Three candidates for mayor and seven City Council candidates gathered in Chumash Auditorium to explain their game plan if elected.

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

Students and members of the community gathered in Chumash Auditorium Tuesday night for a forum featuring local candidates in next week's elections. Candidates focused on issues facing the community including building more affordable housing and attracting high paying businesses so young families and students can afford to live in San Luis Obispo and keeping Mardi Gras.

MAYOR Dave Romero, mayoral candidates David Booker and Matt Mackey, and city council candidates Lauren Lapic, Oriel Osborne, Paul Brown, Andrew Carter, Shane Kramer, Phil Hansellin and Christine Metherland each proposed their solutions to these and other issues in hopes of informing students of their stance.

The poorly attended event, sponsored by Associated Students Inc. and moderated by The League of Women Voters, was an outlet for information about candidates in the upcoming election, rather than a rally to encourage people to vote.

"In a year where students are registered in record numbers, one thing that is left behind is the local elections that affect our day to day lives," ASI president Blake Bolton said.

Each candidate introduced themselves and described the issue they find most important to the community. Suggestions proposed to solve the lack of affordable housing included Lapic's idea to create mixed-use village developments with housing above businesses, and Carter's plan to build more dorms as more on-campus housing for students.

Questions asked by the sparse audience addressed the need for higher paying jobs in San Luis Obispo so residents will be able to afford to live in the city. Candidates agreed that bringing high-tech-industry jobs that will pay more than local businesses.

MATT WECHELTER MUSTANG DAILY

City Council candidate Paul Brown, talking with recreation administration senior Shannon Shutts after Tuesday's forum.

Ci-Ty Council candidate Paul Brown, talking with recreation administration senior Shannon Shutts after Tuesday's forum.

Students discuss presidential politics over soup

Ji JAM MUSTANG DAILY

The portions were liberal in yesterday's Soup and Substance Campus Dialogues.

During a downpour of rain, a few students managed to gather at 12:30 p. m. in the east wing of Chumash Auditorium to discuss presidential candidates and eat soup.

Though the small group expressed liberal viewpoints primarily, no opinion held more weight than any other even if it went against the tiny majority.

Associated Students Inc. vice president Tyler Middlestadt, who leads the once-a-month meetings, had a chance to share his personal views on who should be elected the next president of the United States.

"A president's responsibility is to find a compromising plan that benefits both sides of the fence," Middlestadt said. "Bush is the one candidate who fundamentally goes against everything I believe in. He's not promoting democracy."

The atmosphere was relaxed though arguments periodically got heated over topics like the mistakes of the current administration, Kerry's flip-flop and party line issues that might tip the scales in voter's minds.

"My voice is rising," history major Katrina dels Cruz said, stopping herself after an emphatic outburst over a woman's right to choose.

"They're using one issue to cover up other issues," she said. "Someone is trying to make your pain into an issue."

The students were generally informed and facts were laid out as students made their respective points. Chemistry sophomore Dan Rivoire brought up Proposition 47, a bond measure to help public schools. Rivoire found it hard to believe that the state of California, which leads the...
Soup
continued from page 1
country in technology, would short-change its schools.
"We are in a democratic society that should pay for people who don't have
what we ask," he said.
Others discussed their genuine dis­
appointment after having witnessed the
events of the past four years.
"The Republican Party I believe in
is nowhere to be seen in this year of
Y2K plus four," mechanical engineer­
ing sophomore Andrew Crockett said.
Crockett explained why he thought
Kerry was the better choice:
"That is Kerry's strongest point: when a mistake has been made he will
correct it and not how to arrogate 'stay­
the-course' type mentality."

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SANTA ANA — A state appeals court failed three judges in Orange County for their roles in a case in which a woman with AIDS who did not show up to testify against her boyfriend was jailed for more than a month and denied a court-appointed attorney.

The 4th Appellate District said the woman may have been unfamiliar with the judicial system and should have been provided an attorney to challenge the decision to jail her on a bench warrant issued in December 2002 for failing to appear as a witness in a three-strike case.

SACRAMENTO — After years of waging its political war, almost exclusively on the local level, Wal-Mart is spending aggressively this election in support of favored statewide candidates and ballot measures — including donations to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state Republican Party.

The world's largest corporation, which once had a tradition of trying to stay out of politics, has given more than $2.4 million to California races so far this year — well beyond any previous sum the company has spent here in one year.

Wal-Mart announced Tuesday it will donate $500,000 to the opponents of Proposition 72, a measure that will require employers to provide basic health insurance to workers.

SAN FRANCISCO — Facing a deadline and an aluminum from San Francisco's mayor, the operators of 14 hotels at the center of a protracted labor dispute refused Tuesday to end their four-week lockout of unionized employees while contract negotiations proceed.

—Associated Press

STATE NEWS

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed a landmark California water bill, committing $395 million toward restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that feeds the nation's most productive farm land and provides drinking water to 22 million Californians.

The bill authorizes the California Federal Bay-Delta Program, earmarking funding for studying new storage projects, reconstructing levees, restoring ecosystems and other needs.

Bush's signature on the bill late Monday came after six years of debate and negotiations.

Baltimore — The only Civil War-era vessel still afloat left its mooring Tuesday for a leisurely cruise to the Naval Academy — its first trip to Annapolis in 111 years.

The venerable USS Constellation can no longer make the 30-mile trip on her own power, so the scope of war was being pushed to the academy by tugboats. The visit is part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Constellation, launched in 1854.

—Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Walt Disney World's largest union, upset over stalled contract negotiations, took its arguments directly to tourists Tuesday, handing out leaflets at Orlando International Airport.

The Service Trades Council Union, representing 22,000 of the theme park's 53,000 employees, has given Wal-Mart its signature on the bill late

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—Associated Press

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

TAIPEI, Taiwan — They've fought with fists. They've thrown paper at each other. And on Tuesday, Taiwan's rowdy lawmakers had an old-fashioned food fight.

Legislators began chucking white cardboard takeout lunch boxes full of rice, meat, hard-boiled eggs and vegetables at each other during a heated debate over whether Taiwan should spend billions on weapons sold by the United States.

It was difficult to figure out who started the battle. Local TV showed the legislators yelling at each other as they sat at long tables in a committee room during a lunch meeting.

Opposition lawmaker Chu Fong-chi stood up and began shouting at ruling party lawmakers when she appeared to duck to avoid being hit by an object. She picked up a lunch box and flung it across the room at the academy by tugboats. The visit is part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Constellation, launched in 1854.

—Associated Press

—Associated Press

—Associated Press

INTI KHALIFANI, N L A X T

CAIRO, Egypt — A militant Islamic Web site on Tuesday showed a video it claimed was a Japanese captive kidnapped by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group and that killed about 50 soldiers heading home after graduation from a U.S.-run training course, and warned of an escalation of terrorist attacks. Insurgents made a new cruise to the Naval Academy — its first trip to Annapolis in 111 years.

BALTIMORE — The only Civil War-era vessel still afloat left its mooring Tuesday for a leisurely cruise to the Naval Academy — its first trip to Annapolis in 111 years. The venerable USS Constellation can no longer make the 30-mile trip on her own power, so the scope of war was being pushed to the academy by tugboats. The visit is part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Constellation, launched in 1854.

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—Associated Press

—Associated Press

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

—Associated Press
Study says wealth gap widened for blacks, Hispanics

Genaro C. Armas
ASSOCIATE PRESS
WASHINGTON — The wealth gap between white families and blacks and Hispanics grew larger after the most recent recession, a private analysis of government data finds.

White households had a median net worth of greater than $88,000 in 2002, 11 times more than Hispanics and more than 14 times that of blacks, the Pew Hispanic Center said recently.

Genaro C. Armas, assistant professor at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think tank that focuses on black issues, said: "The fact that black and Hispanic wealth is a fraction of white wealth also reflects a history of discrimination." According to the group's analysis of Census Bureau data, nearly 33 percent of black families and 26 percent of Hispanic families were in debt or had no net assets, compared with 11 percent of white families.

"Wealth is a measure of cumulative advantage or disadvantage," said Roderick Harrison, a researcher at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think tank that focuses on black issues. "The fact that black and Hispanic wealth is a fraction of white wealth also reflects a history of discrimination," he said.

After accounting for inflation, net worth for white households increased 17 percent between 1996 and 2002 and rose for Hispanic homes by 14 percent to about $7,900. It decreased for blacks by 16 percent, to roughly $6,000.

Regardless of race and ethnicity, the median net worth for all U.S. households was $59,760 in 2002, a 12 percent gain from 1996. Only white homes recouped all their losses between 2001 and 2002. Both Hispanics and blacks lost nearly 27 percent of net worth between 1999 and 2001; the next year Latinos had gained almost all back (26 percent) though blacks were up only about 5 percent.

Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, said the accumulation of wealth allows income families to rise into the middle class and "have some kind of assets beyond next week's paycheck." "Having more assets enabled whites to ride out the jobless recovery better," he said.

Harrison says Hispanics were more insulated from the downturn than blacks, so they took less of a hit. For example, Hispanics made employment gains in lower-paid, lower-skilled areas. Blacks were hit hard by job losses in the manufacturing industry and in professional fields, where they were victims of "last hired, first fired" policies, he said. Only relatively recently were large numbers of blacks and Hispanics able to make investments and accumulate wealth. They were slower to enter the stock market during the 1990s rush.

Another factor affecting disparities is that whites are far more likely to own their homes; homeowner-ship is among the most common ways to build wealth.

Source figures released in August showed the national median household income remained basically flat between 2002 and 2003 at $43,318. Median incomes for whites ($47,800) and blacks ($29,600) also were stagnant, while the median income for Hispanics fell about 2 percent to $33,000.

Wide gap in net worth among races

Since 1996, the net worth of white households has increased while that of black households has decreased, according to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center. White households still have 14 times greater net worth than blacks and Hispanics.

Median net worth of households by race and ethnicity (in 2003 dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$75,482</td>
<td>$65,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>$7,136</td>
<td>$7,482</td>
<td>$6,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>$47,800</td>
<td>$43,482</td>
<td>$39,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All households</td>
<td>$88,651</td>
<td>$85,482</td>
<td>$78,482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Net worth is total asset ownership, including property, net worth, savings accounts, stock, and the value of homes and cars. SOURCE: Pew Hispanic Center

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Tiger Army —
They're grrrreat!

American psychobilly? No, that's not a horror movie — it's a hand-clapping, guitar-slamming musical subculture that's creeping to the forefront. The burgeoning movement fuses elements of punk, rockabilly and even country music for a sound that's dark and melodic, upbeat and pulsing and no longer resides in the underground crypts of the popular music scene. It's an uprising all right — and luckily, it's led by an Army.

Tiger Army, led by singer/songwriter Nick 13, is arguably the most prominent band in the psychobilly stable. The trio, on Hellcat Records, is now spreading their emotional, tattooed gospel with a major U.S. tour to support their latest album, Tiger Army III: Ghost Tigers Rise. One morning, after the band's Pittsburgh show, Nick 13 had this to say:

MD: It was and it wasn't. For me, it was made a little bit easier by the fact that there's really nothing else that comes close in terms of the things I love and the things that are important to me. I think there are people who have musical talent who will never achieve anything because they're too concerned with their own security and having certain comforts. Really, you're just closing your eyes and jumping if you choose music as a way of life.

MD: So was it a difficult decision to pursue music full-time?

N13: Well, definitely the main thing is perseverance. Playing music is not always an easy thing, but I think you really have to follow your own muse, and you're doing it with their eye on some kind of success. I think you're just closing your eyes and jumping if you choose music as a way of life.

MD: Do you have any advice for young bands who are trying to start out and do what Tiger Army's doing?

N13: Well, definitely the main thing is perseverance. Playing music is not always an easy thing, but I think you really have to follow your own muse, and doing it with their eye on some kind of success. I think you're just closing your eyes and jumping if you choose music as a way of life.

MD: What's been your most rock-star moment ever?

N13: Not really. I was a kid in the Eighties, and that whole "rock 'n' roll" thing struck me as tired. It definitely doesn't seem any less tired now. Rock between 1970 and 1975, with the exception of the New York Dolls, is just garbage.

MD: Well, I'm gonna sound like a geek, but I have to gush and tell you that in my high school garage band, we covered "Power of Love" (from 1970's release of same name). N13: Wow, that's cool. I've heard of a few people doing Tiger Army covers, but I've never actually heard one live or recorded, ever. It'd interest me to hear.

MD: OK, very last question: what are you going to be for Halloween?

N13: Oh, wow, I don't know. I'm into Halloween but not the modern party aspect, more the pagan aspects and kids part of it. I might just be at home watching a movie.

MD: Would you ever consider dressing up like a tiger?

N13: (laughs) Uh... no.

Stacey Andersim is a journalist and music junior, K CPR DJ and Moulin Rouge dancer at Calpoly. Catch her Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. on WJ3 FM or e-mail her at stdarder@calpoly.edu.
We can't learn if we can't do

Journalism has been called the fourth estate, an extension of the three branches of government. This gives industry professionals the responsibility of reporting the facts to a public in need of education and enlightenment. In the past, journalists have uncovered stories that served to better society. These include Watergate and the coverage of the Vietnam War. Without the investigative work of reporters, the public's world view would be filtered through rose-colored lenses.

And while journalists have recently taken a few hits (Jayson Blair, Stephen Glass and Dan Rather, to name a few), journalists overall are committed to guarding the credibility and integrity of the profession.

Aspiring journalists at Cal Poly are no exception. Many of us chose this major with hopes to become the next Walter Cronkite and Helen Thomas — to make a mark on society by putting the truth out there. They remain questions public affairs has yet to answer.

No human interaction and jeopardize our educational experience. Through e-mail responses, there is no way to gauge any of the use of technology — detract from the credibility, but the process begs for the question as to what information is being filtered.

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No human interaction and jeopardy we
The Big West Championships and beyond

Cross country comes off an impressive showing in Indiana and good performance at home. But the seasons far from over.

Kimberly Masculine

They ran, they run and then they run some more.
Now, if all goes right, they will run all the way to nationals.
The mission starts this weekend when the sixth-ranked men's cross country team travels to Riverside for the Big West Championships.
The Mustangs have seen more and more success as the year has progressed.
The Cal Poly men's team has run its way up the rankings this year with a second-place finish at the pre-nationals.
The team's season is short, lasting from Sept. 4 to Nov. 22. They run in four invitational meets and depending on their Big West finish this weekend, will compete in the NCAA Regional at Fresno and then the NCAA Championships at Indiana State University.
"The team is dedicated to seeing the season through to the end," coach Mark Conover said.
The team's strategy is to race with a really strong pack mentality and then allow individuals to come out of the pack as the race develops, according to Conover.
The men's team was ranked 11th coming into the event held at Indiana State. There were 87 men's teams at the invitational. Eight of those teams were ranked above the Cal Poly men's team.
"It was exciting. We had high aspirations and I think we fulfilled them," senior Brian Swier said.
The men's team finished second at the Pre-Nationals in Indiana. The Mustangs can return to Indiana for the Nationals if they perform at the Big West Championships and NCAA Regional at Fresno.

W. swimming sinks in its season opener

Cal Poly women's soccer will decide its own fate this weekend when it faces two road conference teams on the road.

The Mustangs, who had struggled offensively, discovered their offense against Cal State Northridge scoring a flurry of goals in the second half winning 4-0.

Cal Poly is 7-2-6 overall and 3-1-3 in the Big West, has won three straight conference matches against Idaho, Long Beach State and UC Irvine.

Top scorers for the Aggies are Nicole Gooch with eight goals and one assist for 17 points and Charlsie Harris with five goals and three assists for 13 points. Cairns and has 113th, respectively. Conover said the sixth and seventh runner's place can help bump the team against a sixth-place team.

This is the highest national ranking the team has ever had. Last year, they finished 13th in the NCAA championships and were ranked 10th coming in this season.

"We have definitely gotten stronger as a team. We have better depth," Swier said.

The Mustangs are a favorite going into the Big West Conference on Saturday. The team has been named Big West Champions in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2003.

Two games remain, w. soccer must make up ground

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