Restriction may hurt gas stations

By Emily Wong

When Home Depot made its way into San Luis Obispo, special considerations were made to widen Los Osos Valley Road, despite environmental impact reports. Now, the San Luis Obispo City Council may be creating loopholes for the new Costco coming into town, which could be allowed to sell alcohol and gas stations on the same lot.

In 1982, San Luis Obispo passed an ordinance against selling beer and wine at service stations in an attempt to curb drinking and driving. The City Council decided to reconsider the ordinance in October and voted on Feb. 17 to allow the sale of alcohol 250 feet from gas pumps. The council will revisit the issue at their March 1 meeting and vote on a final decision. If approved, the changes will take effect in 30 days.

The ordinance was accommodate because of the large lot it is proposed on, but most of the city’s service stations will be left out.

see COSTCO, page 2

College campuses get more conservative

By Leah Mori

College campuses have seen a shift to the right as students are becoming more political and more conservative.

According to a USA Today survey, 65 percent of college freshmen believe it is "essential or very important" to keep up with politics. In addition, the gap between the amount of liberals and conservatives is steadily decreasing. Twenty-four percent of students say they hold liberal views, 21 percent say they are conservatives.

Steve Hinkle, president of the Cal Poly College Republicans said that Cal Poly students are split 50-50 between liberals and conservatives. Despite this, he says they have begun to see a higher number of conservative students. About three quarters of the members in the club have joined this year.

While other universities’ College Republicans are out to spread liberals and push their beliefs on students, Cal Poly’s efforts to promote conservations are different.

“We’re not trying to promote conservatism in a negative way,” said Laren Freberg, adviser for the club and psychology professor. “We’re not out trying to convert people.”

Freberg has been the adviser for about 10 years. She became an admissions note and the aforementioned ideological illustrations one of the most commonly stolen items: backpacks. University Police Department communications director Fred Mills said more than $75,000 worth of property was stolen in the 2003.

Backpacks and bicycles are taken the most and totaled about $55,000 in value, said Mills. Roughly $20,000 in losses were accumulated as a result of car-related thefts — either stealing parts off a car or taking what was inside.

The types of belongings that thieves ended up with were mainly electronics — computers, laptops, cell phones, CD players, etc. — and are estimated at $16,000 in worth, according to available figures.

“We assume that a good portion of those thefts are matters of opportunity — not knowing where you took it, not looking at belongings.

see TRACING, page 2

Tibers honored with President’s Arts Award for time and donations

By Anastasia Killham

They pedaled into town 26 years ago on a bicycle built for two, since that day, arts and cultural opportunites in San Luis Obispo have never been the same.

Two behind-the-scenes contributors were recently recognized publicly for time and money donated annually to improve community access to education, arts and literature.

Shelia Tiber accepted Cal Poly’s President’s Arts Award on behalf of herself and her late husband Yosef Tiber before the Feb. 22 performance of “Guillotine” at the Performing Arts Center.

The Tibers hold a lifelong interest in theater, music and the arts. Knowledge of continued access to high quality performances greatly affected their decision to relocate to San Luis Obispo from Los Angeles, which is known for its many diverse, artistic cultural opportunites.

Their friends were shocked when the couple decided to move to a small town with comparably few cultural activities, Shelia Tiber said.

“We promptly joined everything in sight,” Tiber said, “and over the years have just become more involved.”

The native of England describes her British accent her interest in introducing young people to live performances.

“Nothing can take the place of being in a live audience. When children are exposed to the arts at a young age they acquire a love of them for life,” she said.

The Tibers have donated time and money to a number of causes besides the arts, at both Cuesta College and Cal Poly.

For almost 18 years, Sheila Tiber has served as a volunteer reader at Cal Poly’s Disability Resource Center. She reads textbooks to students who are not able to read them on their own.

“(The Tibers) are big believers in making a difference,” said Delia McAdoo, the see TIBERS, page 2
THIEFT
continued from page 1

SUNDAY
high: 58° / low 38°

TUESDAY
high: 56°/ low 42°

FRIDAY
high: 58° / low 38°

SUNDAY
high: 59° / low 41°

Sunrise/Sunset
rises: 6:36 a.m. / sets: 5:34 p.m.

Tides
high
12:55 a.m.
3.21 feet
3:20 a.m.
4.80 feet
3:35 p.m.
2.07 feet
7:42 a.m.
0.17 feet
10:04 p.m.
4.66 feet

Newspaper
12:55 a.m.
3.21 feet
7:42 a.m.
0.17 feet
10:04 p.m.
4.66 feet

POLITICS
continued from page 1

er because students had asked several
campus faculty to lead them in their
conservative club, but none would accept.

They were advised by such a
group would ruin their careers.

Through a spokesperson, it had not been
a drastic increase of conservative stu-
ents, but the number of active mem-
bers in the club has steadily increased.

In addition to Freberg, associate
librarian Lynne Gamble is an advisor to
the club.

"They are both a huge asset to us," he
said.

An issue that conservative students
face is based on opinions in the class-
rooms. More liberal-minded professors
have been accused on pushing their
political beliefs on their students.

"It’s kind of supply and demand.
"I respond with the facts and let
them know that they’re wrong," Hinkle
said. "I think it’s important that stu-
ents get a balanced education. It’s
important that teachers don’t force their
political views on us any longer," he
said.

Sheila and Yosef have been
forced to argue his beliefs in the class-
room. "Yosef has ‘put the cart before the
horse’ on the legacies," Robertson said.

In a press release, Harry Hellenbrand, chair of
the President’s Arts Award Nomination Committee
and dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said,The Tibers were a unanimous
choice of the committee. They
have done so much for Cal Poly
and the Arts community in general
on the Central Coast.

When faced with the issue, students
and staff react in different ways.

"I tried to communicate with the profes-
sor and let him know that they’re
wrong," Rogers said.

"It’s pure and simple discrimina-
tion," Rogers said. "We’re not here
playing favorites to the big markets."

Rogers said service stations that are
concentrated with restaurants may have
a 90 percent sales advantage over those
who do not.

"I’ve been in the business for 57
years, and it has been known to
boost sales," Rogers said.

Talk of a class action suit by local
service station owners may be in the
weeks, Rogers said, but he said there is
not much else he can do.

City council members were unavailable for comment by press
time.

"As a professor you have to respect
our bodies," Andlig said.

"We want people to walk away with a
more nurturing, healthy and
respectful relationship with the body
that they have," she said.

The event is open to students and
faculty. Although the week’s
events are aimed toward individuals with
a more body image, everyone is
welcome.

A negative body image has a
negative impact on all aspects of life," Andlig
said.

For further information, contact

Dr. Kevin Fagan, 795-2750.
e-mail kevinf@calpoly.edu

Dr. William Martinez, 795-2689.
e-mail wmmartin@calpoly.edu

http://www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu/travel.html

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General Information Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 11 a.m.
Education Bldg. (2), Rm. 205
Thursday, February 26, 11 a.m.
Eichler Aprt. 400 and Bldg. (10), Rm. 115

for further information, contact

Continuing Education at 795-0029.
e-mail continuing-ed@calpoly.edu
http://www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu/travel_mex.html

COSTCO
continued from page 1

"The city is playing tricks on us," said Jim Rogers, owner and dealer of
Mission Chevron on Marsh Street.

"They know we can’t comply with that.
We’re pure and simple discrimina-
tion," Rogers said. "We’re not here
playing favorites to the big markets."

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negative impact on all aspects of life," Andlig
said.
WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Tuesday blocked the latest GOP effort to curb medical malpractice lawsuits, but Republicans who say the bill is crucial to the availability of health care promised the issue would return later in the year.

"We're going to keep going until we succeed," said Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., as the GOP lost a vote to force Deihiicrais tp cofisider a bill curt­ting some of the barriers ablaze with burning tires. Supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide armed with old rifles and pistols built junkpile barricades blocking the road into Port-au-Prince, setting

-- Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's president urgently appealed for the world's help Tuesday to avert a bloodbath and a new exodus of boat people as rebels threatened the capital. Despite last-ditch diplo­macy, an opposition coalition rejected a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide armed with old rifles and pistols built junkpile barricades blocking the road into Port-au-Prince, setting some of the barriers ablaze with burning tires.

The opposition rejected a peace plan that would have kept Aristide as president, but with diminished power and compelled to share government with his rivals.

-- Associated Press

PARIS — The United States is suspending imports of French cold cuts and foie gras because of food safety concerns, France's Agriculture Ministry said Tuesday.

American veterinary experts inspected sites in France and found they did not conform with U.S. food safety requirements, the ministry said. It did not provide evidence that the quality of French products...
Hormones might raise asthma risk

By Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO — Hormone supplements may be linked to yet another health problem in women: asthma.

A study found that women who use hormones during menopause run double the risk of developing the respiratory ailment.

The study was not as rigorous as landmark research halted in 2002 after more hormone users developed heart problems and breast cancer than women given dummy pills. And the overall risk of developing asthma isn't huge. Still, the findings might be something women will want to consider when debating whether to take hormones for hot flashes and other menopausal symptoms, said lead researcher Dr. R. Graham Barr of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

The findings appear in Monday’s Archives of Internal Medicine.

“For women who have severe asthma that develops later in life, they may want to consider a trial of stopping hormone replacement therapy to see if this alleviates their condition,” Barr said.

The study was part of the Nurses’ Health Study by Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and involved more than 72,000 women in their 40s and older. They were questioned about hormone use and any diagnosis of asthma. They were followed for about 10 years, until 1998.

During that time, 342 women developed asthma. Current users of either estrogen alone or estrogen plus progesterone supplements were about twice as likely to develop asthma than nonusers.

The increased risk was found mainly among current users, not past users, suggesting that stopping hormone treatment can even the odds, Barr said.

The study follows the government’s landmark Women’s Health Initiative study, which reported the link with heart problems and breast cancer and led doctors to recommend limiting hormone treatment to low-dose, short-term use for menopause symptoms.

WHI researcher Jennifer Hays of Baylor University questioned whether hormones cause asthma and said there are other explanations for the link. It might be that something about the frequency of hormone use puts them at increased risk for asthma, Hays said.

The researchers acknowledged that women who take prescription hormones might be more likely to be diagnosed with asthma simply because they might have more doctor visits than nonusers. But they also found an increased asthma risk among hormone users who had few doctor visits.

Asthma involves inflammation that constricts muscles in the airways, causing attacks of wheezing and shortness of breath. An estimated 20 million Americans, including 14 million adults, are affected.

Barr said the exact relationship between hormones and asthma needs further study.

But estrogen tends to make cells retain more fluid, which might narrow lung airways, he said. Also, some data suggests that hormone replacement treatments can increase levels of certain inflammatory markers in the blood, which might also affect asthma risk, he said.
'College Dropout' quite educational for a producer's debut album

By Josh Madden

AMES, Iowa — Usually, when hip-hop producers pick up a mic (e.g. Jermaine Dupri, P. Diddy), most people want to avoid their ears.

But with producer/rapper Kanye West's "The College Dropout," it's time to listen as closely as possible.

Best known as a producer for such artists as Jay-Z and Talib Kweli, the Chicago-born West's debut album is innovative, inspirational and even instructional — in a way.

In "The New Workout Plan," West pokes fun at prospective groupies by educating them on how to please their respective rapper/athletes, with lyrics like "Give head, stop, breathe, get up, check your weave / Don't drop the blunt and disrespect the weed."

Though it may be his first effort, West joins the ranks of the best storytellers in hip-hop, painting pictures with his words that you can't help but visualize.

In the album's first single, "Through the Wire," West takes the listener back to his October 2003 car accident, which left him with a plate in his jaw. The imagery is so vivid, it sends chills down the spine (the first verse of the song was picked as Rhyme of the Year by The Source). West didn't even rap the song while his jaw was still wired shut, hence the title.

West doesn't stop there with "Dropout," creating some of the most inventive and original beats and samples since the early days of The Neptunes. On "Jesus Walks," the military drumbeats and methodic chants feel as if you're really walking in heaven. West doesn't stop there, using the one and only Harlem Boys Choir for hook and chorus on "Two Words."

The release of "College Dropout" solidifies West's role as one of the leading ambassadors of the future of hip-hop and charts the course for him to one day be at the top of the modern rap game.
Not a warm ‘Welcome’ for Romano, Hackman

• Welcome to Mooseport' proves television star should stay on small screen
By Randi Block

There are a few select television stars who can take to the silver screen and make it look easy.

Then there are those who take that fine silver and tarnish the hell out of it.

Ray Romano is one of the latter.

While he is the star of an undeniably funny show, "Everybody Loves Raymond," Romano was unable to duplicate any entertainment value in his debut movie, "Welcome to Mooseport.

While many Romano fans rushed eagerly to see him hit the big screen, all expectations were shattered.

The fact that this movie is labeled a comedy is ridiculous. The few funny parts, which receive a mere pity chuckle at best, come from a few nutty townspeople who spend the entire movie yelling and name-calling.

The animator’s satirized depiction of the French, complete with exaggerated features, creates a dark humor. Unique qualities drawn into each character individualize them and make them surprisingly realistic, whether it’s a single platform shoe needed Source’s balance or an old dog who lives to bark at passing cars.

The creativity used to make the unimaginable seem real is fascinating to watch. Nothing about the film seems contrived; everything works together simply and flawlessly.

The intensely imaginative animation lacks nothing from the minimal use of dialogue. Reminiscent of "Tom and Jerry" cartoons, very few words are spoken. Most of the sound is in the form of the theme song, "Belleville Rendez-vous," a finger-snapting, foot-tappin’ harmony performed by the renowned Triplets of Belleville.

Objects in the environment provide the remainder of the sound. The creak of the stairs, the sound of a train and the little things people forget to hear when they’re caught up in conversation create the soundtrack for the film.

Although the feature had a short running time of one hour and 22 minutes, the intense use of sound will carry the remainder of the experience in the audience’s ears long after the movie is over.

The running time of "The Triplets of Belleville" is one hour and 22 minutes. The film will be released on February 20 and is currently receiving critical acclaim.

By Lacie Grimsom

Quirky animation, Oscar-nominated soundtrack drive independent film

Forget obnoxious, sugar-sweet characters typically found in overly commercialized animated films.

"The Triplets of Belleville" is a blend of melodi-

ous music and visuals that inspires the imagination and reminds audiences what animation looked like before computers.

After grandmother Madame Souza discovers her grandson Champion’s love for bicycles, she becomes determined to train him for the Tour de France. After many years, Champion succeeds in becoming good enough to compete in the race. As it the Tour de France isn’t hard enough, the real trouble begins when Champion is kidnapped mid-race by two strange men.

In order to save Champion, Madame Souza and her dog Bruno travel to the town of Belleville, where they meet three renowned retired singers from the 1950s who assist them in Champion’s rescue.

One aspect that sets this French film apart from typical Disney fare is that "The Triplets" animated characters are intelligently manip-

ulated for the enjoyment of adults. The animator’s satirized depiction of the French, complete with exaggerated features, creates a dark humor. Unique qualities drawn into each character individualize them and make them surprisingly realistic; whether it’s a single platform shoe needed Source’s balance or an old dog who lives to bark at passing trains. The small details are those that charm the audience.

When something difficult the film seems coti-

ned with an end. Hopefully "Everybody Loves Raymond" will continue for a long time because this adventure may have ruined any chance Romano has of ever getting into the movie business.

More than a waste of money, this movie is a complete waste of time. The best part is definitely when the lights come on at the end.

French ‘Triplets’ make for unique movie-going experience

By Lacie Grimsow

The animated French film "The Triplets of Belleville" deviates from the standard animated film, with its emphasis on intricate detail and odd noises to convey its message.

The creativity needed to make the unimaginable seem real is fascinating to watch. Nothing about the film seems contrived; everything works together simply and flawlessly.

The incredibly imaginative animation lacks nothing from the minimal use of dialogue. Reminiscent of "Tom and Jerry" cartoons, very few words are spoken. Most of the sound is in the form of the theme song, "Belleville Rendez-vous," a finger-snapting, foot-tappin’ harmony performed by the renowned Triplets of Belleville.

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More than a waste of money, this movie is a complete waste of time. The best part is definitely when the lights come on at the end.
CONCERT REVIEW

The Liks deliver true hip-hop to SLO Brew crowd

By JoAnn Sanders
MUSICAL STAFF WRITER

"Basically, the opposite of what everyone else is talking about." The night also served as a venue for a local group composed of five MCs calling themselves The Colleged. The group gets itself known for its Grimey by nature, but now has a compilation CD called "Street Religion: Chapter 1." However, according to one of the MCs, the group is still a work in progress, but the crowd was happy with what they had been waiting for all night long: seasoned and professional talent. The Liks, now consisting of J.R., E. Smith and Tash, brought more than a decade of experience to get the crowd hyped and excited by throwing a few choice words of hip-hop verse.

True to their former name, The Liks mainly rapped about the use of common drugs, marijuana and, of course, alcohol. However, even the most sober and drug-free person in the crowd couldn't resist echoing the group's lyrics, "When I sip, you sip." Although they are a successful and still somewhat underground band, they proved they still knew the importance of local talent as they said several times during their show, "Support your local bands."

Using different-angle cuts to get the crowd involved, The Liks sprayed beer on the audience below and bottom halves off my shirts.

Commentary

by Dan Port

LOS ANGELES — Christian pop music singer Stacie Orrico made certain scalping remarks to reporters at the MTV Asia Awards last Saturday. Orrico commented that she felt Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera were revealing clothing that was "degrading" and added that, "From the time they're 7 or 8 years old, (girls) are being taught that the only thing that makes them special and beautiful is their sexuality, and I think that's wrong." Spears and Aguilera were initially unavailable for comment, but by using a combination of Jedi mind-control and my mad hacker skills, was able to secure a simultaneous reactionary interview with both "singers." Here's a complete transcript of it:

DP: What about meeting me on such short notice.
BS: I was just cutting the sleeves and taking them off my shirts.
BS: Except that.
DP: What about that drunken interview.
BS: I've never done anything like that.
BS: I'll do anything.
BS: After all, without Britney Spears, we wouldn't have...something.
BS: No, actually I'm younger than you.
DP: What about every album you've released?
BS: And that.
BS: That too.
BS: Me too.
BS: That's not the point. The point is that the two of you are emulated by millions of teen and pre-teen girls. If you promote yourselves as sexually promiscuous, girls are going to think that people will only like them if they act that way.
CA: Dude, I'm bored with this.
DP: Stevie Nicks.
BS: That too.
CA: Yeah, but I'd like to keep it free of mold, so let's just stick to the interview. CA: Whatever.
BS: So how do you feel about those comments?
CA: I think that (expletive) needs to keep her dirty (expletive) mouth shut.
BS: Funny, I was saying the same thing about you just the other day.
BS: Do you consider yourselves role models?
CA: Absolutely, I'm totally flat- tered if someone wants to imitate what I do.
BS: Same here.
CA: That too.
CA: Me too.
BS: That's not happening.
CA: Me too.
BS: Sorry, I zoned out there for a while. What happened? We didn't get married, did we?
BS: That too.
CA: So you're single? Do you want to...
BS: Down, Christina! Stay... stay... good. Any final comments?
BS: Sorry, I came out there for a while. What happened? We didn't get married, did we?
CA: So you're single? Do you want to...
BS: No, actually I'm younger than you.
CA: Oh, like younger guys. Do you want to have...
BS: No. And I thought we agreed you'd stay off the furniture.
CA: Sorry.
BS: What about Avril Lavigne or Stacie Orrico? They've managed to sell millions of records without degrading themselves by exposing their bodies.
BS: Yeah, but I'm hotter than they are.
CA: Me too.
BS: That's not the point. The point is that the two of you are emulated by millions of teen and pre-teen girls. If you promote yourselves as sexually promiscuous, girls are going to think that people will only like them if they act that way.
CA: Me too.
BS: Supernatural.
CA: So you're single? Do you want to...
BS: No. And I thought we agreed you'd stay off the furniture.
CA: Me too.
BS: What about that drunken interview?
CA: Except that.
BS: And the thumbsuck-nipple thing at the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards in 1999?
BS: And that.
BS: And what about dropping a half-drown F-bombs at that concert when you didn't know you were still wearing a microphone?
CA: No problem, y'all. Any final comments?
BS: So how do you feel about those comments?
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CA: So you're single? Do you want to...
The advantages of hybrid cars

I imagine a world where a person could drive from Sacramento to San Diego on one tank of gas pollution was reduced significantly, and the nation's dependency on foreign oil was nonexistent. If hybrid cars' popularity increases, the world would be a reality.

Currently there are three hybrid cars available for purchase: Honda's Civic Hybrid and Insight and Toyota's Prus. There are no domestic car companies with hybrids on the market, but General Motors, Ford and Daimler-Chrysler are all working to produce a version of their own. The Prus was the first hybrid and has been sold in Japan since 1998. It gets more than 50 miles per gallon on an average tank. In 1999, the Insight became the first hybrid to be sold in the United States; it gets 65.5 miles per gallon on city streets and 70 miles per gallon on the freeway.

Although getting slightly lower gas mileage, the Civic Hybrid price would make up for the extra money shelled out during the initial purchase. Considering gas prices are currently more than $2 per gallon, saving money on this evil necessity would be a great benefit to everyone, not to mention future tax breaks.

Any of the three cars qualify for tax credits if purchased after February 25, 2004. The Prius was the first hybrid and has been sold in Japan since 1997. It gets 68 miles per gallon on the freeway.

Opinion

Is there life after ‘Sex?’

I haven't an excuse to drink champagne Sunday nights anymore. I have no reason to buy the show that made grand cocktails, great sex and great shoes seem as fundamental as oxygen is officially. Now that the last corner of the last bastion has been stomped and has been stippled and has been stomped, those Manolo Blahnik-reissued Mary Janes are tucked safely in the closet, we are left to ponder George Romney Leader's words: "We could have created a world where a person could drive from Sacramento to San Diego on one tank of gas pollution was reduced significantly and the nation's dependency on foreign oil was nonexistent. If hybrid cars' popularity increases, the world would be a reality."

Currently there are three hybrid cars available for purchase: Honda's Civic Hybrid and Insight and Toyota's Prus. There are no domestic car companies with hybrids on the market, but General Motors, Ford and Daimler-Chrysler are all working to produce a version of their own. The Prus was the first hybrid and has been sold in Japan since 1998. It gets more than 50 miles per gallon on an average tank. In 1999, the Insight became the first hybrid to be sold in the United States; it gets 65.5 miles per gallon on city streets and 70 miles per gallon on the freeway.

Although getting slightly lower gas mileage, the Civic Hybrid price would make up for the extra money shelled out during the initial purchase. Considering gas prices are currently more than $2 per gallon, saving money on this evil necessity would be a great benefit to everyone, not to mention future tax breaks.

Any of the three cars qualify for tax credits if purchased after February 25, 2004. The Prius was the first hybrid and has been sold in Japan since 1997. It gets 68 miles per gallon on the freeway.

Letters to the editor

Mistreated on Mardi Gras

Editor, I'll be the first to admit that there were way too many people for such a small area around the Football and Cal Specials locations downtown Saturday. However, the reason the area was so small was because the football game was something so big for the players who were trying to corral people. Having 100 officers in riot gear and a police helicopter shining, he was tackled to the ground from behind by an officer who then prodded me completely motionless the entire time. The force of the officer tackling him caused him to lose a shoe, which the officer then kicked into the bushes instead of handing back to him.

After the officer dumped my friend off with another "authority figure," he left without giving his badge number or name. The next officer then put his fingers around my friend's wrists so tight that he had marks and indents in them the next day. He spent the next four hours surrounded by other students and people who weren't sure why they had to be there.

He was charged with failure to disperse and faces an $800 fine for trying to get home and away from the "riots." This is one of many stories about the abuse and mistreatment of the students and other people by the police Saturday night.

I encourage anyone who was similarly mistreated to take all available measures to fight back against these injustices. For everyone else, learn your rights and know how to fight back legally. The police are scared of anyone who know how to use their legal rights, so know how to handle these situations.

Chris Deener is a mechanical engineer senior.

Prop 55 will increase debt

Editor, President Baker is advocating Prop 55 as a way to improve Cal Poly by providing funding for new buildings. The next officer then put his fingers around my friend's wrists so tight that he had marks and indents in them the next day. He spent the next four hours surrounded by other students and people who weren't sure why they had to be there.

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Chris Deener is a mechanical engineering senior.

Richard Block is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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More letters to the editor

Shout out to ‘real’ men, women

Editor,

I smiled when I read that request for the rebirth of men to open the door to be ‘real’ and be ‘courageous.’ Despite Mr. Opie’s and the like, to show the women of Cal Poly that there are a few gentlemen around in this town also is there room here for a “shout out,” to the “gentle-women” of Cal Poly.

Here’s to the real men, who don’t care if they are a two’s step, who don’t use the word “like” every other syllable, who don’t flash their privates with every move on Lisa’s lawn, who don’t haze to a picture of Bush and a campaign card, who don’t have to plaster on makeup and hair extensions in the morning, who won’t sleep with a frat boy and who don’t stare themselves to impress guys.

Here’s to the real men who aren’t afraid to open the door for a woman, who don’t have to get drunk to be happy, who know the way to a woman’s heart is not through alcohol, who don’t use their fists to call out the window of their ridiculously expensive trucks, who refuse to pay for their friends and who don’t have to smoke to make my friends think they will think... well...next to nothing.

Here’s to the people whose idea of “putting it on the line” is to stay in Descanso (Marmell’s, too, that don’t alcohol), dine at Firestone’s and a game of cards, swing-dancing with Starbucks, bowling and Barnes & Noble.

Nathaniel Johnson is a computer engineering sophomore.

Bush graffiti not the answer

Editor,

What’s up with the spray painting around campus that has a picture of Bush and a caption of “Coward Bush” or some other term President? I really want to do something to make the campus that has a picture of Bush and a campaign card, who don’t have to plaster on makeup and hair extensions in the morning, who won’t sleep with a frat boy and who don’t stare themselves to impress guys.

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Nathaniel Johnson is a computer engineering sophomore.

Problems with atheist letters

Editor,

In light of some recent atheist letters submitted to the Cal Poly Mustang Daily, I would like to bring up some problems and inconsistencies that those adhering to an atheist worldview encounter.

Real moral absolutes: Atheists believe that man is the final authority in the universe. Accordingly, any atheist is antagonistic in his moral judgments. The logical consequence is that no atheist can expect any other human to adhere to his atheistic moral judgments. For an atheist, the Holocaust could never be called a bad thing, because according to his worldview, it wasn’t. Any atheist attempt at establishing a transcendental moral guideline begs the question. Thus any argument based upon moral grounds is not permissible.

2. On induction: An atheist has no reason to believe in the existence of anything without which the inductive principle has no ground. All a posteriori knowledge is gained through the inductive principle. Without the inductive principle, the atheist cannot argue that any event that has happened in the past will happen in the future.

The atheist’s reasoning is not rational and it cannot be shown to be rational.

3. Ken Kienow is a mathematics senior.

Polyc needs sustainable dorms

Editor,

In a state where one in five architects in California are Cal Poly graduates and our buildings are regarded as one of the greenest in the nation, Cal Poly knows about success and paving the way for the future. A new trend is being set at Student Housing North, where the buildings monetarily and environmentally. Sustainability is quickly becoming the new model for schools and businesses across the nation, and rightfully so. Creating clean energy on site means monetary savings, less dependency on external factors and setting the trend for a sustainable future.

One way sustainability can be implemented is in Student Housing North. If Student Housing North is designed to incorporate more natural light instead of a dependent on electric lighting, and solar panels are used to create renewable energy use for the buildings, this is a huge step in reducing our carbon footprint and fighting climate change. Without this type of thinking, the buildings will be built using foundations that are not designed to be environmentally sustainable. If the plans for Student Housing North go through it will be built very inefficiently and students will pick up the tab. Republican or Green, student or faculty, everyone should have an investment in environmentally sustainable buildings. Let’s make Cal Poly green and help energy efficient businesses that save money while creating a sustainable and clean environment.

Blake Bolton is an industrial technology senior.

Holbus’ column misinformed

Editor,

John Holbus’ “Politics” column (Kerry’s war record doesn’t mean, polynesian election of 18) was laughable. Holbus wants everyone to tire of anything relating to Bush’s service record. At the time of the Kerry-McCain race in November. Of course, when your candidate is facing a war hero, flying ousted jets in a National Guard unit filled with sons of provincially Texas doesn’t look so hot. Also he wants us to grow weary of hearing about the decision-making process that led to the war on the front pages. Don’t worry. Bush goes out of his way to make sure we notice to look into this “intelligence failure,” but it conveniently won’t report until after the election.

The author states Bush and Kerry are in a dead heat, but the latest Gallup Poll shows Bush up 9 points ahead. Kerry has yet to tap his vast reserves of campaign cash (his recent trip to the Middle East was on the president’s dime). When does he pay, close attention to what is said. If you are expecting substance, you probably should have been there under a different president, or weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Holbus also states there is no comparison between Bush and Kerry. But Kerry has stopped at nothing to smear McCain after McCain won the New Hampshire primary in 2000, and he will stop at nothing to smear Kerry now that he is the front-runner.

The Republican strategy is readily apparent, first six sentences of the column, where Holbus uses the word “liberal” eight times. Gentlemen, start your muddling.

Craig Mertcal is a psychology graduate student.

The real origins of Mardi Gras

Editor,

As a native of New Orleans, I can tell you that Whitaker’s research has failed. The real roots of Mardi Gras is incorrect. There is nothing sor­ rowful or desolate about Mardi Gras or California. 12 points ahead. Present-day Mardi Gras evolved from early Catholic Church leaders decide­ d to create a carnival atmosphere, in order to fulfill the mise en boule and de­ liberate, non-deceiving, transcen­ dently, religiously coherent God, the Christian God.

Ken Kienow is a mathematics senior.

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Tracking disease could save lives, study says

By Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — A University of California study Monday said the state could save lives as well as millions of dollars each year by creating a first-in-the-nation system to track chronic illnesses and environmental hazards.

It costs Californians $12 billion annually to fight nine diseases like cancer, lead poisoning and childhood asthma for which economic data is available, according to the university system's California Policy Research Center.

If tracking these diseases cut environmentally related illnesses by 1 percent, the state would save $120 million annually, the study projected.

Chemicals and other toxins in the environment account for a significant proportion of many chronic diseases, including about 10 percent of neu­rodevelopmental disorders in children, researchers said.

They noted more than 33 million state residents live in areas where air pollution brings an increased health risk.

About 74,000 California children are affected by asthma, and about 1,100 children are diagnosed annually with cancer.

The study stems from a 2001 law authored by Sen. Martha Escota, D-Norwalk, making California the first state to plan an environmental health tracking system.

In a statement Monday, Escota said accurate information about who is exposed to what environmental risks is necessary to guide the state's public health and environmental policies. She envisioned a system that would monitor both the frequency and geographic distribution of illnesses and exposure to known health dangers.

Some of that information already is being collected, but the state needs a new coordinating office to analyze it and to tell the public about environ­mental hazards and related diseases, said Dr. Joyce Lashof, who chaired the university study.

The researchers recommended that California create an inter-agency Office of Environmental Health Tracking, run by the Department of Health Services and state Environmental Protection Agency.

The state also should increase the ability of state laboratories to check for contaminants in humans; increase tracking of diseases including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's that are known to have environmental con­nections; provide health education to communities experiencing, for instance, suspicious disease clusters; and keep track of disease and health risks based on race, ethnicity and income level.

The researchers said environmental hazards are disproportionately a problem for those with lower incomes and among certain races and ethnic groups.

The state also should spend more to fight environmental health threats, or it will be useless to track their effects, the researchers said.

While a health and disease track­ing system would be beneficial, the researchers cautioned it would take a commitment from both the Legislature and executive branch of state government, as well as from communities, universities and companies.

Eye disease could be checked earlier

By Lauran Neergaard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Millions of middle-aged and older Americans unknowingly harbor one of three eye diseases that could blind them — diseases that could be detected in time to save at least some sight if they get regular eye exams.

Glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy all sneak up on their victims, destroying vital eye cells before the person is aware there's anything wrong.

Risk increases with age. Indeed, the government predicts the number of people left blind or seriously visually impaired is likely to double in 10 years as the baby boom generation ages.

The elderly are most at risk of these diseases, but people in their 40s can get them, too.

Vision specialists say far too few people get regular comprehensive eye exams — not where you read the "E" on an eye chart, but where your eyes are dilated to the optimum to get an ophthal­mologist can spot any disease.

Now, the government has issued the eye charts Prevent Blindness America a five-year grant to help fight age-related eye disease by funding free screenings for older people around the country. For locations, check http://www.prevent blindness.org.

And a coalition of eye doctors and genetic advocates has begun a campaign to teach people about who's at risk.

Eye exams aside, among the advice: Protect your eyes from sun, don't smoke, which damages eyes, too, and eat lots of vitamin-packed dark, leafy vegetables. These steps may help prevent these diseases from ever forming, says Northwestern University ophthal­mologist Dr. Susan Taub, who chairs the Better Vision Institute.

There are no national figures on how many people over 40 follow guidelines to get a comprehensive eye exam every year or two. Diabetes and others considered at high risk, such as those with affected relatives, are urged to get annual exams. Such exams cost about $125, and insurance seldom pays for middle-aged healthy people.

Some sobering statistics suggest skipping those exams costs vision. Glaucoma, for instance, affects more than 2.2 million Americans, half of whom are unaware they have it, according to the government. Up to a fifth of the nation's 11 million type 2 diabetics already show signs of sight-threatening retinopathy at the time their diabetes is diagnosed, and officials from the American Diabetes Association.

And while 1.7 million Americans have low vision or advanced-stage macular degenera­tion, another 7.1 million are at very high risk because the disease has reached intermediate stages without symptoms, said representa­tives from the National Eye Institute.

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WGC event adds new twist to golf

By Doug Ferguson

In the 16 months since John Rollins won the Canadian Open, he has never played with Tiger Woods in any round of a golf tournament. That will change Wednesday in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

Rollins got into the $7 million World Golf Championship only when three players withdrew. As the last man in the 64-player field, he gets to play Woods, the defending champion, in the first round. "I just want to play well and at least give him a good match," Rollins said, already sounding like his week at La Costa won't last long.

Then again, all bets are off this week.

No other format in golf is more fickle than the Accenture Match Play Championship. Woods is the defending champion, and the only top-10 seed to win the Accenture Match Play since 1991 was No. 10 seed Matt Kuchar in the round of 16.

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"Getting through the first round is the hardest thing," Nick Price said. "We've seen great players get knocked out in the first round.

Woods was one of them two years ago, losing to 64th-seeded Peter O'Malley of Australia. Rollins figures to be the most wide-eyed.

He hasn't played well this year, missing his last three cuts. The last time he played this format was the 1997 U.S. Amateur at Cog Hill, where he lost to eventual winner Matt Kuchar in the round of 16.

And while his victory in the Canadian Open put him in the pool of PGA Tour winners for whom first-round pairings are made at regular events, he has never played with Woods.

"I'd have to guess this match will be on TV," said Rollins, who has never had a lot of television exposure. "You've got to get an opportunity sometime. It's better in a head-to-head match than in stroke play.

Therein lies the beauty of the week.

There are no sure bets. Someone could shoot 65, a round marred enough to win any other match at La Costa, and go home if the guy he's playing shots 64.

That's why dozens of players on the range weren't sure whom they were playing, nor did they care. "You've got to get your game and make a lot of birdies," said British Open champion Ben Curtis, who plays Charles Howell III. "Match play at this level - there are no secrets. You can't outthink or out-strategize your opponent. You've just got to play better than him.

The field is missing two players ranked in the top 10. Ernie Els withdrew last week because he wanted to spend time with his family in London before his 4-year-old daughter goes to school for the first time. U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk has injured left wrist.

The other player to withdraw was Kirk Triplett, who's going to be best friend's wedding in Hawaii.

The joys of arbitration: Gagne to earn $5 million

Larry Lee has the Mustangs to a No. 31 ranking this season.

Larry Lee has the Mustangs to a No. 31 ranking this season. By Tarrah Graves

A pair of former Mustangs were playing in the Big West Tournament.

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The other player to withdraw was Kirk Triplett, who's going to be best friend's wedding in Hawaii.

The joys of arbitration: Gagne to earn $5 million

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Fresh off his loss in salary arbitration, NL Cy Young Award winner Eric Gagne started workouts with the Los Angeles Dodgers camp.

Gagne will make $5 million this season after agreeing to a 2-year pact with the Dodgers. The deal leaves all 35 of his save opportunities last season. He had asked for $8 million.

"Arbitration’s never fun," Gagne said. "I've never heard anybody say, 'I had a fun loss at an arbitration hearing.' Nobody likes going to arbitration, but it's over with. We just have to go on and think about winning games."

Dodgers manager Jim Tracy spoke on the phone with Gagne last week and acknowledged the closer was upset about the loss.

Last year, the Dodgers renewed Gagne's contract for $550,000. Gagne responded with one of the best seasons in a closer in major league history. Gagne didn't have a problem for getting out of field conditions once he stepped on the mound.

"That's when they're everybody's teammates here," said Rollins. "It's about the team. It's not about me. What's done is done. It's just a matter of going out and doing my job. When the guys have played hard for eight innings, I'm not going to just go out there and be stupid. I'm just going to go out and do what I've been doing for two years."

Gagne began this year with a streak of 63 consecutive saves dating to August 2002. His 904 career save percentage ranks first in major league history.

"It's safe to say with some of the shortcomings we had a year ago, our second-place finish was largely due to the fact that when we had a one-run lead, it never got blown," Tracy said.

Gagne wasn't the only Dodger who arrived Monday wanting to put the past behind.

Shawn Green, moving from right field to first base, backtracked on comments he made last month regarding the team's inability to make major offseason improvements.

BUCS jockeying begins

Missing Monday's report

Eight teams are fighting for six tournament spots with just two weeks left in the Big West men's basketball regular season. Idaho, UC Santa Barbara and Cal State Northridge are closing in on clinching berths while a three-way legman for sixth place exists between UC Irvine, Cal State Fullerton and UC Riverside.

Long Beach State is running a six-game losing streak while UCI has dropped eight of its last nine.

Idaho has continued its torrid pace recently, winning seven of its last eight games.

Long Beach State enters the week needing at least one win to keep their tournament hopes alive.

UC Santa Barbara is looking to remain in the top four in the standings while the other three teams are in tight battles for tournament spots.

Larry Lee has the Mustangs to a No. 31 ranking this season.