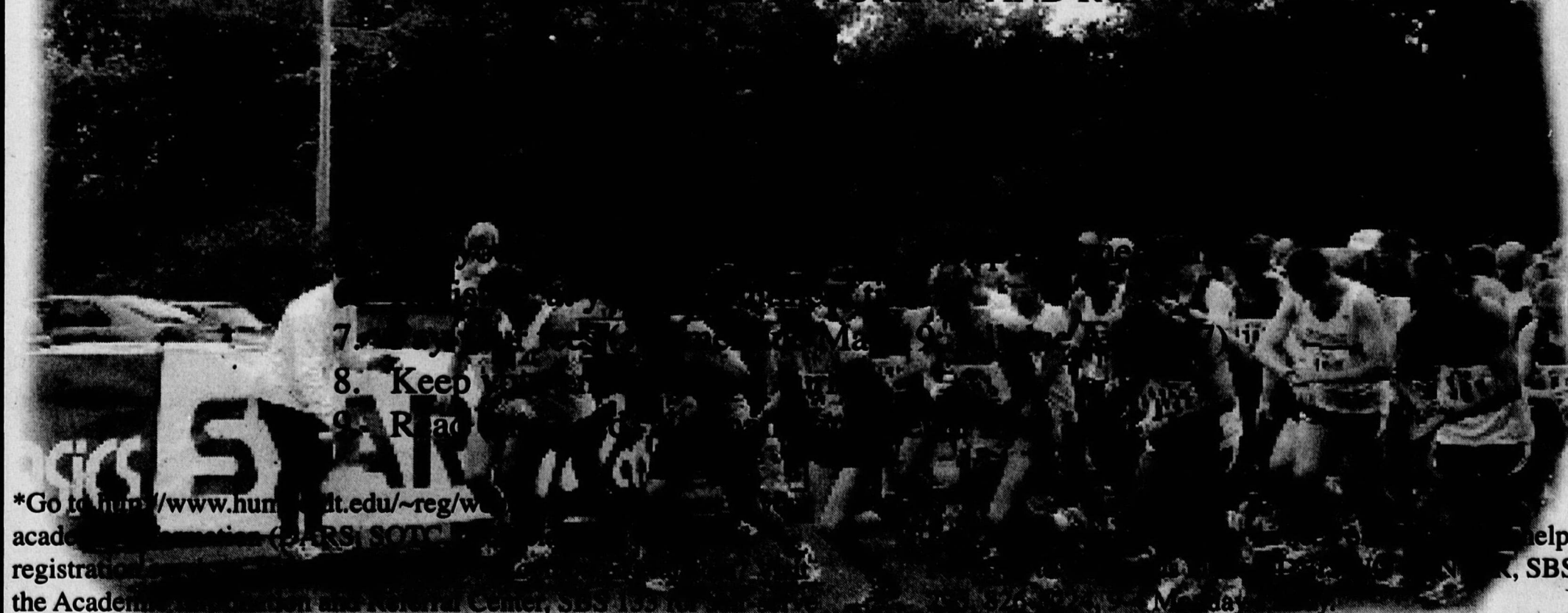
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Growing pains

Three freshmen make the tough transition from high school to college basketball; with help from HSU men's basketball players and coaches, trio on track to succeed



Ric Hedstrom

Left to right: Chris Blackwood, Tyler Burns and Efen Del Rio, all freshmen, saw their playing time increase as the men's basketball season progressed. The three were standouts at their former high schools and making the transition to collegiate play took a toll. With key players bound for departure in the next few years, the team will look to younger players like this trio to pick up where veterans left off.

Josh Tobin

jjt16@humboldt.edu

"[College basketball] is a real different game ... The speed of the players and the game is much faster. Guys my size were moving a lot faster than I could. That was a tough transition."

Tyler Burns

HSU men's basketball player

Efen Del Rio, Tyler Burns and Chris Blackwood. Get used to hearing those names because they will ring through the East Gym walls for years to come.

This talented trio of youthful exuberance just saw their first collegiate basketball season come to an end, but they are already fired up for their next one.

The players had to overcome many obstacles in their first year out of high school and away from home. They worked hard both on and off the court to make the adjustments to college life and college basketball. On the court they helped propel HSU to a solid finish, earning a trip to the postseason where they were defeated by No. 2 ranked Western Washington.

Off the court, the process of maintaining the delicate balance between an academic life and a social life began.

"It's a lot more freedom," Del Rio said of college.

"You don't have your mom here to tell you, 'Do your homework, go to your classes,'" he said. Del Rio may miss a friendly reminder from mom, but he needs no encouragement to compete on the court. The first-year point guard earned minutes on the

floor by playing hard on defense and managing the offense.

Blackwood had reservations about his level of physicality coming into his first year of college. But he soon realized that making it to class would be as tough as playing defense against bigger and stronger opponents.

"I've got all early morning classes, 8 o' clocks," he said. "Making sure I get up and get to class has been the biggest change for me."

Blackwood doesn't have any trouble making it to the gym though, lifting weights and working hard to become more physically and mentally tough.

Coming into this season with the 'Jacks, these players' main concerns were on the court. How would they contribute, how would they fit in?

Burns elaborated.

"[College basketball] is a real different game," he said. "The speed of the players and the game is much faster. Guys my size were moving a lot faster than I could. That was a tough transition."

Del Rio had to acclimate himself to the overall

"We didn't have a lot of players at the beginning of the season ... We need people to step up. We didn't have time to take it slow and mesh in. We just had to do it."

Chris Blackwood

HSU men's basketball player

see FROSH, pg. 13

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Change of scenery

Weather forces
softball team to
play at Arcata High;
HSU still defeats
Notre Dame de
Namur, 3-0 and 1-0



courtesy of Sports Information



Top: Pitcher Lizzy Prescott (left) struck out eight batters en route to her 10th victory. (Right) HSU softball Head Coach Frank Cheek.

Left: First baseman Natalie Galletley hit a homerun during the team's first matchup against Norte Dame de Namur and added a crucial hit during the second game to put the 'Jacks in scoring position.

Garrett Furchio
gpf13@humboldt.edu

Many teams have tried to slow down the HSU women's softball team this season, but not even Mother Nature can impede the team's dominance.

It was business as usual for the 'Jacks on Sunday as they swept the Notre Dame de Namur Argonauts in a non-conference doubleheader 3-0 and 1-0.

Despite having to play at Arcata High School because of field conditions due to torrential rainfall over the weekend, the 'Jacks, who are now ranked No. 3 in the country, were in control all the way.

In the first game the team utilized its ability to hit to its

"We won a ballgame on a steal."

Frank Cheek
HSU women's softball head coach

advantage. Natalie Galletley crushed a ball over the center field fence in the second inning.

Nancy Harbison repeated the same feat two innings later to give the 'Jacks (28-3) a 2-0 lead. Ashley Oltjenbruns just missed hitting the team's third home run in the fifth inning, but her triple to center would still prove valuable.

Nikole Gandara pinch-ran for Oltjenbruns and stole home when the Argonauts (12-16) tried to pick off Brandi Harrison at first base.

Lizzy Prescott made sure Notre Dame de Namur didn't catch up. The sophomore pitcher struck out eight batters en route to her 10th win of the season.

"It's the practice," Prescott said. "We pitch every day. It keeps us in shape."

The 'Jacks' pitching played a larger role in the second game. Tracy Motzny threw seven shut-

"It's practice ... We pitch every day. It keeps us in shape."

Lizzy Prescott
HSU women's softball pitcher

out innings and struck out seven batters. She held the Argonauts to just two hits and didn't allow any runs for the 10th time this season.

The score was tied 0-0 heading into the sixth inning. Galletley singled to start off the inning for HSU. Heather Bingisser pinch ran for Galletley and stole second. She advanced to third when Marissa Slattery singled to left field. Caitlin Klug hit a ground ball to the shortstop that allowed Bingisser to score the only run of the game.

see **SOFTBALL**, next page

FROSH: Lending a helping hand

continued from pg. 11

speed of the game as well.

"I came from a small high school," Del Rio said. "The pace of the game wasn't nearly as fast as it is here."

Blackwood stands at 6 feet and weighs 155 pounds.

"My biggest worry was if I was going to be physical enough to keep up with the bigger athletes in this league," he said.

Surrounded by a fresh and foreign scene, these young players obviously had concerns and questions. The older players on the team stepped up to help the freshmen.

"Will [Sheufelt] and Devin [Peal] helped me out a lot," Burns said. "Will would always go and do some extra shooting with me. And Devin, if I wasn't doing something he thought was productive he'd get on me, and tell me to pick it up in practice."

Sheufelt lent another helping hand to Blackwood.

"My minutes changed a lot this year, from starting games to hardly playing at all," Blackwood said. "[Will] was in a similar situation, because he got moved to point guard."

Blackwood plays the same position, which meant matching up against Sheufelt in practice.

"He really challenged me to play at my highest potential," he said. "He makes me want to work hard, and play as hard as I can."

And he'll let me know if I'm not."

Second year center Cy Vandermeer has been Del Rio's biggest critic this season. That's because the big man in the middle has been a teammate of Del Rio's for three seasons. In addition to their first season together in college, the two played on an Amateur Athletic Union teams in high school for two years.

Del Rio welcomed Vandermeer's presence. "He's kind of like an older brother figure to me," he said. "He criticizes me but only to make me better."

With the lack of a senior on the roster, it was important for players like Vandermeer, Sheufelt and Peal, who have collegiate experience, to give some much-needed knowledge to these younger players.

The coaching staff brought Del Rio, Blackwood and Burns in to compete and contribute right away.

"We didn't have a lot of players at the beginning of this season," Blackwood said. "We needed people to step up. We didn't have time to take it slow and mesh in. We just had to do it."

Perhaps one could credit that sense of urgency to the smooth transition the three freshmen have enjoyed. They didn't have time to stop and second-guess themselves. They all came in and carved out a role, fitting right into Coach Tom Wood's rotations.

At one point in their respective high school basketball careers, all three players were the "go-to-guy" on their teams. In his senior year, Del Rio averaged 27 points per game and earned Most Valuable Player honors in his league. Blackwood averaged 15 points per game and seven assists in his final year. And Burns played varsity basketball for three years and was the team's leading scorer as a sophomore.

But scoring was not what Wood needed from them this year. He needed Del Rio's aggressive defense in the 'Jacks' full court press. He needed Blackwood's decision making and execution in the offense. He needed Burns' rebounding and defensive presence inside.

"If I got in and [didn't score], as long as we won, I'm happy," Burns said. "I'm not really the type of person who wants to go in and score 50 points in a loss."

For now, the trio is getting in where they fit in. Next season will be the last for Kevin Johnson and Jeremiah Ward, two of the team's top three scorers. Their departure may mean Wood will ask for even more out of Del Rio, Burns and Blackwood. And if this first season is any indication, these three players will certainly meet the challenge.

SOFTBALL:

continued from previous page

"(Klug) hit the ball and I had a big jump," Bingisser said.

The Argonauts tried to throw out Bingisser, but the throw to home was too late.

"We won a ballgame on a steal," Head Coach Frank Cheek said.

HSU's defense also played a key role in the victories. The 'Jacks' allowed only three hits all day. The Argonauts were able to put runners in scoring position, but the defense didn't allow any of them to score.

The team has won its last 22 games, and four of the last six have been shutout victories. The 'Jacks' return to the road this weekend when they compete in the Easton Tournament of Champions in Turlock.

"We're ready (for the tournament)," Prescott said.

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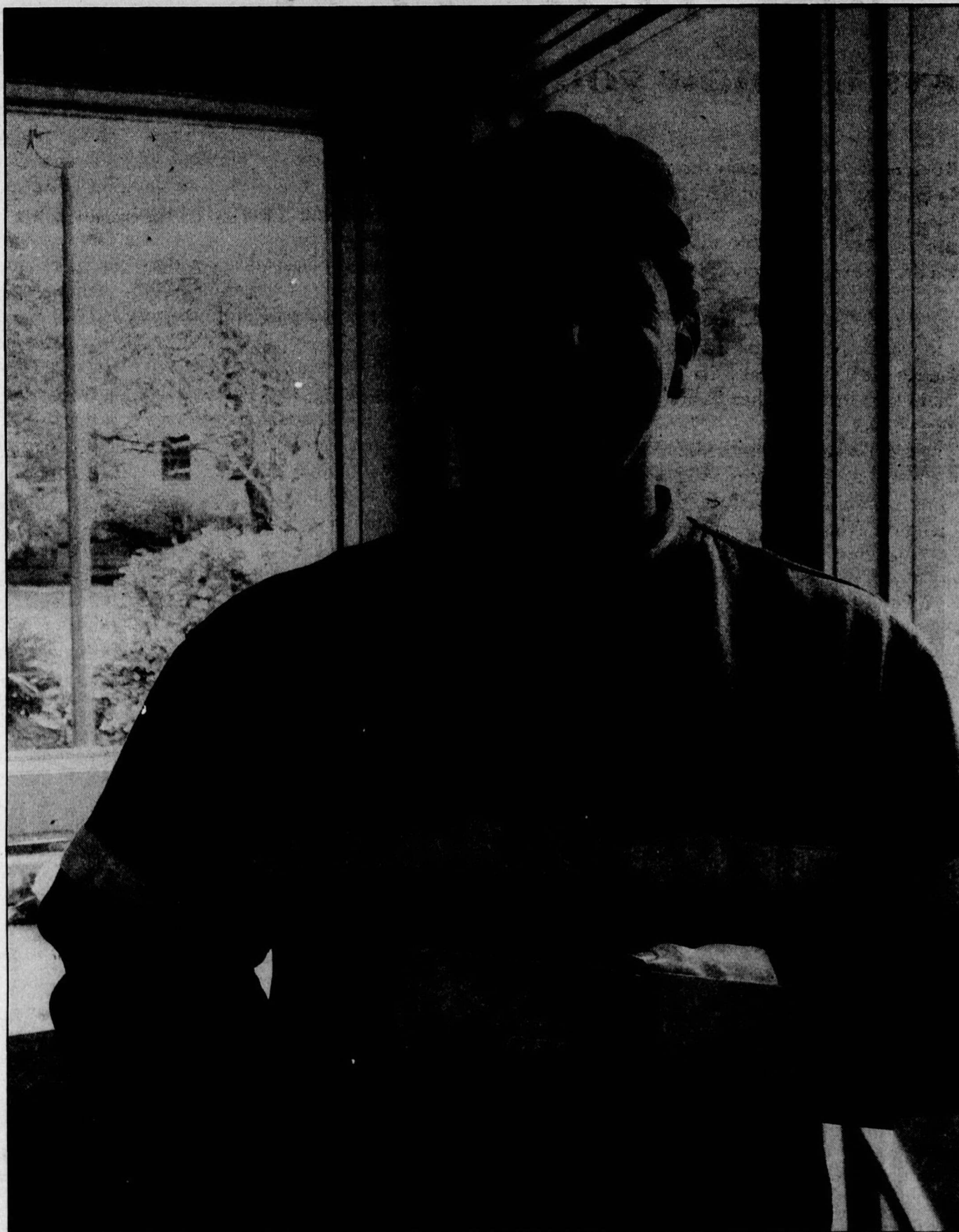
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Jo Bundros

Brian Bower is a distributor of Liftoff. Bower is a former HSU molecular biology major.

Melissa Wozniak
moreads@aol.com

Achille Clendenning dropped a half-dollar-sized tablet into his water glass. "Hey, it's fizzy," he said. After the tablet dissolved, he put the glass to his lips and took a sip. "Hmm, tastes like Tang if you ask me," he said.

Swirling the glass around, mixing the last bits of undissolved tablet into the now translucent orange water, he took the last drink. Several minutes later, the wildlife junior said, "I'm starting to feel something, a feeling of focus and alertness."

What he felt were the effects of a new type of energy drink available through the Herbalife Corporation, called Liftoff, which comes in tablet

form, like alka-seltzer with a kung-fu kick.

Brian Bower, independent distributor for Herbalife products, said the tablet is ideal for just about anyone looking to improve their health and lifestyle. "I'm selling nutrition to people," he said.

"Really, Liftoff is good for any type of lifestyle. It's great for students to take before studying; it give your memory a kick by helping you focus."

Brian Bower
distributor of Liftoff

The tablets, as well as many of the other Herbalife products, were developed by a team of scientists in Los Angeles. On the back of the orange package the first three ingredients listed are citric acid, natural orange flavor and corn syrup solids.

Although the ingredients in Liftoff have not been approved by the Food and Drug

Administration, Bowers said taurine, ginseng, caffeine, ginkgo biloba and guarana are what gives you the energy and focus.

Although most of these ingredients are present in other energy drinks such as Rock Star and Red Bull, Liftoff contains all five and no sugar, something the other drinks don't have.

Ginseng, according to Bower's Web site, is an adaptogen, a drug that increases the body's ability to resist adverse influences, while ginkgo biloba is said to support the nervous system, improve circulation and help memory.

"Really, Liftoff is good for any type of lifestyle," Bower said. "It's great for students to take before studying; it gives

see ENERGY DRINK, next page

Vi's TOP TEN...

ways to know your date is going south

10. Their ex shows up halfway through. They invite them to join you.
9. No touching. At all. They gave it up for Lent.
8. You go to pick up the date. They still live in Mom and Dad's basement, work at K-mart for the employee discount on Travis Tritt CDs, and drive a Cadillac Escalade.
7. You drink more than you should. Next morning, you wake up with someone who you didn't start out with.
6. The date offers to take you back to their house. You go. They put on the Powerpuff Girls movie and won't touch you because you have "cooties."
5. You get the line: "I'd really like to just be friends."
4. They claim that their heroes are Donald Trump, Simon from American Idol, and that woman from "Weakest Link."
3. You order a prime rib, medium rare, still slightly bleeding. Your date is a vegan.
2. Conversation consists of the three nos: religion (you are Agnostic, they are a practicing Fundamentalist), politics (you, a left-wing socialist, they, a fascist with a desire to control the country), and sex (they work at the Tip Top Club).
1. Your date eats their dinner. Then your dinner. Then the place setting. The table is next. Followed by the wait staff. Shortly after, the cook flees in terror.



courtesy of www.perryink.com

ENERGY DRINKS: Now just a drop away

continued from previous page

your memory a kick by helping you focus."

From parents to truck drivers, Bower described the benefits of Liftoff, even how it helped himself, a former tri-athlete, get back on the bicycle after months of slacking.

"I went out to my garage - my bike is on rollers out there - and I started to cycle," he said. "I was just so out of it, I couldn't do it. So I drank some Liftoff, got on the bike and was able to ride for almost three hours. It was amazing." However, marketing to new customers may prove difficult.

Marianne Gifford, an English senior, said that like many people, she is sensitive to caffeine. "Just one cup of coffee will do it for me," she said. "I can't imagine what would happen if I drank an energy drink. I'd probably go crazy or something."

Liftoff must be purchased through a distributor, making it unavailable at most stores.

Bower, an HSU graduate in molecular biology, worked for Quest Diagnostics in San Juan Capistrano for eight years before his wife, April, showed him the Herbalife Web page.

"I was just miserable in my job," he said. "I worked with the same few people all the time. I couldn't spend any time with my family."

The Bowers are now distributors of Herbalife products, having quit their jobs and moved back to Humboldt County.

They now live in McKinleyville with their

"Just one cup of coffee will do it for me. I can't imagine what would happen if I drank an energy drink. I'd probably go crazy or something."

Marianne Gifford
English senior

to spend time with my family and do the things I love. This would be a great thing for a business major to look into."

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The fields of war

An unusual sport to prove your mettle in the battle for Sequoia Park

Melody Hogan
silly.dance@gmail.com



photos by Melody Hogan

Samuel Thompson, an HSU history major, dressed in real leather armor before a Boffer battle.

It's a crisp, sunny day at Sequoia Park in Eureka as men and women line up for war. Brandishing foam swords and battle axes, covered in make-shift armor and wearing duct tape helmets, big boys, little boys and a few girls charge at each other – the battle begins.

A boy in a giant helmet with horns rushes another boy with a giant battle ax and taps his arm with a sword. The battle ax falls to the ground and the boy's arm is no longer usable for this fight.

Several boys between the ages of 10 and 12 dodge in and out of the action, being small and agile proves an advantage in some cases. The "Goblins," as the older kids refer to them, have their own sort of ranking apart from the older soldiers. Everyone knows to take it easy and not hit too hard when it comes to the little guys.

This is Boffer. It is a sport played by members of the community from all walks of life, from children to HSU students, and involves teams of warriors squaring off and fighting to the "death." Whatever you strike on an opponent during battle is no longer usable. Thus, getting a hit on the chest finishes your opponent. Those who play it call themselves Bofferers.

A battle begins in many ways, depending on what the fight is about. If they are trying to capture

other "Braveheart" style. Last team standing wins. At times they take their teams into the forest and execute elaborate missions. Danny Stephens plays Boffer and said, "It's a fine art, as much a battle of wits as it is a physical sport."

Their weapons are made from PVC pipe covered in foam and duct tape. Their armor can be anything as long as it's creative. Armor gives you an extra hit point or two, so if someone strikes you in the chest, you get an extra hit before you die. Some costumes get very elaborate, long bight streamers for distraction, giant shields, metal arm braces, even authentic Gaul fighting gear. As Boffer fighter Ahern Christian said, "A little duct tape, a little PVC and you too can beat up your friends at home."

Although the costumes are cool and the weapons fun, it's mostly about the game and the fighting. Jordan Contreras is an HSU student and a Bofferer who sports a German army helmet and black trench coat with real metal armor painted

"A little duct tape, a little PVC and you too can beat up your friends at home."

Ahern Christian
Boffer fighter

each other's flag, they have a champions fight to decide team captains and then pick teams like gym class. Sometimes they line up in two lines and go at each

other. "It's better to be a good fighter than to look cool," he said. Samuel Thompson is another

see BOFFER, pg. 19



Little kids, known as Goblins, and Elites (the best fighters) skirmish on the battlefield.

"What does it mean to Boffer?"



Tony Tubiola

Junior
Music

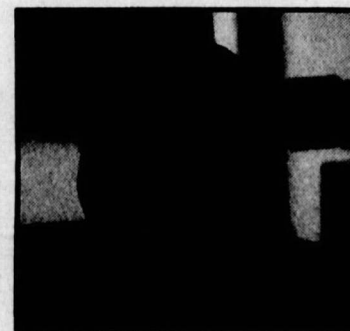
"I have no idea. Maybe to flounder or mess up?"



Randi Beeman

Freshman
Environmental resources engineering

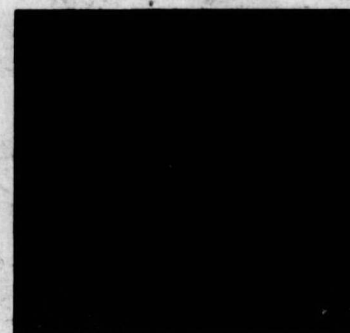
"I think of someone falling or stumbling ... screwing up."



Iquo Effiong

International studies
Freshman

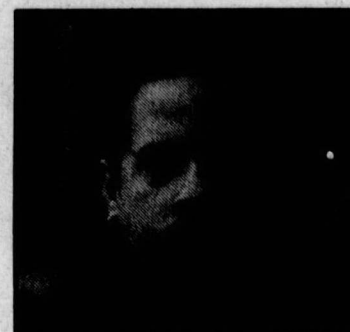
"Get laid."



Will Bender

Senior
Biology

"I think it was a dance in the '30s and it was outlawed for a long time. It had something to do with the dresses that the women wore."



Jimmy Gorospe

Senior
Computer information systems

"Slap somebody upside the head."

Humboldt's film fest is back

The people running the show offer their opinions

Cole Saxton

cjs42@humboldt.edu

One week before the kick-off of the 39th Humboldt International Short Film Festival, co-director Ivy Matheny and faculty advisor Mary Cruse sat down with a Lumberjack reporter to discuss this year's festival and the art of filmmaking.

About the festival:

Matheny: We have an interesting collection of films that came in this year. Films from all over the world, but a whole lot from the U.S. and I think pretty much anybody who sees any collection of these groups is really going to find a whole lot of value to them. We have so many entries, it's kind of hard to sum up what kind of feel it's going to have to it this year. I'm excited about quite a few of them.

Cruse: It's a wide range of work this year. One thing I've noticed: we opened up the film festival to digital video entries two years ago and the first year we had no idea what to expect because if you have a video camera and any editing program you can make a film and

submit it. That first year we had some really good entries, but there were quite a few that just didn't cut it, that weren't entertaining. But this year it seems like the bar has been raised. There are a lot of really good quality stories and I think that in two year's time people are getting more proficient with editing programs and the use of the camera.

Films and the viewer:

Cruse: I like kind of archetypal, multi-layered films where the more you watch it, the more you get out of it. But the more that I look at the motivation of the filmmakers, what's going on in the world when they're making the films, the importance of the content and the communication of the work...it's totally changed the way I look at films as a viewer. You know, watching "V For Vendetta" the other night...it's one of those films where I'm sure if I watched it 10 times, each time I'd walk away with a little more information, and appreciate it that much more. And I'm seeing film

more in that way, as time goes by, as opposed to just a way to escape for two hours.

Matheny: Because you change.

Cruse: Exactly. As a viewer, it's interactive. It's the mood you're in when you go to see a film. It's what you've experienced in your life, and it's what you're experiencing presently.

Matheny: I agree: I'm a firm believer that you're a new person every day and, for sure, that affects your film choices and your film opinions. You could watch a movie 20 times in a day and I think each viewing is going to be different.

Regarding genres and hidden agendas:

Matheny: I feel like every genre can have heart, and that every genre is getting to the same issues through very similar methods. But certain ones strike people in certain ways.

Cruse: If it moves you; if it touches you, if you have an emotional interaction with a film, then I

think it's a success.

Matheny: I don't know if I agree with that. There are so many hidden agendas, so many ways they can mess with you. Filmmakers have hidden agendas, of course. That's what filmmaking is all about, is pushing your own agendas, one hundred percent.

Cruse: See, that's the part I love. You have to be a critical thinker in today's world. There's too many people with their own agendas and they're pretty slick with those.

Matheny: It's fun to analyze. It's fun for you and me, but I fear the typical film-goer. I fear for them.

Cruse: I think people just have to be alert and they have to process information and not take things at face value. Someone's putting information in front of you and saying "Here, this is how it is," you have to question it and you have to think, "Does this seem right to me?"

Matheny: People probably do. People are smart. I lose faith

occasionally (Arnold's our governor, for example.) But people are smart. I respect people. But I still fear for them. Fear for their souls...well, maybe not their souls, but...

Cruse: Well I think that some of the agendas of some filmmakers, too, is that they fear for our souls and they're trying to save us. So, that's good. It's good to have choice.


Matheny: And that's what this festival is about. It's about choice. It's about all these films that are being created. Films are made to be viewed. That's why filmmakers make them in the first place, that's why they invest so much of themselves. And now they're getting out there. They're being seen. These are things you don't see every day. They're very different than anything you'd see in the theater.

The 39th Humboldt International Short Film Festival will run from April 3 to April 8. More information can be found at www.humboldt.edu/~filmfest.

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BOFFER: The way of the foam

continued from pg. 17

HSU student who plays Boffer. "It helps keep me in shape. It's aerobics, critical thinking, and football all rolled into one," he said. Thompson, or "Bo" as his Boffer friends call him, is the resident historian and does first century B.C. re-enactments. He makes most of the real leather and metal armor for the Bofferers.

Although Boffer has been around for more than 10 years, with different factions all across America and some in Europe and Japan, this faction of Boffer was started by Lance Lorenzen about five years ago. Lorenzen grew up in Eureka and was introduced to Boffer in junior high at Worthington School.

Now the club has 60 plus players on a Sunday afternoon. "It brings a lot of different people together - little kids, rednecks, nerds," Lorenzen said. "There are always a couple girls out there."

Everyone gets into the battle and the fighting. Every so often someone does get hurt. "It's a full contact sport," Lorenzen said. "Safety goggles and parents' permission are strongly encouraged." Some argue that Boffer is safer than regular full-

contact football, and usually it's only the bigger more experienced players which get hurt because they play really rough.

Boffer is simple and anyone can join in the fray. It takes talent and critical thinking to get very good, but for the most part it's pretty easy to jump in and have fun.

So if you ever happen to be driving by Sequoia Park on a Sunday afternoon and see about 60 kids beating each other with foam swords, don't call the police. Why not stop and watch or even try a battle?



Samuel Thompson and Jordan Contreras prepare for battle.

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The universe according to Brusca

Celebrated professor Stone Brusca delivers lecture to standing ovation



Physics professor Stone Brusca rockets out of the Kate Buchanan Room Monday as his lecture "How Big is the Universe? A Primer" comes to a close.

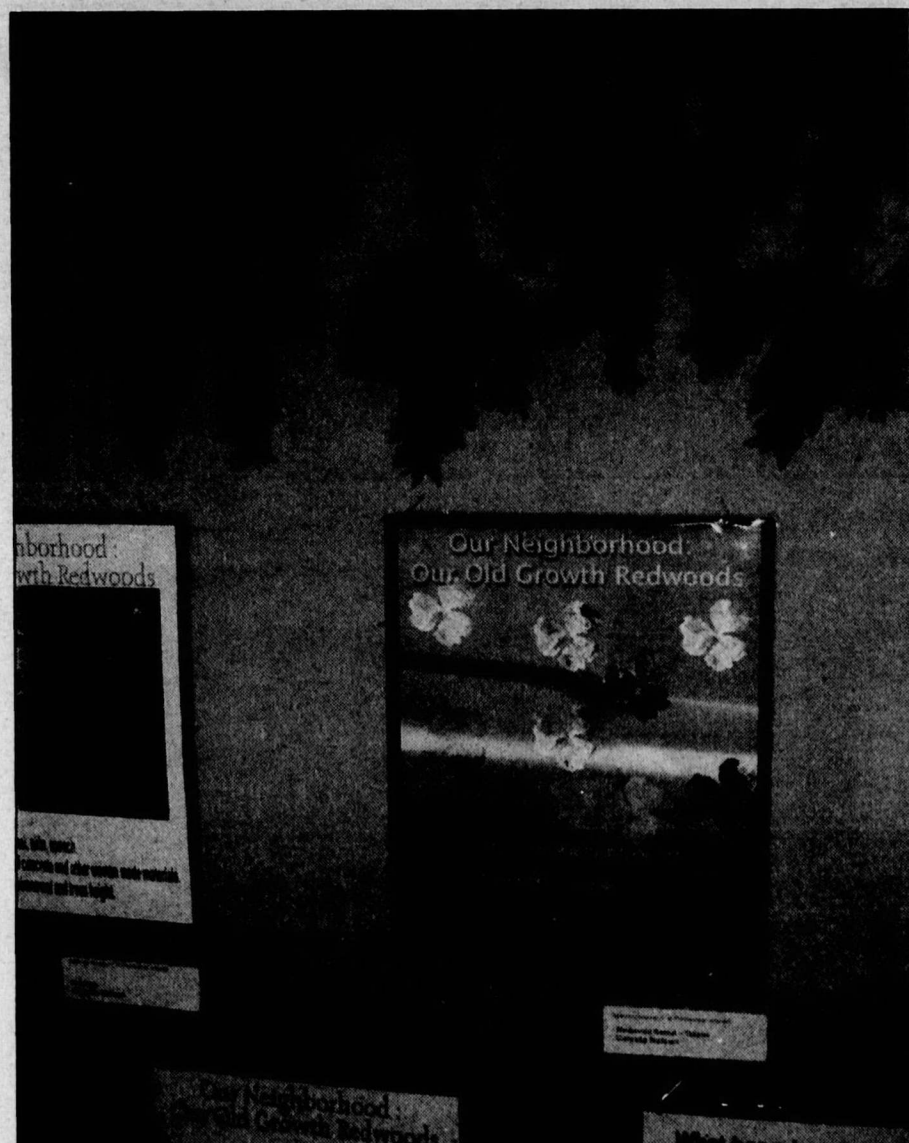
Jessica Cepnar

It was a night of cosmic proportions. Professor Stone Brusca, a celebrated physicist and one of the most popular lecturers in the department, delivered his lecture "How Big is the Universe? A Primer" to a standing ovation. The lecture, which took place in the Kate Buchanan Room, was a testament to Brusca's expertise and passion for his field. He began by discussing the scale of the universe, from the smallest particles to the largest galaxies, and how we measure distance in light years. He then delved into the Big Bang theory, explaining how the universe began and how it has expanded over time. Brusca also touched on the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy, which are thought to make up most of the universe's mass and energy. The lecture was both informative and engaging, and it was clear that Brusca had put a great deal of thought and effort into his presentation. The audience, consisting of students and faculty alike, was captivated by his insights and enthusiasm. As the lecture came to a close, the room erupted in applause, and Brusca was called back to the stage for a standing ovation. This was a rare honor for a professor, and it was a testament to the high quality of his work and the respect he had earned from his colleagues and students. Brusca's lecture was a perfect example of how to make complex scientific concepts accessible and interesting to a wide audience. It was a night to remember, and it was a testament to the power of good science communication.

SEE BRUSCA, pg. 22

Artwork at the Natural History Museum

Photos by Jo Bundros



Eureka students displayed their artwork at the Natural History Museum after a trip to Headwaters. This project was designed to help students teach their peers about old growth redwoods.



Hassanah Nelson looks at one of the posters on display at the Natural History Museum on March 21. This show, entitled "Our Neighborhood: Old Growth Redwoods," was funded by the Save the Redwoods League

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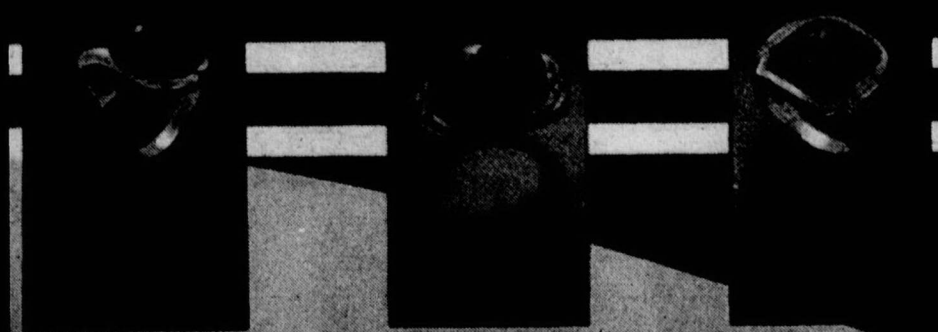
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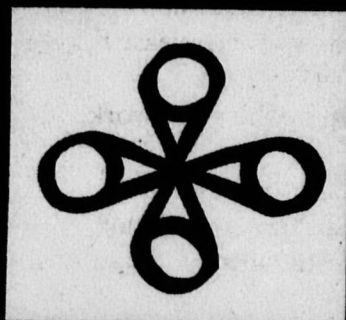
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BRUSCA:

continued from pg. 20

"Science can give you a sense of spirituality," she said.

At the end of the lecture AS Arts, Humanities and Social Science representative Jen Gordon and Theater and Dance professor Jandy Bergman presented Brusca the plaque for Outstanding Professor and read testimonials of students whose attitude toward physics and math had changed because of his classes.

Brusca said he was introduced to physics as a biology major his junior year.

"Physics was the hardest thing I had ever taken," he said, adding that he had to work his butt off in order to get A's. "I loved the competitiveness and bullheadedness."

In his third year of graduate school, Brusca volunteered with a fellowship as a teaching assistant.

"I totally dug it," he said. "I became more interested in TA jobs than in research."

He said his thesis advisor for his doctorate got on his case when Brusca told him that although he "loved research for the sake of research," he loved teaching physics more.

As a closer to his lecture, other than his famous "How Does a Rocket Work?" experiment, Brusca encouraged audience members to gaze at the stars on clear nights.

"If this lecture means anything to you, go out and feel your connection to the stars," he said.



Lumberjack Editorial

Another sold-out lecture by Brusca

Monday night's lecture celebrating this year's Outstanding Professor drew an overwhelming number of people to the Kate Buchanan Room, which was full beyond capacity with people standing in the aisles and crowding in the doorway in addition to those who were already seated.

For two and a half hours each person in the KBR Monday night was one of Brusca's students. All the seats were filled, with maybe 100 others standing for a celebration that blasted them into deep space.

The crowd whispered wows to each other and paid tribute to one of the great professors at the university, but without the usual fanfare of university publicity, which did not plug the lecture on HSU's Web site until 3 p.m. Monday - a mere four hours before the event began. This leads to the belief that the HSU's administration purposefully did not want to publicize the event.

Brusca steered clear of any university politics. Brusca, who resigned his full-time professorship in protest of the way he feels President Richmond's administration is steering the university, focused on what he does best, teaching difficult subjects with an enthusiasm and humor that students wish from all their professors.

Thanks to Associated Students and the faculty at least 500 people received the benefit of Brusca's teaching and left pondering the vastness of the universe. It would have been a shame if it never occurred, a possibility the North Coast Journal raised in their Jan. 19 issue.

Brusca gently led his students from HSU through stars, galaxies, nebulas and supernovas to the edge of the known universe and beyond. The audience left in awe when he finally answered the title question "How Big is the Universe?" HSU will truly have lost one of its best professors when he leaves for good.

Send letters to the editor to
thejack@humboldt.edu

The Lumberjack Statement of Policy

• Questions regarding the editorial content of The Lumberjack should be directed to the editor at 826-3271.

• Staff columns, guest columns and cartoons reflect the opinion of the writers, not necessarily those of The Lumberjack or HSU.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Censorship from the cell

Dear Editor,

I write from the cell that confines me at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) within the isolation unit, a place so extremely void of sensory stimulation it causes men to go insane.

In fact, PB has erected it's own psychiatric unit at the prison for prisoners who lose their minds as a result of prolong isolation ... how convenient.

There are many bad people at Pelican Bay. A lot of the security measures utilized are understandable, although seldom implemented logically.

A perfect example is the utilization of limited manpower, a complaint often expressed by administrators, to censor inmate mail under false pretenses.

On March 5, 2006 I mailed a letter to the Lumberjack Editor informing the paper of an upcoming art show at the 321 Café in Eureka, where prisoners from PB isolation would display art. I enclosed two fliers outlining the negative effects of isolation, the cost to tax payers and a group called P.R.O.T.E.C.T. geared towards deterring criminality by youth at risk. The letter was censored under the pretext it violated rules disallowing inmates from participating in any

revenue generating or profit making activity.

The writer drafted the letter in question and there was no mention of revenue or profit making.

I had to then ask the question: Why censorship? Was it relating to the two fliers and if so were the administrators attempting to deprive the public of information that affects the community?

I found it poignant to mention the arbitrary censorship of my mail in light of the "When to censor, when not to censor - it's a tough call" editorial in The Lumberjack [The Lumberjack, March 8, 2006]

If you take away the voice, the pleas for help will always go unanswered. Censorship denies freedom of the press/speech when used for dishonorable purposes of control.

To learn more about P.R.O.T.E.C.T., the art show go to www.artrelease.org or call Margie Ghiz at (310)403-9277.

Keep up the good work!

Jack L. Morris, C-06409
Pelican Bay State Prison
Crescent City

Send comics to
thejack@humboldt.edu

How to reach the Forum section

• The Lumberjack welcomes submissions for guest columns or guest cartoons.

• Letters to the editor should be no more than 350 words and guest columns no more than 750 words.

• Letters and guest columns will be edited for grammar and spelling.

• Letters and guest columns must be received by 5 p.m. Friday for next issue consideration.

• Letters from the same author will only be published every 30 days.

• Letters and guest columns must include the writer's name, city of residence and phone number. Also include major and year in school if a student.

• Letters can be e-mailed (preferred), faxed, snail-mailed or directly brought in to The Lumberjack.

E-mail: thejack@humboldt.edu
Fax: 826-5921

Address: The Lumberjack
Nelson Hall East Room 6,
Humboldt State University,
Arcata, CA 95521

Testes, racism and a bottle of beer

Dear Editor,

My name is Evan Robinson and I was quoted in last week's edition, branding our school paper as sophomoric and amateurish.

I don't want the N.Y. Times here. All I want is some substantive journalism. I understand you all go to school, some have jobs, some significant others, some the environmentally good sense to be indolent and non-productive. Point is, you're all busy, and you put out a solid, thought-provoking, and at times insightful paper each week.

As to the naked man picture, I enjoy the sight of a distressed man's testicles dangling 'twixt his huddled undercarriage as much as the next person. And the question, to which one unfortunate young lady responded with what some consider to be a slight lapse of tact, included "diabolical" in the asking. Diabolical means clever and evil; hate to admit, Whitey does not have a great track record practicing the Golden Rule. At least she had the chutzpah and sang-froid to respond openly and honestly, and she was allowed to do so in our proud Lumberjack. Readers, be wary of reporters; it's often dangerous to be quoted offhand.

Some people say it is easy to sit back, be high-minded about things you have not directly experienced, and feign complacency or, worse yet, apathy. I think you all do an excellent job. Tell that fellow Rodriguez to write a companion piece on "Men's Top Ten A-dick-shuns." Or perhaps take a run at a certain fatuous and bloated plutocrat currently heading up an unnamed administration. Please keep your integrity and good humor. Most of all, don't listen to your local sheep-shagging bastard at Toby & Jack's when he flippantly dismisses your work as banal and puerile after he's had a few and is brimming with bluster.

Evan Robinson

Arcata

Forest soils & botany junior

Professional success attributed to professors like Brusca

Dear Editor,

As a 1996 graduate of Humboldt I feel that I need to respond to the continuing saga with Professor Brusca.

I was a political science and religious studies major, but took the Cosmos course from Professor Brusca back in the early '90s (though he likely has no idea who I am). He was a tremendous teacher and motivator when I took his class. He was dynamic in the classroom and made the learning of a complicated subject easier.

For the administration to question anything about him is ridiculous and heartbreaking. His dedication to HSU, his hard work in and out of the classroom, and his overall contributions to the university are outstanding. I chose Humboldt over a UC because of its unique professors who can actually teach and who can provide their students with the real-life skills necessary to prosper in today's world.

As a successful professional (attorney) now residing in Chicago, I give a lot of the credit to the abilities that I possess having been instilled in me from my undergraduate education at Humboldt. I hope that the institution I graduated from continues to recognize not just the faculty that publish regularly, which certainly is a needed asset, but also respects and is proud of the professors who can truly teach, such as Professor Brusca and numerous others.

Zach Weber

B.A., 1996

Chicago, Illinois



Dissent is decisive for democracy

John Osborn

jco11@humboldt.edu

On March 18, depending on whose numbers you were looking at, thousands to more than 100,000 people around the world protested the war and occupation of Iraq and the War on Terrorism.

The mainstream media failed to accurately frame the debate during this worldwide resistance to preemptive war. This failure, and the subsequent failures in providing adequate war coverage, is leading to a crisis of democracy.

Dissent, especially during wartime, is extremely vital, particularly in a democracy where a multitude of opinions are allowed to be expressed and nurtured. Dissent is a necessary check on the misuses of power.

To those who get flustered when anti-war protesters gather and protest, what must be understood is that this is a free society. In a free society, every individual has a right, and even a duty, to express his or her opinions publicly, especially when they are contrary to current policy.

Blind patriotism is not a tenant of democracy — it is a tenant of fascism. When you willingly ignore the facts, belittle differing viewpoints, and unquestionably follow the government's line, you are turning your back on democracy.

Last Tuesday, a full crowd attended a panel discussion on Iraq. The three panel speakers, William Herbrechtsmeier of the Religious Studies Department, Melanie Williams of the Political

Science Department and Saeed Mortazavi of the Business Department, all offered different perspective on the war.

"Wars do not happen without our consent and our complicity," Williams said in her opening speech.

In a democracy where the people control the government, every action the government takes that goes unquestioned, unchecked and unspoken by the people is undemocratic.

Even as the occupation in Iraq continues and slowly blooms into a raging civil war by Sunni and Shiite factions, the United States is preparing to take a hard, even military, line against Iran.

According to the Web site Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, the occupation in Iraq has already led to 2,323 American deaths and 16,653 Americans wounded. The British medical journal, The Lancet, conducted a study and estimated that in 2005 at least 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died.

The total costs of this occupation will not be fully realized until many years have passed.

This is the price of war. This is the price of being silent. This is the cost of blind patriotism.

This is the importance of flexing the muscles found in the Bill of Rights. We have a right to speak out, to assemble, to petition.

We owe it to the men and women in uniform to speak out every time their lives will be on the line.

Reverse racism

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the letter written by Mohamed Jemmali, referring to the comment made about "killing all the white people."

Mr. Jemmali claims that the question being asked was so outlandish that such a response was intended to be humorous. I do not see it this way. The campus would be in an uproar if it had been a white student, mentioning that their plan for world domination would include slaughtering Blacks or Asians.

Reverse racism is the most dangerous form of racism in America today. White Americans have bent over backwards for too long in order to encourage "minority" achievement. If that is not good enough, maybe those who think that the "white man" oppresses them ought to return to the land their ancestors came from.

David Coppom

Journalism major

Send letters to the
editor to
thejack
@
humboldt
.edu

Higher housing costs lead to higher homeless rates

Terri Mitchell
Guest columnist

I have been reading and watching the homeless issue as it relates to the Arcata downtown area. It has been an ongoing problem for the city, and it now appears that the proposed solution itself has raised new questions. Although many people within the community appear to want resolution to the problem, many are inclined to request that the solution include a footnote that insures it not be implemented in "their backyard."

Unfortunately, the homeless problem in America is growing at such an alarming rate that it is oozing up into everyone's backyard, and I personally prefer to address this issue as a "housing shortage," and treat the Arcata segment as a visible indicator of the more serious problem of housing inadequacy.

Over the last four years I have watched as the real estate prices rose dramatically in both Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Having worked in the subsidized housing profession for many years, I noted the upward trend and how it affected the local rental markets.

As the median sale price of homes moved upward, the availability of affordable housing rentals began to decline. In accordance with the theory of supply and demand, fewer available rental units resulted in dramatically

increased rents. These increasing rents are not affordable, as nationwide poverty rates continue to rise, according to Dinerman, editor of Journal of Women and Social Work. So, how does this relate to the Arcata downtown situation and its housing problem? Well, the growth factor alone of the total number of houseless people in Humboldt and Del Norte counties could account for the increased number of houseless individuals in the Arcata downtown area. Those people you see around the downtown area are just the tip of the iceberg, and if we look at the facts and focus on the underlying problem, we can begin to understand that this is a "lack of housing" issue.

Has the City of Arcata or Humboldt State University increased their housing stock availability at all during the last five years? Has any new subsidized housing been erected or made available to this area's low income families in the last five years?

These are relevant questions, and if the answer is no on both counts, then the City of Arcata and the University have failed to address the overall picture of providing affordable housing to its residents, students and staff.

With federal cuts like Bush's cuts to the

HOPE VI program, the City and University should be examining housing availability closely, according to Business Week [Nov. 21, 2005].

Even if the population itself has not changed, there is no doubt that rents have increased across the board, and addressing the affordability of housing should have been prioritized as a central issue. When there is not enough affordable housing, competition becomes fierce, and the weakest, sickest, less able bodied are the first ones to be left out on the street.

Any housing available becomes fair game, and the struggle for survival (obtaining available housing) can be analogized to trying to stuff too many people into a VW Bug. There is only so much room, and some of the people will not fit and will subsequently be squeezed out. The people without homes walking the street in downtown Arcata are the ones who have been squeezed out of our housing market. They are not the underlying problem but the visible indicator of a much deeper issue regarding the right to affordable housing for all people.

Terri Mitchell is a student at HSU. Send comments to thejack@humboldt.edu.

First time reader desires more objectification of men

Rachelle Miller
Guest columnist

First off, I'm not particularly impressed with the article "Five Ways to Turn Your Boy into a Hunk." If it's an attempt to level the playing field with "Top 10 women's ass ... ets," then it has failed miserably. This is the first time I have read The Lumberjack, so perhaps future articles by Melody Hogan won't shy away from objectifying men.

I know that I don't speak just for myself when I say that, as a heterosexual woman (I say "woman" because "female" can be just about any type of animal or a child, for that matter), I do indeed enjoy looking at men and their "assets." So many women seem to be afraid to step up and admit that they enjoy looking at, talking about, and measuring up boys and their body parts.

In response to Syd Cooper's letter to the editor titled "Find the fun," I would have to disagree with her generalized clichés about "respecting" her body. I think it's safe to say that respecting one's body is taken to mean eating properly, exercising moderately and not abusing it in any way.

However, flaunting one's body, or being an exhibitionist, does nothing but reveal a form of narcissism with its consequent attempts at getting attention whenever possible. Perhaps Syd does not flaunt her body, but it seems to be implied with her declarations of being

"proud" of her body's "features."

Although I'm not going to address all angles of the issue here, I will say that the concepts of being ashamed and proud of your body are still opposite sides of the same coin ... of being too damn obsessed with your body!

So many women seem to be afraid to step up and admit that they enjoy looking at, talking about, and measuring up

Those of us women who place more worth on our brains and everything else that makes up a human being, like so many men, have more important priorities than obsessing with our bodies.

To say "the female appearance is a truly beautiful piece of nature ..." is a truly subjective statement. I can sincerely, and easily, say that the male body (not all, of course) can be a truly beautiful piece of nature.

The idea of "Top 10 women's ass ... ets" does nothing but reinforce the archaic

notion that men are for listening to ... and women are for looking at. At best, it is cheap entertainment geared for men. The bit from Emil Rodriguez saying "Men don't actually think models exist" is nice, but somebody is buying up all of those magazines such as Playboy ad nauseam and somebody is giving a hell of a lot of money in support of all of those movies starring sexpot actresses.

Furthermore, after playing down the influence of models in men's minds, Emil then goes on and uses a model as an example of eyes that we all should admire and/or covet!

Anyway, maybe a columnist who actually acknowledges her sexuality and isn't afraid to express it through writing could entertain the rest of us women out here who actually enjoy objectifying some boys as opposed to obsessing with objectifying ourselves.

This e-mail may seem long-winded, but I actually like to think about and criticize what I read without digesting it witlessly. In the meantime, I have more important, and more interesting, reading material to put my attentions to.

Rachelle Miller graduated from Chapman University in 2004. She is now a resident of Eureka. Send comments to thejack@humboldt.edu.

Whaaa
Whaaaaaaat?!

Stuff heard
out of context
on campus
and around town

"Or you could bury
a hurricane!"

Man overheard in sociology class

"Don't come in, I'm
naked."

*Man overheard during
intermission at Stone Bears
lecture in KBR*

"You can't name it
mister, nobody is
going to want to
buy a transsexual
cow!"

*Man overheard talking to
a woman on Spear Avenue in
Arcata*

"My ovaries are so
inflamed!"

*Woman overheard talking to
a man in Dept. of Biology*

*I heard something
humorous, shocking
or just plain weird?
Send it, along with
the circumstances
under which
you heard it, to
ols1@humboldt.edu.
Help The Lumberjack
spread the funny.*

CALENDAR

29 Wednesday 30 Thursday

Club Meeting. HSU Geographic Society. Founder's Hall 126. "The Harper Room." Noon.

Lecture. "Social Artistry" with Dr. Jean Houston. The study of self-realization and human potential. Kate Buchanan Room. Noon- 4 p.m., 5 - 9 p.m.

Club Meeting. Black Student Union. Multicultural Center. House 55. 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Asian Pacific American Student Alliance. Multicultural Center. House 55. 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Oceanography Society. Natural Resources 205. 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Child Development Association. Nelson Hall East 115. 5:30 p.m.

Women's Herstory Month. Screening of "The Last Abortion Clinic" and panel discussion with Vox and Planned Parenthood. Siemens Hall 110. 6 p.m.

Club Meeting. Poetry League. Founder's Hall 206. 7 p.m.

Club meeting. NORML. Come join us for the movie "Grass," a documentary about cannabis prohibition narrated by Woody Harrelson. Science B 135. Free. 8 p.m.

Club Event: Solutions Club presents National Labor Week of Action. Green Campus will be hosting "Fossil Fools Day." Sustainable Entrepreneurs Network will be hosting "No-Sweat Shop." HSU Quad. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Club Meeting. Women's Center General Meeting. Multicultural Center. House 55. 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Green Wheels. Create sustainable transportation. UC South Lounge. 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Religious Studies. Nelson Hall East 116. 5 - 6 p.m.

Club Meeting. Humboldt Circus. Come learn circus skills. Forbes Complex 201. 5 - 7 p.m.

Presentation. "Fair Trade Convergence Experience" by Lara Lenta. Coordinates with National Labor Week of Action. Siemens Hall 116. 6 p.m.

Club Meeting. Mecha. The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan invites you. Nelson Hall East 106. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Club Meeting. Queer Student Union. Multicultural Center. House 55. 7 p.m.

Club Meeting. Fencing Club. Forbes Complex 126. 7 p.m.

Live Jazz Music. Big Pete's Pizzeria. 1504 G St., Arcata. Free. 8 - 11 p.m.

Jazz at Pearl Lounge. Bill Nayer's Lounge Show. 507 2nd St., Eureka.

31 Friday

CCAT. Volunteer day. Come volunteer to work on a variety of projects on their grounds and home, and work with their friendly staff while gaining experience and knowledge. 10 a.m. - dark.

CCAT. Tour. Come take a tour of the CCAT facility. 2 p.m.

Club Event: Solutions Club presents National Labor Week of Action. Activism training by Reverend Daniel Buford of the People's Institute West. Founders Hall Green and Gold Room. 9 a.m. - noon.

Reggae Jamdown International Radio Show. DJ Dub Cowboy. 2 - 4 p.m. 90.5/91.9 FM or www.khsu.org

Humboldt Folkdancers. Presbyterian Church, 11th and G streets, Arcata. Easy dances will be taught. \$3. 7:30 - 11 p.m.

Come run around and play your favorite games: "Capture the Flag." At clocktower at the UC Quad. 9 p.m. - whenever.

Community Event. North Coast Big Brothers Big Sisters will be flying the Jolly Roger at Harbor Lanes on March 31 & April 1 for our 23rd annual Bowl for Kids' Sake. Theme for this year is "Swashbuckle 'n' Bowl."

Cafe Mokka. Good Company (Celtic). 5th & J St., Arcata. Free. 8 p.m.

1 Saturday

Southern Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge Tour. Tour in the southern end of Humboldt Bay, an area rich in wildlife, including migratory shorebirds, egrets, herons, raptors, harbor seals and more! Program Fee: \$35. HSU Students Call 826 - 3357 for more information.

HSU Natural History Museum. Live Animal Talk. Come hear about "Animals of the North Coast" exhibit. Features live amphibians, reptiles, intertidal invertebrates, a three-toed box turtle, a corn snake and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. All ages. Free to members, others by donation. 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Campus Cultural Event. The Consortium for Education and Technology presents "The Caravan Djaly Finale," Bringing West Africa to Humboldt. Van Duzer Theatre. Matinee show for children and families. 2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Evening show for the general public. 8 - 10 p.m.

Battle of the Bands. Featuring: Laden Swallow, Anslinger, Stereo Chromatic, The Signals, Womama, The Smashed Glass, The Attila and Dave Project, Ape Launcher, and more. \$3 students, \$5 public. 18 and over. Kate Buchanan Room. 7 p.m.

Eureka Arts Alive. Presented by the Humboldt Arts Council and Eureka Main Street. Opening receptions for artists, exhibits, and/or performances held the first Saturday of each month. Old Town Eureka. 7 p.m.

Humbrews. Old Man Clemins. 856 10th St., Arcata. 9 p.m.

HSU First Street Gallery. "Lien Truong: Portrait of a Contemporary Family." Truong teaches as a lecturer in the Art Department, and her exhibition features two series of family portraits that reflect contemporary social issues regarding identity and family. 422 First St., Eureka. 7 p.m.

Concert. HSU Music Department Faculty Artist Series presents Cindy Moyer (violin), and Elizabeth Rau McCubbrey (soprano). Fulkerson Recital Hall 8 p.m.

2 Sunday

Club Meeting. Lindy Hop Club. Forbes Complex 126. 3 - 5 p.m.

Humbrews. Club Confessions, featuring Deep Groove Society. 856 10th St., Arcata. 9 p.m.

Six Rivers Brewery. Brothers Past. 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville. \$8. 8 p.m.

3 Monday

Club Meeting. Books Building Bridges helps hurricane victims! UC South Lounge. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Reese Bullen Gallery. "Honors Review: the State of Art at HSU." A new exhibition featuring outstanding upper-division art majors at HSU. Selected by their professors to present works in this exhibition, these students will reveal the far ranging concerns, interests and media practices of our senior art students.

4 Tuesday

Associated Students Council Meeting. Open Meeting. UC South Lounge. 2 - 5 p.m.

Club Meeting. Natural Resources Club. Natural Resources 203. 5:30 p.m.

Club Meeting. Humboldt Circus. Forbes Complex 201. 5 - 7 p.m.

Club Meeting. Lutheran College Fellowship (The Path). Bible study. Nelson Hall East 115. 7:30 p.m.

Humbrews. Humboldt Hip-Hop Community. 856 10th St., Arcata. 10 p.m.

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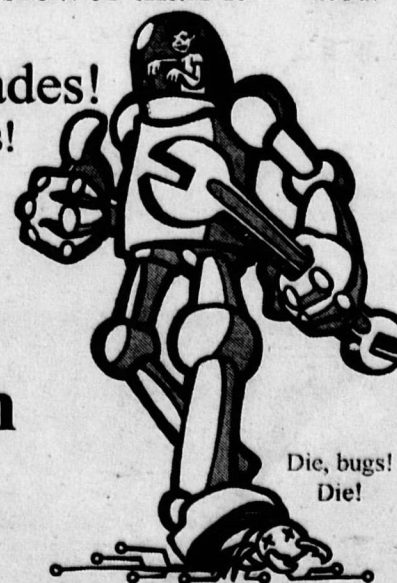
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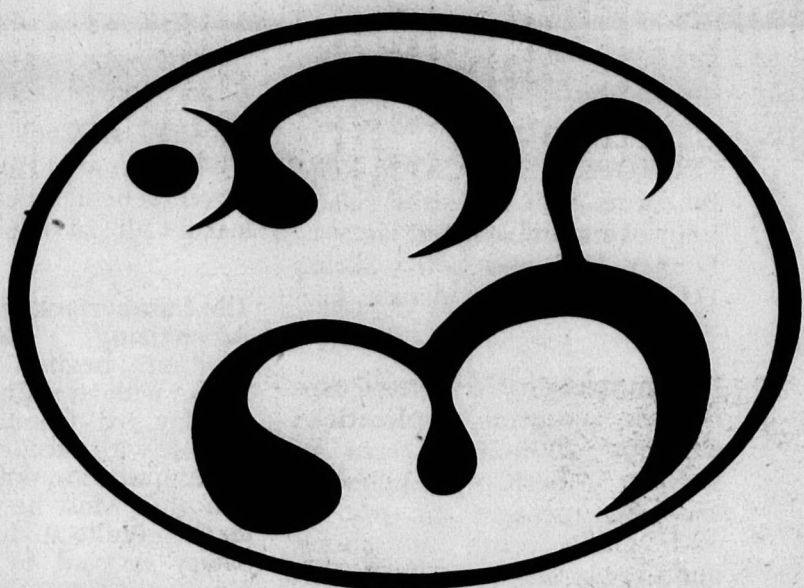
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