Poly student runs for mayor

Candidate stresses college-community relations, affordable housing

Daniel Ely
MUSTANG DAILY

If you want to talk to mayoral candidate Matt Mackey about his cam­aign, you are going to have to wait until he gets out of class. Mackey is not only running for mayor of San Luis Obispo, he is a political science junior at Cal Poly.

Mackey, 20, has no formal political experi­ence, however he has worked on several news­papers, and placed ninth in the state at a Future Business Leaders of America economics com­petition, when he was a senior in high school. Since coming to Cal Poly, Mackey has joined Sigma Nu fraternity and Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor fraternity.

Mackey developed the idea to run for mayor two years ago as a fresh­man, but because he was living in the residence halls, he was in an unincor­porated part of the county, so he was ineligible. He decided to run after last year’s tumultuous last Mardi Gras. He realized that the City Council had a problem connecting with and under­standing students. Mackey believes that in an area like San Luis Obispo, where a college makes up a large percentage of the population, the city council needs to be able to confidently work with stu­dents. "The median age in San Luis Obispo County is 27," Mackey said, "but there is nobody under 50 on the city council."

Mackey says that his primary focus is affordable housing in San Luis Obispo, an issue of great importance to most Cal Poly students. He says that despite his attempt to reach stu­dent voters, other parts of the commu­nity will not be for­gotten.

"My campaign is not exclusively stu­dents oriented," Mackey said, explain­ing that though he wants to include stu­dents in the city gov­ernment process more, he is reaching out to other segments of the community as well.

Mackey has partic­ipated in candidate forums throughout San Luis Obispo, which reach primarily non-student audiences, including one at the senior center. He also included issues in his campaign which students see Mackey, page 2

Conflicting views on absentee ballots

College students find option necessary; for some they are an inconvenience

Erica Drummond
MUSTANG DAILY

The absentee ballot is many things: a necessity, a blessing, even a controversy. Whatever the case may be, some Cal Poly students who think vot­ing is such a hassle that it is not worth the trouble. With the presidential election fast approaching, many students are weighing their voting options, but they may be over­looking the option of mailing in ballots from home.

Across campus, however, some think the absentee ballot is an intricate part of the democratic process. "You never know when you might need to vote absentee," Rebecca Brown, a landscape architecture junior said. "It's really helpful if you know you're going to have a schedul­ing conflict or be out of town, or if you just want to remain registered in your hometown and send it there."

Brown, a registered voter for nor­mal ballots here in San Luis Obispo, wishes she could have voted absentee last year when family and work con­flicts forced her to miss the geb­ernal election.

"It really doesn't take much to reg­ister a voter, sympathized with students who are too lazy to go to the polls. "Some people think their time is too valuable," Lake said. "They just don't want to drive to the polls and wait in the long lines."

Some students who may find absentee voting helpful are those who are majoring, planning to study abroad, or have heavy work and class schedules. It is even possible to register as a permanent absentee voter, as history professor Lewis Call has done.

"There are several advantages to voting ab­sence," Call said. "It's such a comfort to just relax in your home and read over the material at your own pace instead of waiting in line and trying to remember everything you wanted to vote for down at the polls."

Sometimes even the location of a see Ballots, page 2

LOCAL POLITICS

SLO residents have many choices on the horizon

Candidates for Mayor

Dave Romero has been Mayor of San Luis Obispo for two years and a member of the San Luis Obispo City Council for 8 years. He is a public works director for San Luis Obispo and a lecturer at Cal Poly.

His priorities include creating work force housing opportuni­ties, support sustainable growth and making the city council more responsive, reliable, and responsible planning, and protecting the character of the city, the neighbor­hoods and the quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

Other Local Office Candidates

Councilmembers, City of San Luis Obispo
• Phillip P. Hannfin
• Orel Osborne
• Paul Brown
• Andrew Carter
• Christine Mulholland
• Lauren Lage
• Shane Kramer

United States Senator
• Martha Flahland, Peace and Freedom
• Bill Jones, Republican
• James P. "Jim" Gray, Libertarian
• Barbara Boxer, Democratic

• Don J. Grundmann, American Independent
• Bill Thomas, Republican
• District 22
• Don Regan, Republican
• District 23
• Bill Jones, Republican
• Lois Capps, Democratic
• District 23
• Michael Favorite, Libertarian
• District 23
• Peg Pinard, Democratic
• District 23
• Rock Madsen, Green
• District 23
• Abal Maldonado, Republican

Member of the State Assembly,
District 33
• Tom Hughes, Green
• District 33
• Sam Blakeslee, Republican
• Dave Romero
• Gary L. Kirkland, Libertarian
• District 33
• Steve Jenkins, Democratic
• District 33

Supervisor, County of San Luis Obispo, District 3
• Patricia Andren
• District 33
• Jerry Lenthull

Ballot Measures

• Measure L-04. Save our public libraries transaction and use tax ordinance-San Luis Obispo County
• Measure M-04. Sanitary and fire district reorganization-Proposed Cayucos Community Services District
• Measure N-04. Appropriations limit-Proposed Cayucos Community Services District
• Measure O-04. Save our public libraries transaction and use tax ordinance-San Luis Obispo County

This measure would increase the county-wide sales tax by one-quar­ter percent to provide funds to San Luis Obispo County Libraries and the Paso Robles Public Library for maintenance and repair, book and material restoration, increased hours and children’s programs.

This measure would condense the County Service Area #10, the Cayucos Sanitary District and the Cayucos Fire Protection District into a single Cayucos Community Services District. This district would have control over fire protec­tion, sanitation, water treatment and distribution and street lighting. The new area would include 649 acres located in Northern Coastal San Luis Obispo County, between the Morro Bay and the unincor­porated community of Cambria.

This measure is approved it will allow the new district to spend see Politics, page 2

WEATHER REPORT

Surface Forecast
Height 4 feet
Direction WNW
Sunrise 6:55 a.m.
Sunset 6:51 p.m.

Surf Forecast
Today
Mostly sunny
71°

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
71°
Mackey continued from page 2
might not agree with, like his support of smart-growth development in the county, or his opposition of a proposed shopping center, which will appear on the ballot in November. Mackey remains confident however that most of his support will come from campus. "I will probably win or lose this election based on whether or not students vote," Mackey said.

A major focus of his campaign is voter education and registration, since many students are not registered to vote. Even if he does not win the election in November, Mackey says that he hopes the city council will still try to learn to include Cal Poly in their decisions. He says he would like to see the Student Community Liaison Committee, Cal Poly's official voice on the city council, receive more publicity and more decision making power.

Mackey would like students to be given the chance to police themselves at events like Mardi Gras. Mackey said the city is preparing for riot conditions instead of working with students to find alternatives, something he refers to as "a self-fulfilling prophecy." If he is victorious in November, Mackey says that he would be able to balance the job with his schoolwork. He says that the job of mayor is not very time-intensive. Other than attending bi-monthly city council meetings, most of the mayor's responsibilities is to stay educated about the issues in town. A job Mackey believes would best be handled by a student.

Additionally, after the last presidential election, when overseas absentee ballots held up the final results, some people may have lost trust in the voting process. Despite this skepticism, there is traditionally a higher voter turnout with absentee ballots as opposed to normal votes, said Pam Weaver of the San Luis Obispo Clerk Recorder's Office.

"The nice thing about absentee ballots is you don't have to worry about the election day landing around midterms or big projects," Weaver said.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 18, the last day to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 26.

Politics
continued from page 2
polling place can be problematic. "Some people have a hard time just finding their polling place," Call said. "Also, the last time I voted at the polls, it was in a church, which seemed odd to me since we're trying to separate church and state."

Call said absentee voting can have some downsides. "A lot of people may have concerns that their vote isn't counting when they vote absentee," he said. "It's reassuring to see your tangible ballot going in the box when you're at the polls."

Ballots
continued from page 2
the money they receive from the proceeds of taxes, and set the limit at an established amount, not to exceed the combined 2003-04 limits for the replaced three districts.

- Measure Q-04. Prohibit growing genetically engineered organisms-San Luis Obispo County. An estimated $200,000 per year initially is estimated to monitor producers and search for violations. Some say this measure will benefit local farmers by making the products easier to sell, while others say that it will prevent the use of new technologies, which will cost jobs and make local agricultural commodities less competitive in the marketplace. The projected cost of this measure is unknown.

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Tuesday: Laugh Olympics
Wednesday: Blood Drive
Thursday: UU Spirit Hour
Friday: Powder Puff Football
Saturday: Parade & Football Game vs. Texas State
U.S. citizen held by authorities nearly three years to be freed

Sonja Barisic  
A P O D E C T O R  FC

NORFOLK, Va. — A U.S. citizen captured in Afghanistan and held without charges since late 2001 as an enemy combatant, is scheduled to be released Tuesday and flown to Saudi Arabia, where he grew up, his lawyer said.

Yaser Esam Hamdi, whose case led to a Supreme Court decision limiting the president’s powers to indefinitely hold wartime combatants, will not be charged with any crime under an agreement with federal officials made public Monday.

The agreement requires Hamdi to give up his American citizenship, renounce terrorism and not sue the U.S. government over his captivity. Justice Department officials declined to comment beyond the agreement.

“I believe he’s just hours away from being put on a plane and being sent home,” his attorney, Frank Dunham Jr. said. “The ball goes through the hoop when the ball goes through the hoop.”

Dunham said Hamdi had been scheduled to leave Sunday on a military plane but the flight was canceled in part because of Hurricane Isabel. Justice Department officials said they did not have immediate information on when Hamdi would be released, but Dunham said the flight was rescheduled for Tuesday.

Hamdi, who was born in Louisiana in 1980, to Saudi parents, was captured on a battlefield in Afghanistan in late 2001, during the fight against the Taliban regime. He contends he never fought against the United States and that he had been trying to get out of Afghanistan when he was captured.

Under the four-page agreement filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Hamdi agreed to notify Saudi officials if he becomes aware of “any planned or executed acts of terrorism.”

The Justice Department agreed not to ask the Saudi government to detain Hamdi any further. For 15 years, he must alert the U.S. embassy before traveling outside Saudi Arabia.

Tuesday, September 28, 2004 3
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Humpback whales stake out Morro Bay

Tawny Grace  
MUSTANG DAILY

Morro Bay fishermen are at the docks and waiting as people eagerly anticipate a chance to see Humpback whales.

Humpback whales are the latest attraction in Morro Bay and Cayucos. A red tide, which is a bloom of phytoplankton that makes the ocean appear red, may be the cause of the large number of whales.

Sharon Rowley, has been a captain of the Harbor Pathfinder fishing boat in Morro Bay for more than fifteen years. She said she mainly sees humpback whales in the summer and fall, but they do not come every year. She said there are about 20 humpback whales in Morro Bay and Cayucos right now, near the jetty.

"If you're lucky, you'll get to see one jump out of the water," Rowley said. "I never get tired of looking at them."

The increase in phytoplankton attracts more fish and other sea life in the food chain. Whales are filter feeders, which means they feed on plankton as well as fish. So these blooms attract exactly what whales eat.

Red tides can be caused naturally—by trash into the ocean, by phosphates running into the ocean after large rains or by upwellings from the ocean floor.

Humpback whales are most easily identified by their long pectoral fins. They are active mammals that breach or jump out of the water, smack the water and sing.

Humpback whales are migratory and do not have any place to call home. Thus, their migratory patterns are unpredictable and their stay in Morro Bay even more unusual.

ondheim's Sport Fishing & Whale Watching in Morro Bay are currently offering trips to see the whales, which have been spotted in recently.

Fishermen from Virg's Sport Fishing & Whale Watching in Morro Bay take 15 to 25 people out on their 1,800 horse-power fishing boat called The Admiral to whale watch. For $22, captains motor two to three miles away from shore and watch for fins, whales blowing water into the air and "footprints." Footprints are large areas of smooth water showing viewers where a whale just dove under water in that spot.

"I thought it was fantastic," said junior mechanical engineering Circen Roskos said after his whale watching date with junior architectural student Shawna Olsen.

"The best part was chasing down the whales," he said. "We would chase them, then they would go down. Then we would chase them, then they would go down. There's not a whole lot you can do to control Mother Nature."

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COMMENTARY

Budgeting well makes for a more stable financial future

Kevin Robertson
November 14, 2004

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Every young adult makes financial decisions concerning goods and services that affect their standard of living. Whether they’re accessorizing posh living quarters with Target’s home collection or customizing cars with high-tech gadgets, too often retirement planning and budgeting take a backseat to the instant gratification of shopping in young peoples’ lives. Even though budget sounds like a dirty word, developing personal budgeting skills can provide the organizational aptitude necessary for starting a long-term retirement plan. The more earned income that is invested today, the greater the shopping experience will be tomorrow.

Ninety-five out of 100 potential retirees in the baby boom generation are economically unprepared to even fathom not working. Since the population is living longer, generation X and Y can expect to spend more time in retirement than baby boomers and veterans.

Establishing steady retirement income is quite possible when financial goals are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound).

Although young adults are typically in the low-wage-earning category, investing early on maximums interest aggressively investing small amounts of cash can yield ample rewards for the smart, young investor. Case in point: if one were to make an initial deposit of $195.34 on Oct. 1, 2004 into an investment vehicle that generated 10% daily and invested $44.95 weekly, they would accumulate $150,000 in 20 years. If one were to make an initial deposit of $1,000 into an investment vehicle that generated 1% percent daily and invested $787.75 weekly, they would accumulate $500,000 in 10 years.

Joshua Kemmon recommends developing knowledge of how investing a few dollars periodically is more beneficial than not investing altogether: "The biggest mistake most people make is they think they have to start with an entire Napoleon-like army. They suffer from (thinking) if they aren’t making $1,000 or $5,000 investments at a time, they will never become rich. What these people don’t realize is that entire armies are built one solder at a time; so too is their financial arsenal."

Initiating the first step is rather difficult, especially while enrolled in school. Nevertheless, understanding how your money is spent engenders sound money management practices rather than wasteful spending. Creating a comprehensive budget will allow you to accomplish your financial goals and should include total monthly expenses, such as personal care and food; frequent spending habits, such as dining out and entertainment; and the exact spending amount you can afford. Total monthly expenses and frequent spending habits should be individual categories.

Next you should determine in which categories to spend less. The overall purpose of budgeting is to make a conscientious decision regarding "what is most important to you and what you can live without.”

The overall purpose of budgeting is to make a conscientious decision regarding “what is most important to you and what you can live without,” says Gianna Walt, CPA and CFP. Following a preliminary budget should balance your monthly financial plan and monthly income. By doing so, selective spending will become more frequent while saving automatically will become less foreign.

To seize control of your financial future, here are 10 innovative ways to start saving more now:

• Spend less on automobile insurance. The Web site www.loweryourbills.com provides an automobile insurance wizard that researches agencies offering significantly lower rates. My insurance reduced his rate from $340 to $70 per month.
• Ride public transportation or car pool. You will save on gas and repairs. If you work in downtown Ann Arbor or at the University of Michigan you are eligible to travel the AATA bus system free of charge.
• Cut entertainment costs. Rent new videos, music, and novels from your public library. The Ann Arbor District Library has more than 1,000 DVDs and scores of the latest music from artists like the Black Eyed Peas, Wilco, Slum Village, PJ Harvey and Modest Mouse in its collection.
• Let your personal manta be eBay. Some eBay sellers fulfill your dreams with ads for new and used items via the popular Web site. All you need is a niche, a digital camera and an informative product description.
• Do your homework. The more you study and frequent the library, the less time you have to spend money.
• Simplify your look. Buying the little blue Coach make-up bag and backpack, blue and white converse shoes, matching earrings and navel piercing specifically to wear with your blue velour Sean John outfit is a tad extreme.
• Avoid eating vending machine snacks and fast food. Instead prepare your lunch in advance. In addition to spending less money you will also consume less trans fatty acids, which can lead to certain cancers and diseases.
• Give up or limit costly habits like smoking ciga-
rettes, drinking liquor, buying gym memberships on a regular basis.
• Continue paying bills. If you are about to pay off a bill, continue that process even after it is paid off. Since you are already in the habit of paying off your credit card, personal—your title—pay by using a high-yielding investment.
• Pay off high-interest credit cards now. Credit card companies earn billions of dollars from members carrying high balances and late fees.

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ATTENTION ALL ENGLISH MAJORS! The English Club's first General Meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in room 219. Meet fellow English majors and find out about this year's events and activities. Everyone's welcome! Refreshments provided!

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Cross Country reflects on weekend success

Graham Womack

MUSTANG DAILY

Maybe it wasn't NCAA Championships. Perhaps every member of the Cal Poly men's cross country team wasn't quite up to healthy competition.

And maybe, in the opinion of Mustang coach Mark Conover, not everybody has the same level of urgency.

Regardless, the No. 10 Mustang upset the No. 2 Cardinal on Saturday, relying on a deep roster to win the cross country race. Stanford had the top two finishers in the 8000-meter race, the Mustangs seven scoring members in the top 14 in the race and within 26 seconds of one another.

Cal Poly knocked off the notorious Cardinal squad that easily beat the Mustangs last year in the dual meet. Stanford won the Pac-10 championship and then in NCAA Championships. Stanford came in ranked only behind Wisconsin nationally.

"We were just hoping to get as close to Stanford as we could," said top Mustang finisher Blake Swier, who was ranked in his best mark of the season thus far in 23:59. We would've been happy with second... They were pretty tight, one last year, they're two this year but they're still good. We figured we can run with these guys, we got out there and ran with them."

The Cardinal also had a different approach to the race. A number of top runners took the day off. Cal Poly stressed on the relaxed strategy for Stanford's course and the deep field. Five of the top seven Mustang runners shaved at least a minute off their times from the Freedom Invitational Sept. 11. In fact, there was only 40 seconds separating Swier and the Mustangs nine other teams.

"The order of how we're going to finish could change week by week so just being on top of it is a great feeling, but it's also a great feeling knowing that I have all these guys who could beat me at any time," Swier said.

Stanford's second and third finishers on the day, seniors Brandon Collins and Ryan Moorcroft, also ran for the first time this season recording times of 24:20 and 24:21, respectively. Both have battled injuries and still aren't 100 percent, Conover said. They took eighth and ninth overall.

"Where (Cal Poly) is at now compared to three weeks ago, mentally and physically they're just more fit," Conover said. "They're getting more confidence. They can tell what they're trying to achieve so that helps them in a great way.

The Mustangs received 242 points in the Meedo Division I Cross Country poll last Tuesday, to be ranked tenth, behind top-ranked Wisconsin with 414 points. Stanford had 403 points. Having now won in its first three races of the season Cal Poly could be looking to rise in the rankings, to be revised today.

"It's quite an accomplishment but of course we want to do better. We'll see what happens," Swier said. "We're going to keep striving for it. Maybe we'll crack the top eight, top five."

As for Stanford, fans shouldn't expect a repeat of the Cardinal performance Saturday down the road. "It'll be hard," Conover said. "Coach Garard up there, he held out some of his people... that's going to be a team that's going to have a totally different lineup when things really matter."