Summer quarter will offer full course schedule

Cal Poly is receiving $3 million as part of an agreement reached between the CSU system and the governor's office.

MUSTANG DAILY

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

Students have the chance to take a full course load during the upcoming summer quarter.

Last year there were very few classes offered during summer quarter due to budget cuts, but thanks to new state funding agreements between the California State University system and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a full summer class schedule will be offered in June.

"Summer quarter is back," Executive Vice President Linda Dillon said. "This is a big turnaround from summer 2004, when state budget reductions severely limited class offerings. We are really excited to get summer back for students."

The new Governor's Compact with the California State University and University of California systems granted almost $3 million to Cal Poly to cover all expenses including improving the library and juried services. Half of the grant will go to direct instruction for the summer quarter so more teachers can be hired to teach the classes being offered.

The funding will increase enrollment growth by 2.5 percent over the next several years to keep the fall, winter and spring quarters stable and help rebuild the summer quarter. Each of the courses will be filled with students studying over the summer.

Mardi Gras task force established

A new agreement between the CSU system and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will allow for a full summer session. The UIU will be filled with students studying over the summer.

Mardi Gras Grace task force established

Cal Poly is working in collaboration with city officials, Cal Poly is working in collaboration with city officials,Gaeta and ASI to exterminate the party scene.

"We want it to be like any other celebration," said Jean DeCosta, dean of Student Health and the city of San Luis Obispo. "The task force will also encourage students to be responsible during Mardi Gras."

"We want to inform students to be responsible citizens and to see them back for students," said jean DeCosta, dean of Student Health Department and Student Health Advocates.

The city already canceled the Mardi Gras parade and plans to enforce strict laws and triple-fine zones to stop the celebration, DeCosta said.

According to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, there were more than 200 arrests during last year's Mardi Gras.

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Summer
continued from page 1
the seven colleges is planning to offer classes this summer so students can take major and general education courses.
"I’m way stoked about this because it gives us the opportunity to get some classes out of the way," recreation administration senior Colin Murphy said.
The typical 10-week session will be offered in addition to two sessions of five-week classes at the beginning and end of summer. Cal Poly will also reiterate admission so transfer students and freshmen can start taking classes in the summer.
"We voluntarily cut last summer way back because we thought the fall, winter and spring quarters were more important," Dalton said. "The Compact is giving us money back to re-establish the summer quarter so it will be more like summer 2003. We were cut more than we are getting back, so it will take a couple years to rebuild but at least we can look ahead.

Cancer
continued from page 1
challenge and to get fresh air.
"The signs were great motivation to keep the two of us running to see what the seven colleges is planning to offer classes this summer so students can take major and general education courses.
more than one year."

Robert Burns
WASHINGTON — The United States is expanding its military force in Iraq to the highest level of the war.

U.S. force in Iraq to rise to biggest of war
did not foresee when Baghdad was toppled in April 2003. The 12,000-troop increase is to last only until March, but it says much about the strength and resiliency of an insurgency that U.S. military planners did not foresee when Baghdad was supplied in April 2003.

Robert Burns
WASHINGTON — The United States is expanding its military force in Iraq to the highest level of the war.

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Task Force
continued from page 1
the zones will encompass the entire city.
The students feel discriminated against if only certain areas of the city have triple-fine zones, but the community does not want police to push the zones into other neighborhoods.
Your student government and neighborhood groups have gotten together and actually said that they don’t want a specific geographic location," said Rob Pepe, public information officer and neighborhood services manager for the San Luis Obispo Police Department.
The zones will affect anyone cited for public urination, party calls, drinking in public and other activities that break municipal laws. State laws like drunk in public and drinking and driving are not covered under the triple-fine zones.
"Students plan to go knocking door-to-door to inform other students about the message for this year’s March Gra."
"I think we have good, bright students here," DeCosta said. "But, it is easy to get caught up in the crowd mentality and do things you normally would not have done."

Cancer
continued from page 1
the next one would be," Todd said. At mile 10, Todd’s knees ached, but he was determined to finish.

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The expansion in Iraq will be achieved by sending about 1,500 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., this month and by extending the combat tours of about 10,400 troops already in Iraq.

Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld approved the moves Wednesday, according to a Pentagon statement.

"They are the most experienced and best-qualified forces to sustain the momentum of post-Fallujah opera­tions and to provide for additional security for the upcoming elections," the statement said.

The Pentagon originally expected to train and equip enough Iraqi govern­ment forces to fill the security gap in the weeks leading up to the elec­tions, but that hope was not fulfilled.

The military is reluctant to extend soldiers’ combat tours because of the potential negative effect it could have on their families, and thus on their willingness to remain in the service.

In this case, Gen. George Casey, the most senior U.S. commander in Iraq, decided it was necessary to keep up pressure on the insurgents while also providing security for the elections.

One unit, the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, is being extend­ed for the second time. In soldiers originally told they would be going home in November at the end of a 10-month assignment, but in October they got the news that they would remain until mid-January.

They are being extended until mid-March.
STATE NEWS

LOS ANGELES — The treasures of King Tut will go on display in this country for the first time in a quarter century, as an exhibit featuring the ancient ruler's gold crown, carved dagger and a massive gold and cloisonné necklace, museum officials announced Wednesday. "Turandot's Golden Age: The Pharaoh's Treasures" will include about 130 of the 5,000 Egyptian artifacts found in King Tut's tomb.

SANTA ANA — A woman injured in a Disneyland roller coaster accident last year has sued Disney. Christina Alvarado of Burbank said she suffered back injuries in the accident that killed a 22-year-old man and injured nine others.

Her lawsuit alleges the entertainment giant has been negligent and continues to engage in conduct unsafe for the public. She also claims the design of the roller coaster, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, is defective.

A message left Wednesday with Disneyland's press office was not immediately returned. Disney has denied there are any broad maintenance problems with the ride.

SAN FRANCISCO — Hundreds of people gathered in Golden Gate Park Wednesday to mark World AIDS Day, paying tribute to the tens of thousands of Americans who have perished from the disease over the past 24 years.

With the theme "The Importance of Remembering," the 11th annual event was held under a tent at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, a seven-acre berm designated by Congress as a national memorial site in 1996. The event featured prayer, musical performances and speakers, including Mayor Gavin Newsom, and across Faith's light.

NATIONAL NEWS

NEW YORK — After bringing in the news for nearly 23 years, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw signed off Wednesday expressing gratitude for what he gets in return. "Thanks for all that I have learned from you," he said at the end of his final "Nightly News" broadcast, his voice waver- ing just a bit. "That's been my richest reward."

Brokaw reminded his audience how "we've been through a lot together, through dark days and nights, and seasons of hope and joy. "Whatever the story, I had only one objective: to get it right," he said, adding he was "always mindful that your patience and attention didn't come with a lifetime warranty.

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to stop a New Mexico church from using hallucinogenic tea while the government appeals a decision that backed the church.

The government has been in a long-running legal fight with the Brazil-based O Centro Espirita Beneficente Uniao do Vegetal over houasca tea, brewed from plants found in the Amazon River Basin. The church won a preliminary injunction in a lower court, and justices were asked to intervene.

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Gov. Rick Perry blocked the execution of a woman two hours before she was to go to her death Wednesday so that her lawyers can conduct new tests on evidence in the 17-year-old murder case.

Florencia Sepulveda, 39, was convicted of killing her husband and two young children. She would have been the first black woman and the fourth female put to death in Texas since the Civil War. She denied any involvement in the slayings.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko signed a deal Wednesday that would allow his supporters to lift their siege of government buildings, but he said his followers will stay on the streets until the party lost to President Viktor Yanukovych.

Yushchenko held face-to-face talks with Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko — his rival for the presidency — hours after the opposition showed its strength by blocking key government buildings, but he said his followers will stay on the streets until an agreement is reached on a new vote for the country's presidency.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — President Bush asked Canadians on Wednesday to move beyond their deep opposition to the Iraq war and get behind his vision of democracies blooming from Baghdad to the West Bank.

"Sometimes even the closest of friends disagree, and two years ago we disagreed about the course of action in Iraq," Bush said, standing at the side of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

TIJUANA, Mexico — Jorge Hank Rhon, a Rambo-like and controversial multimillionaire, started his three-year term Wednesday as Tijuana's new mayor, pledging to weed out corrupt police and clean up the city.

"Tijuana is full of hardworking people, and I want to give them all a chance to work toward progress," he told The Associated Press.

Hank Rhoen's surprise victory on Aug. 1 returned the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, to power in Tijuana, a city the party lost to President Vicente Fox's National Action Party in 1989. The PRI lost the presidency to Fox in 2000 after 71 years in power.

OSLO, Norway — November in Norway is full of hazards: ice-slicked streets, moose on the roads and fierce cold. So when a woman turned up with a cut on her finger at an emergency room in Oslo, doctors were surprised to learn that the cause was a piranha, as in the nasty, bristly fish found in South America that has a fabled reputation for stripping cows down to the bone in a feeding frenzy.

But Helle Hoger wasn't in South America. Instead, she was bitten while at work at Oslo's Reiparken, showing visitors how to feed the fish.

"One of the piranhas jumped into the air and snapped at one of my fingers and the blood just spurted," she told the Telegramma, a northern Norway newspaper.
HIV infection rates in U.S. near one million mark

Daniel Yee
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Nearly a million Americans now have the AIDS virus and the nation's ability to keep others from becoming infected still lags, despite a government pledge four years ago to "break the back" of the AIDS epidemic by 2005.

The campaign, launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in February 2001, intended to cut in half the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections that have occurred every year since the 1990s. However, the rate of new cases remains about the same, according to CDC data released Wednesday as part of the federal health agency's commemoration of World AIDS Day.

"We have a ways to go before we reach the mark of reducing new infections by half in the United States," said Dr. Ronald Valderrama, the director of the CDC HIV and AIDS prevention program. He called the country's HIV infection rate "relatively stable."

"Clearly we want to continue, and are continuing, to fund programs to reach out to people who are high-risk and are not infected," he added.

In 2001, the CDC's campaign focused on outwardly healthy people who did not realize they had HIV — about one-quarter of those infected. Officials then said targeting them was key, because if they knew they were infected, they would be more likely to take steps not to spread the virus.

Such an effort "could possibly break the back of the epidemic in the United States," the CDC's Dr. Robert Janssen said then.

But the agency found that just targeting people who didn't know they had the AIDS virus was not enough. So last year, the CDC shifted gear, focusing on counseling those who know they had HIV in an attempt to convince them not to spread the virus.

Yet some advocacy groups say that effort fails to focus on drug users, or very sexually active young men, which advocacy groups say is key in preventing new infections.

"It just doesn't seem like much is really happening," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the Washington-based National Association of People Living With AIDS. "There just is a lack of imagination or spark in terms of the kinds of programs they support. I think they are politically afraid."

The CDC believes up to 950,000 people in the United States are infected with HIV and up to 280,000 of them don't know it, Valderrama said.

The rate of HIV diagnoses in the United States increased slightly — by 1 percent — between 2000 and 2003, from 19.5 per 100,000 people to 19.7 per 100,000 in the 42 states surveyed by the CDC.
University of Oklahoma bans alcohol at fraternities, residence halls

Julie E. Bisbee
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORMAN, Okla. — Drinking will be banned at University of Oklahoma fraternities and residence halls under new policies announced Wednesday, two months after a 19-year-old student died of alcohol poisoning.

University of Oklahoma President Dan Boren said the rules will go into effect Jan. 15 at the start of the new semester. Three violations will end in a student's suspension for one semester.

The university also will set up a hotline for students to report violations, and will expand alcohol education programs. Drinking is already prohibited at sororities.

Boren will present the policies to the Board of Regents Monday for approval. Regents have been involved in creating the plan and support it.

"These policies send a strong signal that alcohol abuse will not be tolerated at the University of Oklahoma," Boren said.

Student Blake Hammontree died Sept. 30 after a Sigma Chi fraternity party. He had a blood-alcohol content more than five times the legal limit. The fraternity has since been shut down.

Police are still investigating the death and several fraternity members have been subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. One student, a sophomore, has been charged with furnishing alcohol to another minor at the party.

"The investigation continues and other charges are anticipated," said Cleveland County District Attorney Tim Karr kendall.

Similar recent incidents have been reported at campuses, including Colorado State, where student Samantha Spalding consumed as many as 40 drinks when she was found dead at a fraternity house in September.

Also this fall, Lynn Gordon Bailey Jr. died after he was taken to the mountains near the University of Colorado with fellow Chi Psi fraternity pledges and told not to leave until several bottles of whiskey were finished. Bradley Kemp of the University of Arkansas died after downing a dozen beers and, friends said, possibly drugs.

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City of San Luis Obispo

Dear Cal Poly Students:

First quarter 2004 certainly got off to a fast—and productive—start. On behalf of the City of San Luis Obispo, I want to extend our congratulations to you for your completion of fall quarter and extend a special welcome to our Cal Poly first timers.

Students are an integral part of our community, and I want you to know that we recognize the important role you play in it. From your active volunteer efforts to your contribution to San Luis Obispo's businesses and government, your citizenship is valued. The special character of San Luis Obispo is likely one of the reasons you chose Cal Poly in the first place, and we appreciate your efforts to help preserve the quality of life we all enjoy.

The City of San Luis Obispo extends its appreciation to all of you and best wishes for successful finals and a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dardin Kunitz
Mayor Dave Ryan
City of San Luis Obispo
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Every December, Zack Rudman and his wife send out cards with wintry scenes and generic holiday greetings.

Finally, though, the Kansas City lawyer found a variety that seemed better suited for a Jewish man and an Episcopal woman with two young children as familiar with the menorah as mistletoe. It screams "Merry Christmas!"

Across the country, two holidays that once seemed to share little more than a calendar page are increasingly being melded on greeting cards aimed at the country's estimated 2.5 million families with both Jewish and Christian members.

"It represents how the way people live and the way they spend the holidays," said Elise Okrend, an owner of Raleigh, N.C.-based MixedBlessing, a card company devoted to interfaith holiday greetings. "And it's an expression of people understanding the people around them."

MixedBlessing, like other companies, has found such interfaith greeting cards have a stable market niche and a slowly growing customer base.

The company was among the first to come out with holiday cards suitable for Jewish-Christian families about 15 years ago and is still the only company to focus entirely on that market segment. In its first year, it sold about 3,000 cards from nine different offerings. This year, Okrend projects sales of 200,000 cards off its 55-card line.

Kansas City-based Hallmark Cards Inc. says among its most popular categories of Hanukkah cards is the one that combines Jewish and Christian themes.

The company tried the idea with just one card in the mid-'90s; today they have four.

"The essence of these cards is not about interfaith households as much as it is about friends and family members of different faiths acknowledging the different holidays that they all celebrate," said Shalanda Stanley, a product manager at Hallmark.

American Greetings Corp. has also increased its Hanukkah-Christmas line offerings since its introduction eight years ago. There are around 10 this year.

Kathy Krauner, editor of Greetings Inc., a trade magazine, and mixed-faith holiday cards are one of countless niche categories introduced by greeting card companies.
One in four Californians considering leaving the state

Jim Wasserman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — High rents and rising home prices are pushing one in every four Californians to consider moving elsewhere in the state or leaving California entirely, says a new statewide survey on places people call home.

While Californians value their quality of life near ocean shores and mountain views, the survey shows nearly one-third of those under 35 are considering moves toward cheaper prices and able to buy homes in their part of the state.

Even many homeowners now see little upside to rising prices that have greatly inflated their property values, believing they couldn't afford to buy another house in their own neighborhoods, said Mark Baldassare, the study's author and statewide survey director for the Public Policy Institute of California.

"We're at a point where it's very hard for people who are moving from other states to think about coming to California," Baldassare said. Instead of being optimistic about life in California, a new generation "coming into the owning stages of their lives ... are exactly the people who are talking about moving elsewhere.

"You're talking about your work force. You're talking about your future," he said.

The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind in years in California, reveals the moving-out sentiment is highest in coastal areas and that many are acting on it. The PPIC recently reported that since 1995 more than 350,000 coastal Californians have moved to the less expensive Central Valley.

The PPIC surveyed 2,502 people from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1 in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. The survey, funded by the Irvine, Packard and Hewlett foundations, has a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

California's traditionally high mortgage costs are also further discouraging renters, the survey reveals.

"You're talking about your work force. You're talking about your future," he said.

The results dovetail with findings that many Californians also believe that's too many new homes, the shortage of affordable housing, many Californians also believe that's too many new homes, the survey shows.

Stressed by traffic. California's traditionally high mortgage costs are also further discouraging renters, the survey reveals.

Only 19 percent of the state's households can afford the state median-priced home of $465,000 — a 5 percent drop from last year.

The results also come as California's builders push up more homes and apartments than any year since 1989. After building 134,000 single-family homes and 54,200 apartments last year — 188,200 in all — industry officials say they're on track to build 205,000 in 2004.

But while they fret about the high costs of housing and the shortage of affordable housing, many Californians also believe that's too many new homes, the survey shows.

Three SoCal towns ranked among U.S.' safest cities

MISSION VIEJO — Three Southern California cities are among the top 10 safest cities in the country, according to an annual ranking based on crime statistics.

Mission Viejo and Lake Forest in Orange County were ranked the fourth and sixth safest cities, respectively, while Thousand Oaks in Ventura County was listed seventh.

Overall, Newton, Mass., was considered the safest.

The rankings were to be released Monday by Lawrence, Kan.-based Morgan Quitno Corp., which will publish its annual reference book, "City Crime Rankings," next month.

While no California cities made the company's top 10 list of most dangerous cities, there were several among the top 25. Richmond came in at 12, San Bernardino at 16, Compton at 17 and Oakland at 24.

Camden, N.J., was named the nation's most-dangerous city, snatching the top spot from Detroit, which fell to second.

The rankings look at the rate for six crime categories: Murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and auto theft. It compares 350 cities with populations of 75,000 or more that reported crime data.
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Everyone loves a Mustang Daily editor
Wine is different things to different college students, simple is not one of them. From two-buck Chuck to a splendid Bordeaux, the world of wine is as diverse as it is mystifying.

Unfortunately, most college students shy away from wine, deeming it snobby and expensive. However, a closer look into the industry exposes an affordable underbelly that college students, especially those at Cal Poly, should exploit.

We live in the heart of one of the most renowned wine industries in the world. Even the French agree our wine ranks among the best. This article will break down the snob barrier and equip you with some insights so you may confidently impress your next date, or at least not make a fool of yourself.

The basics: which is which

There are two main families of wine grapes, according to About.com: Vitis Vinifera and Vitis Labrusca. Between these two families there are more than 5,000 varieties of grapes. This makes for many different kinds of wine. Here are only a few of the most popular types of wine as described by About.com.

see Vino: page 11
Evidence: his pictures show how sweating can pay off. "I go to the gym four times a week, I might as well do something with it," he said.

He began blogging (keeping a blog of thoughts) on the Internet for all to see, in spring of 2001. Last year, he started his own site and has adjusted it to be what it is today. This includes advertising space that Adult Friend Finder pays for, making his personal Web site a profitable venture.

On his site, he is a self-published raving alcoholic, a professional asshole and a minor Internet celebrity. The last one may hold some truth since his site gets more than 1 million hits a year and is known by people he has yet to meet. He was even recognized by a Disneyland ride attendant on a date at the Happiest Place on Earth. "I love when people call me a fascist," O'Leary said. Other ways people describe him are pig-headed, self-centered and egotistical.

The egotistical part may come from the fact that he has girls fill out applications in order to go on a date with him. The girl he is currently dating actually was an applicant and soon knew you have an unfair advantage," he said.

Tasting your wine

Brette Bleet is the wine tasting manager at Tolosa Winery in San Luis Obispo. She said an easy way to remember the proper way to taste wine is the five S's. "It helps you experience the value of the wine, and appreciate the different characteristics," she said.

The first S is sight. Observe the color of your wine, does it look right? The second S is smell. Swirl the glass open the wine to release the aromas. Next comes smell, take it in your mouth, allowing you to get the full effect. And lastly, sound. But not everyone knows proper tasting etiquette. "We'll get people who down (their wine) like a shot," Bleet said. "Wine needs go by the book, but how can you actually enjoy it that way?" Bleet said.

When it comes down to it, Bleet said a good wine is all about good grapes. "You can't make good wine with bad fruit," she said.

Pairing

Another bit of advice Bleet offered was to drink wine with food. "Wine and food complement each other so well," she said.

Pairing wine with food comes with its own set of rules. In my experience, the people at Central Coast Wines on Higuera Street in downtown San Luis Obispo are the most helpful when it comes to choosing wine.

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Another bit of advice Bleet offered was to drink wine with food. "Wine and food complement each other so well," she said.

Pairing wine with food comes with its own set of rules. In my experience, the people at Central Coast Wines on Higuera Street in downtown San Luis Obispo are the most helpful when it comes to choosing wine.

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As a rule of thumb, he said seafood is easier and a crisp Riesling is appropriate. "But not everyone knows proper tasting etiquette. "We'll get people who down (their wine) like a shot," Bleet said. "Wine needs go by the book, but how can you actually enjoy it that way?" Bleet said.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Speaker fair and balanced because he is Israeli?

Why would our university invite Ron Pope to speak about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? It certainly does not represent Israeli opinion. He is on the far-left fringe of Israeli political spectrum and even said in a 1999 interview that his views have made him "one of the most hated men in Israel."

He earned that status because he opposes the existence of a Jewish state, has embraced the rhetoric of anti-Semitism and even said in a 1999 interview that his views have made him "one of the most hated men in Israel."

Let's hope that in the future, fringe political figures don't head- wink our university into identifying them as representative spokes­men.

Michał Dekoloski
Business graduate

Sparking dialogue with respect not disregard

We at Counseling Services want to express our agreement with the thoughts and sentiments of Dr. Detweiler and Morton's letter regarding the "marriage" installation presently on Dexter Lane. While we are aware that the students' intention was to create dialogue, we believe that their goal could have been achieved without the disregard for gays and lesbians the installation conveyed.

For example, one man wearing a gay or lesbian wedding ring said, "I'm okay with it — I was just helping to spark a dialogue about what Pride Alliance currently tells us campus could have sparked dialogue — not as well and with more respect. One of the more common reasons gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students sell is to heal from and come to terms with the harmful comments, attitudes and behaviors they encounter while simply being who they are.

We invite discretion, not censor­ship. If you want to create dia­logue, ask whether your way of expressing yourself might be harmful to another. Will you know the answer if you ask the question honestly? Think of it this way: We will have a right to freely swing our arms around, right? Except my right to my arm ends at your nose. We all have a right to free speech — until it starts to damage others. There are ways to freely express ourselves without disregarding anyone.

We welcome the opportunity to assist with respectful free speech discussions on campus. Call 756-2511 for more information about that or about counseling services, which are available to all students.

Barbara Gilbert, Ph.D.
Anne Goeders, LCSW
Teresa George, Ph.D.
Eli Andrade, Psy.D.
Mary Peracca, MFT
Counseling Services

When two definitions of morality come into conflict

In his Nov. 19 letter, Matt Serrer states that "the responsibility falls upon each of us to create our own morality systems." This proposition is unsound. Consider: If this is the case then affordability becomes unique to each person. What happens when two definitions of morality come into conflict?

Which person’s morality takes precedence? To make any moral judgment, we all need to be working from the same set of rules — there needs to be a standard definition of morality.

Let me illustrate: A man sees his neighbor’s car and decides to steal it. Most of us would agree that stealing is wrong, but to the thief, it may be a moral action. Since he defines his own morality, we have no way of knowing whether or not the decision is morally wrong. If he tells us the action is moral, we must believe him. On the other hand, the neighbor (and most people) will almost certainly say the action is immoral. What definition of morality applies, if any? There are cases possible: either we accept the definition of one (and only one) of the men, both definitions, or neither definition.

There is no reason to accept (arbitrarily) one definition over the other, and accepting both means the action is both right and wrong, which is meaningless.

The only option left is neither (some other) definition. We must conclude that any applicable definition of morality must be external to any particular person, and in as many applicable to all individuals.

Kyle Hughsby
Assistant engineering editor

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring communities. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to editor@mustangdaily.net.

Mary Peracca, MFT
Counseling Services

MUSTANG DAILY

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Disagreement is on name of the union

With the election over, the debate on campus has turned to gay marriage and evolution. For weeks now, we have been immersed with hateful rhetoric that does little to solve either argument.

We have also seen points attempts at humor fall flat, failing to convey any convincing points. My Christmas present to all is to do these debates so we can start the New Year fresh. This will help us out of the rut, and allow us to logically and reasonably debate other very important issues.

The evolution debate is one that never seems to end. Both sides claim that the other is stubborn and ignorant. But let us look for a moment at what the father of evolution had to say. Charles Darwin proposed that every aspect of living things developed entirely randomly and naturally. Darwin also admitted that if any step of his theory is found to be impossible or not random, then his entire theory is wrong.

Keep that in mind as I introduce the Law of Hogeness. In science, a law means that the idea has been consistently observed and has never been contradicted. This incontrovertible law simply states that life has been created from nothing — it cannot be created randomly and is ultimately forbidden. Therefore this critical piece of Darwin's puzzle, the Origin of Life, is proven and his entire theory collapses. You may not believe it was God, but the truth is that modern science cannot explain how life began on earth.

The other major dispute was sparked by a controversial campus display, and developed into a fiery debate on the subject of gay marriage. Whatever your opinion is on the subject, there are reasons why the government cannot simply recognize any loving, com­mitted relationship as a marriage. For example, if the government allows gay people to marry, then it has to also allow a bisexual with loving companionship to marry their two partners. That is the same same-sex marriage and evolution, for weeks now, we have been inundated with hateful rhetoric that does little to solve either argument.

This is what we will have to look forward to when we return from our much-needed Christmas break. Happy Holidays!

Matt Beichman is a civil engineering junior and Mustang Daily columnist.

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• Leave blinds and shades in a position that you would normally have them in while home.
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• Don't announce your absence on your answering machine.

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Economy picking up, Fed says; Wall Street rising, consumers spending

--Martin Crutsinger

WASHINGTON — The economy is gaining momentum, bolstered by home building, shipping and even the country's beleaguered manufacturing sector, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday in a new upbeat assessment.

Evidence of a strengthening economy showed up in other reports as well while Wall Street hailed a big drop in oil prices.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending shot up by 0.7 percent in October, the best showing since July, as American incomes, the fuel for future spending, rose by 0.6 percent. The gain in incomes reflected the big increase of 337,000 payroll jobs in October, the best in seven months.

Meanwhile, the Institute for Supply Management reported that in main index for measuring industrial activity performed better than expected, rising to 57.8 in November from 56.8 in October.

Wall Street took encouragement not only from the upbeat economic reports but also from the biggest one-day drop in crude oil prices in three years. Crude oil fell by $3.64 per barrel to settle at $45.49, its lowest level in New York trading since Sept. 16.

Relieved investors pushed the Dow Jones industrial average up by 162.20 points, the third best one-day gain of the year. The Dow finished the day at 10,596.25, its highest level since early March.

The Federal Reserve reported that reports from its 12 regions "generally paint a picture of continued economic growth" from mid-October through mid-November with improvements noted in a number of areas.

In fact, the Fed survey said that 11 of its 12 regions reported expanding economic activity with only the Cleveland Fed district seeing little change.

The Fed's latest "Beige Book," named for the color of its cover, will be used when policy-makers meet for their last discussion of the year on Dec. 14. It is widely expected that the Fed will raise interest rates for a fifth straight time this year in an effort to make sure that the rebounding economy does not trigger unwanted inflation.

The rebuilding economy has been having an impact on inflation in such industries as energy, transportation and food, but the Fed said retailers are still having difficulty passing those increased costs on to consumers because of stiff competition.

The Fed survey showed rising demand for manufactured goods, encouraging news for a portion of the economy that has seen the loss of 2.7 million jobs over the past four years.

There was rising demand for chemicals, food and a variety of products used in the agricul ture, energy, construction, medical and defense industries, the report said.

The rebound in manufacturing was helping job markets, and some areas of the economy were even experiencing labor shortages for certain occupations such as accounting, construction and skilled professionals in the energy industry.

As for consumer spending, analysts said the 0.7 percent jump after a strong 0.6 percent rise in September showed that consumers, who account for two-thirds of total economic activity, were getting a second wind.

"Consumers were not deterred by higher oil prices and by consumer confidence numbers that keep on going lower," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.

The overall economy grew at a solid 3.9 percent rate in the July-September period, and based on Wednesday's reports many analysts said that growth this quarter could be even better.

A Business Roundtable survey of executives at the nation's 130 biggest companies found them expecting continued solid growth in 2005.

"We remain confident that investment spending will drive economic growth in the coming months," said Hank McKinnell, chairman of the business group and chief executive at drug giant Pfizer Inc.

Wednesday's spending report showed that consumer spending on big-ticket durable goods such as cars rose just 0.2 percent in October after a 1.2 percent gain in September.

The Fed survey, which covered the last half of October and early November, indicated that consumer spending may have faltered a bit in November, calling activity "uneven." Five districts — Atlanta, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and San Francisco, reported solid sales activity while six others — Boston, Dallas, Chicago, New York, Richmond and St. Louis — said sales were mixed to sluggish.

The Fed said that many districts found demand for premium merchandise notably stronger than for lower-priced lines, which the report said could indicate that higher energy prices were hurting lower-income households.


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MUSIANI DAILY STALL REI*URT

Jennifer Dooley moves past her opponent driving to the hoop. Dooley is averaging 7.3 points per game.

Golden Graham

How about that women's basketball team? The Mustangs are 3-0, sporting a veteran roster and for once, it seems, turnover is a good word at Cal Poly.

I remember last spring having a conversation about the women with an athletic employee. After I told him I didn't often attend games, he sympathized, bemoaning the large amount of turnovers committed on both sides at the court. We couldn't have that conversation now, however.

On Friday, the visiting Mustangs beat Portland 55-51 and, more importantly, forced 39 turnovers. Then on Sunday, they blew out Portland State, which had just six more points (43) than turnovers (37). Cal Poly has also been helped by turnover, in the sense that there's been little of it on the roster — the Mustangs have returned 11 letter winners, including four past starters.

Just what exactly is going on here?

In past years, the women paled in comparison to the men. In the spring of 2003, when the men made a run through the Big West Tournament, the women were dead on arrival to the opening round. In Anaheim with several players kicked off beforehand for drinking at an off-campus party. The team ended in forgettable 43 last 10-17 season with a 76-62 loss to Long Beach State.

Things did improve a lot last season. With a largely rebuilt roster, highlighted by the arrival of true freshman point guard sensation Sparkle Anderson, the Mustangs went 10-8 in Big West play and finished 14-14, their highest overall win total as a Division I team.

For a change, the women's team is a safer bet to have a good year than the men. It's still early in the season, and the women need scorers (most of the Mustangs have point totals similar to what I think Mike Tyson would manage on the LSAT). Still, I like how this team looks on paper and how it has grown over the past few years. I can only imagine the happy column that can be written later if this progress continues.

Graham Womack is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily copy editor. gwomack@calpoly.edu

Forum for an athletic director finalist to be held today

The first finalist has been announced in the ongoing national search for a Cal Poly athletic director.

activity is brewing in the newsroom prediction in September that the San Francisco 49ers would win the NFC West (My Niners are currently 1-10; incidentally, my fellow editors bring bread and water twice daily to the rat-infested basement office where I'm now forced to write these columns).

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John McCutcheon left San Luis Obispo after 12 years of holding the athletic director position to accept the position at the University of Massachusetts.

He helped to issue in the move through renovations to Mott Gym.