Students apathetic toward IRA fee proposal

Justin Fivella

The hundreds of red "Vote Yes" posters plastering the walls throughout campus in last year's aggressive ASI fee increase proposal prompted over 5,000 students to vote. The spark that ignited several thousand to vote last year is lacking in this year's equally important IRA (Instructionally Related Activities) fee increase referendum that will take place on campus next week, according to students.

The new non-sports related IRA fee increase proposal seems unknown in the student community.

"I haven't heard or seen really anything about it, I don't know when it is or how I'll vote because I don't know enough about it," Robert Reesor, a computer science sophomore, said. Unlike the strong campaign of the ASI proposal, the driving forces behind the IRA campaign felt the previous campaign was too bold.

"There was negative feedback regarding ASI's last campaign, saying that it was too proactive," said Victor Ikancart, a business analyst for Cal Poly's Budget and Analytic Business Services. Despite the lack of knowledge on campus, officials are adamant that information about the new referendum has been sufficiently dispersed.

"We've held three open forums and can schedule more upon request, there has been three quarter-page ads, an article in the Daily, a press release and blanket flyers as well," Ikancart said. With so few people showing up to the open forums or even knowing about the referendum, Ikancart said he doesn't feel the problem lies in the student population's general apathy or lack of advertising.

"I think that student's plates are too full to worry about the referendum," Brancart said. The voting will take place on Feb. 22 and 23, 30 days before the vote. With so few people showing up to the open forums or even knowing about the referendum, Ikancart said he doesn't feel the problem lies in the student population's general apathy or lack of advertising.

"I think that student's plates are too full to worry about the referendum," Brancart said. "We've held three open forums and can schedule more upon request, there has been three quarter-page ads, an article in the Daily, a press release and blanket flyers as well," Ikancart said.

Baker and other college presidents call on U.S. to increase science, engineering funding

Cara Hogan

The Daily Press (Boston, Mass.)

Boston — More than 100 college presidents, including support from Cal Poly President Warren Baker, private citizens and politicians signed an open letter printed in national newspapers last week that encouraged the government to increase funding for science and engineering research to maintain America's competitiveness in the world markets.

Signed by influential figures such as Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the presidents of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and many other colleges, the letter came just after

see Presidents, page 6
The Trip
Highway 58 stretches from about 10 miles north of San Luis Obispo to the town of Button Willow. Leaving San Luis Obispo headed north on Highway 101, you get off at Santa Margarita Road 58 and follow the signs about 80 miles east to McKittrik. Once in McKittrik, you head east on Highway 33 another 20 miles to Taft.

Scenic spots: Besides the breathtaking scenery along the way, check out Carizzo Plains National Monument located near Soda Springs Road, a huge span of beautiful national land open to the public. Also don't forget the quiet bar in McKittrik and the immense sea of oil pools around Taft.

Trip length: From San Luis Obispo to Taft is approximately 105 miles.

Riding time: Give yourself an easy three hours to enjoy the ride from San Luis Obispo to Taft.

Pros: Beautiful scenery, diverse terrain, accentuated by a smooth pavement and some of the best twiny sections of road California has to offer all with no one around.

Cons: Watch for cattle and tumbleweeds in the roads as both can end your day. Bring water because there isn't civilization for long periods of time.

Day trip rating: 10 out of 10.

Juettie Favaa

Highway continued from page 1

for time in the saddle.
After getting off Highway 101 North, we headed through the small town of Santa Margarita (just town for gas in '90 miles), hit Highway 58 and headed east. The road quickly became curvy as we climbed toward Cal Camp and passed Highway 225 (another motorcyclist's haven) on our way toward the small town of McKittrik.

The road undulates and slows like the rolling hills typical of the Central Coast, marked by long sweeps and a smooth tar, we copped along at a spirited pace well above the posted 55 mph speed limit.

And over and the LaPanza range, we chased one another through the flowing road as the corners tightened through the pass. We exchanged the lead with one another while maneuvering through the golden terrain, gradually dropping down into the valley.

We bent around the last corner and behind us, the undulating road lined by hills looked like a slide, dumping us down into the infinte valley that's home to the sleepy town of Prairie Flats, a speck of population that would be missed if you blinked at the right moment.

Exiting town, we were greeted by miles of open fields that disappeared off into the distance. Reminiscent of the terrain in the Midwest, it was hard to believe this undecluttered nature like that still exists in California.

The path untangled itself into some of the straightest roads I had ever seen. Chasing our shadows along the valley floor, our speed increased well into the triple digits. For a gear as I could see in any direction, the road was straight and the terrain flat.

At that moment, consuming road at more than twice the speed limit, I was stoked with fear that a police officer was sure to catch us. And at that moment, I had yet another epiphany, that in the hour we had been riding, we hadn't seen one car on the road, let alone a police officer.

Lost in thought, I returned to reality only to realize we were quickly overcoming a huge yellow road sign that signified a 15 mph speed turn. Baffled at the thought of an endlessly straight road abruptly disrupted by a sharp turn, I braked, but not nearly enough as the 90 degree turn nearly had my heart stop when I barely made the turn.

With the small town of Prairie Flats and its zig-zagging geography at our back, the road once again opened into long straighter, but now mimicked a roller coaster with its steep inclines and abrupt drops.

This time it was Chris that had his dance with fate. As he crested the first hill at breakneck speeds, the ground beneath his tires quickly disappeared as he sailed nearly a foot high through the air.

Our pace slowed as we climbed out of the valley, and the road once again began to bend and turn. It still wasn't someone other car, just tumbleweeds, open fields and high desert. No billboards or neon signs here, just wooden street signs and an old barbed wire fence separating the road from the acres of land the oil companies own.

Just past Soda Lake Road that takes you southeast across the valley, we crested the last hill and were greeted by a faded road sign that read: "TRUCKS USE LOWER GEARS NEXT 7 MILES, WINDING ROAD." No more than 100 feet past the sign, the pavement became fresh and dark.

Lost in thought as to why a road in the middle of nowhere was freshly paved, I was again rudely awakened by another large yellow sign. Not wanting to scare myself as I did earlier, I slowed. This road had some unexpected tricks up its sleeve and I wasn't going to underestimate it again.

We rounded the first corner and encountered what can best be described as a pure godsend; easily the best stretch of road I had ever seen. Winding in on itself, hairpinned we barreled our way down the grade slicing and dicing like a scene out of a Moto GP event. The fresh tarmacs beneath our tires was tacky like fly paper, and its endless grip raised that of a ratchet.

Out of breath and laughing with joy when we reached the bottom, we instantaneous turned around and proceeded to ride that stretch another five times.

Exuberant yet tired, we continued down the hilltop overlooking the oil fields of the Central Valley. Ten miles later, we arrived at the small town of McKittrik; one store, one-bar and single restaurant town minus a gas station.

We picked up Highway 33 West just outside town and limped our thirsty bikes into the oil field-laden town of Taft. A large town with many amenities, we fueled up, grabbed an ice cream and headed home.

From Taft one can take Highway 53 West to Santa Maria and then pick up Highway 101 North back down to San Luis Obispo. Or one can retrace their steps back up Highway 58 to Santa Margarita and onto Highway 101 South back into San Luis Obispo.

A motorcyclist's Atlantis, Highway 58 offers beautiful mountain passes, desert flats, valley lows and a variety of terrain. From speed inducing arrow straights and horizon tilting corners to glass like pavement without any traffic, Highway 58 truly is one of California's best kept day trips.
WHO SAID THAT?

If something anticipated arrives too late it finds us numb, wrung out from waiting, and we feel - nothing at all. The best things arrive on time.


There are no whole truths; all truths are half-truths. It is trying to treat them as whole truths that plays the devil.

— Alfred North Whitehead

Wordly Wise

Mercurial: Changeable; temperamental; volatile.

BREAKING NEWS

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Hometown: Irvine • Major: construction management

The Face of Cal Poly

Name: Christopher Lloyd • Year: junior
Hometown: Irvine • Major: construction management

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FAVORITES

Local beach: Morro Bay
Deli in town: Gasco
Winter Olympic sport: Luge
Disney movie: "The Lion King"

If You Could...

— have any car what would it be?
A BMW M3.
— if you could see any band dead or alive?
Led Zeppelin

OTHER

— how do you get to school?
Drive, then walk.
— worst part about living in SLO?
Police enforcement
— best class taken at Cal Poly?
Business law
— Sand or Snow?
Sand

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BREAKING NEWS
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www.mustangdaily.net

State briefs
HESPERIA (AP) — Sometimes a simple “no” will deter robbers.

A clerk at Rocky’s Mini Mart on Main Street was confronted Monday evening by an armed would-be thief who demanded money from the cash register, said Roxanne Walker, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

“The clerk explained that she couldn’t do that, and that there were other employees inside the store. The suspect then said ‘thanks’ and left the store on foot without taking any money or items,” Walker said.

• • •

SAFINA (AP) — Long prison sentences were handed to two gang members who shot at California Highway Patrol officers during a chase that followed a robbery and carjacking.

Marcos Amapa, 23, was sentenced to 7.3 years to life in prison and co-defendant Jose Monsivais, 19, of Gilroy was sentenced to 44 years to life. Superior Court Judge Robert Moody condemned the defendants for shooting at officers who “after all, were planning only to give you a speeding ticket.”

Jurors were shown a videotaped confession from the defendants during their November trial. Monsivais later testified that he was smoking methamphetamine before and after firing at a CHP cruiser on July 23, 2004.

Violence erupts among inmates on buses

Robert Jablon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Black and Hispanic inmates battled with fists and razor blades on buses in San Bernardino County in the latest incidents of prisoner violence in Southern California, authorities said Wednesday.

Sixteen inmates were hurt on three buses heading from the West Valley Detention Center to courts on Friday and Tuesday, said Robin Haynal, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

Another inmate was slightly hurt by a hard-rubber “stingball” pellet used by deputies to break up one fight, Haynal said.

It was unclear whether the problems were connected to two weeks of racial violence in the Los Angeles County Jail system that has left two inmates dead and dozens injured.

The board grilled the officials about the two fatalities, policies on inmate segregation, punishment of fight instigators, separation of high-security inmates, and efforts to spur lagging recruitment of new deputies.

“You are in a war, and it seems the decision-making process is very cumbersome,” Supervisor Michael Antonovich complained.

A confidential report to supervisors a year ago warned that it was “not permissible” to mix inmates considered to pose a greater threat of violence with offenders of lesser risk, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

Under Four … or burning bridges?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

69% of Cal Poly students never brag about their alcohol use
National briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A chastened Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff sparred with senators of both parties on Wednesday as he acknowledged "many lapses" in his agency's response to Hurricane Katrina. Chertoff told the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs that he would do things differently if he had the chance. One thing he would not do is give great responsibility for the relief effort to Adm. Bud Runnels, who was the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the time.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, delivering his first economic report to Congress, declared Wednesday that the economy has snapped smartly out of an end-of-year lull, although inflation and other risks remain. He left the door open to higher interest rates in the future. Recent economic barometers on jobs, production, retail sales and other business activity in January "suggest that the economic expansion remains on track," Bernanke told the House Financial Services Committee. The expansion, he said, does have "a lot of staying power."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confessed al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui was unexcused on Wednesday from the federal courtroom where the jury selection of a jury for his trial was expected to enter the federal courtroom Wednesday for the selection of a jury to decide whether he is executed or imprisoned for life. Judge Leonie Brinkema had ordered Moussaoui barred from jury selection at a hearing on Tuesday because he refused to maintain courtroom decorum and indicated a determination to keep giving insulting làdes speeches.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spokesmen for a sidelined bill for a $140 billion fund for asbestos victims are vowing to revive it, but it's uncertain when — or if — Senate leaders will find time to reconsider the measure.

Cheney accepts full blame for shooting hunting partner

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney on Wednesday accepted full blame for shooting a fellow hunter and defended his decision not to publically disclose the accident until the following day. He called it "one of the worst days of my life."

"I'm the guy who pulled the trigger that fired the round that hit Harry," Cheney told Fox News Channel in his first public comments since the shooting Saturday in south Texas.

Cheney described seeing 78-year-old Harry Whittington fall to the ground after he pulled the trigger while aiming at a covey of quail. "The image of him falling is something I'll never ever be able to get out of my mind," Cheney said. "I fired, and there's Harry falling. It was, I'd have to say, one of the worst days of my life at that moment."

Cheney was soft-spoken and somber during the interview with Fox's Brit Hume.

"You can talk about all of the other conditions that exist at the time but that's the bottom line and that's the worst day of my life," Cheney said. "You can't blame anybody else. I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and I'm responsible.

Texas officials said the shooting was an accident and no charges have been brought against the vice president. A report that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued Monday said Whittington was retrieving a downed bird and stepped out of the hunting line he was sharing with Cheney.

"Another covey was flushed and Cheney swung on a bird and fired, striking Whittington in the face, neck and chest at approximately 30 yards," the report said.

Cheney said he fortunately always has a medical team with him, and members of that team responded to Whittington immediately after the accident.

"I ran over to him," Cheney said. "He was lying there on his back, obviously bleeding. You could see where the shot struck him."

He said he has no idea if he hit a bird because he was completely focused on Whittington.

"I said, 'Harry, I had no idea you were there.' He didn't respond," Cheney said.

Whittington was still in intensive care Wednesday, but on municipal hospital grounds. "I thought that was the right call," Cheney said.

"What do you think now?" he was asked.

"I still do," Cheney responded. "The accuracy was enormously important. I had no press person with me."

Whittington was still in intensive care Wednesday, but only for personal privacy reasons, said Peter Banks, administrator of Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial.

Cheney has been roundly criticized for failing to tell the public about the accident until the next day. He said he thought it made sense to let the owner of the ranch where it happened reveal the accident on the local newspaper's Web site Monday morning.

"I thought that was the right call," Cheney said. "I still do."

He said he agreed that ranch owner Katherine Armstrong should make the story public, because she was an eyewitness, because she knew how the shooting came about and because she is "an acknowledged expert in all of this," a part head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He also agreed with her decision to choose the local newspaper as the way to get the news out.

"I thought that made good sense because you can get a story as possible from somebodes who knew and understood hunting and it would immediately go up to the wire and be posted on the Web site, which is the way it went out and I thought that was the right call," Cheney said.

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Justice Department probes its own role in spying program

Devlin Barrett
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has begun an internal inquiry into the conduct of its lawyers who examined the Bush administration's domestic eavesdropping program, the department disclosed Wednesday.

The investigation is being conducted by the Office of Professional Responsibility, or OPR, which reviews allegations of misconduct within the law enforcement agency.

Marshall Jarrett, the office's counsel, acknowledged the investigation in a letter to Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y. Jarrett's letter did not specify which of the agency's actions or employees are being examined.

"You asked this office to investigate the Department of Justice's role in authorizing, approving and auditing certain surveillance activities of the National Security Agency, and whether such activities are permissible under existing law. For your information, we have initiated an investigation," Jarrett wrote.

Hinchey is one of a few dozen Democratic lawmakers who have been highly critical of the eavesdropping program first revealed in December.

"We're very happy that the OPR is doing it, because it seems on the surface certain illegal actions may have taken place," said Hinchey, one of Congress' most outspoken critics of President Bush.

Justice Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said the office routinely looks into issues of this kind.

''Everyone is for listening in on terrorists' phone calls. But we don't know who the NSA is listening to or the extent of the program," Biden said.

``The Bush administration's claims about the program's legality, the extent of the program, and the extent of the government's eavesdropping were simply untruthful," Biden said.

The letter, though written before the State of the Union, urges the President to keep his word and include a program in the next federal budget that will give more funding to these areas.

"To remain at the forefront, America must increase investments in basic research, improve math and science education, provide incentives for research and development and attract and retain the brightest minds from all around the globe," the letter stated.

The National Academy of Science, in an executive summary focusing on issues facing the U.S. economy, and urged the United States to optimize its educational resources in order to remain one of the most dominant nations in the world.

"Thanks to globalization, workers in every sector must now face competitors who live just a mouse-click away in Ireland, China, India and dozens of other nations whose economies are growing," the committee wrote. "The United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology.

Committee members also found that increasing funding in private and public sectors for science and math education is vital to the economy in the long run.

Maryanne Murphy, a representative from For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST, emphasized the importance of keeping American children interested in science.

"The goal of our program is to keep students interested in science and technology by making it fun and exciting," Murphy said. "We do feel that society celebrates the achievement of sports and entertainment much more than science and technology.

The advancements of science, if supported by our best minds, will solve a lot of society's problems." FIRST is an international non-profit organization that was founded by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway Human Transporter, according to the group's Web site.

Applying for financial aid to college can be a daunting task. To make it easier, we've compiled a list of the top deadlines for FAFSA and Cal Poly Scholarship applications.

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Listen to KCPR
San Luis Obispo’s Foundation for the Performing Arts Center will host a benefit concert for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (above), which was affected by Hurricane Katrina, Saturday in the Christopher Cohan Center at 7 p.m.

Holly Burke

Students and members of the community alike often take the facilities Cal Poly offers for granted. The Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo Symphony and San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival will host a benefit concert on Saturday for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), which was affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The Heart & Soul Benefit Concert at the Christopher Cohan Center is one of the few venues the LPO has been able to book since the disaster. "The (LPO musicians) were displaced to 30 different states. Eighteen members had their homes destroyed. All were displaced," said Val Gross, an LPO violist. "Having opportunities have been helpful. It makes us able to go on with our lives, to a certain extent."

Though the building the LPO was based out of was flooded, their ninth-floor office remained untouched. However, equipment was still damaged and structural damage forced them to relocate to Baton Rouge. Due to the conditions, the members have had to work countless hours to keep the orchestra running.

After the hurricane, members of the LPO and the staff tried to contact their colleagues. Everyone was affected in some way. Other musicians around the nation were concerned as well.

Randi Brion, the executive director of the Foundation for the Performing Arts, cited a New York Times article that explained how all musicians have two degrees of separation (or less) to musicians affected by the hurricane. The Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo Symphony and San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival took action.

Coincidentally, Saturday at the Christopher Cohan Center was not booked, an unusual occurrence for the center. "We want people in the community to realize how lucky we are to have the Christopher Cohan Center," Brion said. "There is no better way than to support an orchestra without their own."

The concert will feature a mix of classics, jazz and traditional New Orleans music. It is the LPO's only West Coast appearance. It will also feature some of San Luis Obispo's leading musicians.

On March 1, the LPO will return to New Orleans where they will be at Loyola University New Orleans, Tulane University and at a large local church. The LPO will perform the full spring concert season.

"I have to say, when I left New Orleans I never thought that would happen," Gross said.

There are now 15 to 20 musicians living in New Orleans full time. Most will return for the season, but some have had to take yearlong contracts with orchestras in other cities. The concert is Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center. Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Center box office or online at www.paclo.org.
Thank You Students!
For helping to make last year’s Mardi Gras weekend safe & sound

Your help turned it around last year. Smaller and friendlier crowds — fewer arrests — violence curtailed...and you made the difference.

We need your help again this year.

TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT, THERE WILL BE:
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San Luis Obispo belongs to all of us. Please help keep it safe. Tell your friends looking for Mardi Gras parties to stay home the weekend of February 24th.

The Party Is Still Over

www.MardiGrasSLO.com
‘Great Lies’ appeals to our inner child

Matthew Brennan

THE MUSTANG DAILY

LOS ANGELES — Remember when you were a kid and you asked your dad where babies came from, and he told you that they grew on trees?

cartoonist and general funnyman Andy Riley, whose writing credits include the likes of “Little Britain” and “Smack the Pony,” a veritable what’s what of Brit-wit humor, has taken those big lies your parents told you and drawn them up as “Great Lies to Tell Small Kids,” out this month from Plume Publishing.

To those familiar with Riley’s familiar blend of adult irreverence and reassuringly juvenile drawings (which hearken back to those days in preschool when the phrase “anatomically correct” meant nothing), “Great Lies” is no surprise.

It is unapologetically goofy, taking wry shots at such a wide variety of targets, including ’80s fashion, “The Sound of Music” and the nativity scene — that no humor is left unattended.

Indeed, the lies are credible because they are (mostly) believable.

It’s easy to picture a 4-year-old gobbling up the ability of goldfish to _ swim_ (Riley’s words); really want a gravy burger. This was one the morn­ ing after Valentine’s Day. But let me fill you in on all the details that led to my post-Valentine’s Day hangover.

On the most romantic holiday of the year, I decided to hang out with some friends, a band and a whole bunch of liquor at a bar. For those with a significant other, Valentine’s Day is a day for love and gifts. But for many singles, Valentine’s is a drinking holiday up there with St. Patrick’s Day and Cinco de Mayo — so I decided to join in the festivities.

A large group of friends and myself decided to go to Frog & Peach. Some are in relationships, some aren’t, but everyone went because it was pint night and a band was playing. The bars have an odd mix of really happy couples, singles looking for other singles, the lonely profes­ sionals and the horny. And the only thing these varied groups have in common is their need to drink. Some drink to ease the comfort of an awkward Valentine’s date, some drink because this is their fifth Valentine’s with their significant other and they have run out of things to talk about, and then others drink because of their lack of a significant other.

It might seem sad, but everyone was having a good time — the band was tuning up, sang a few verses of “Joy to the World” (also known as “Jeremiah was a Bullfrog”), tells the bar she is a Taurus, does a little jig and then jumps off the stage. People are starting to lose their minds.

Then you wake up. You don’t think about the night before, you just think about how your brain feels like it is four times its normal size and attempting to escape from your head, and just like that the memory (or what memory you, have of Valentine’s Day) is gone — for another year.

—Mark Schulman

world-class drummer

Mark Schulman performed for professor Stephen Stem’s business law class Wednesday night. He has played with Cher, Foreigner, Velvet Revolver and Sheryl Crow.

If you hear something, you might forget it ... but if you experience it, you know.

—Mark Schulman

world-class drummer

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M y stomach hurts, my head aching and I really want a gravy burger. This was one the morn­ ing after Valentine’s Day. But let me fill you in on all the details that led to my post-Valentine’s Day hangover.

On the most romantic holiday of the year, I decided to hang out with some friends, a band and a whole bunch of liquor at a bar. For those with a significant other, Valentine’s Day is a day for love and gifts. But for many singles, Valentine’s is a drinking holiday up there with St. Patrick’s Day and Cinco de Mayo — so I decided to join in the festivities.

A large group of friends and myself decided to go to Frog & Peach. Some are in relationships, some aren’t, but everyone went because it was pint night and a band was playing. The bars have an odd mix of really happy couples, singles looking for other singles, the lonely profes­ sionals and the horny. And the only thing these varied groups have in common is their need to drink. Some drink to ease the comfort of an awkward Valentine’s date, some drink because this is their fifth Valentine’s with their signifi­ cant other and they have run out of things to talk about, and then others drink because of their lack of a significant other.

It might seem sad, but everyone was having a good time — the band was good, pints were cheap and once you got into the bar it was as if Valentine’s Day doesn’t exist. The bar is a safe haven from the pink, the cards and the candy. The only reminder is the double memory (or what memory you, have of Valentine’s Day) is gone — for another year.

—Mark Schulman

world-class drummer

Mark Schulman performed for professor Stephen Stem’s business law class Wednesday night. He has played with Cher, Foreigner, Velvet Revolver and Sheryl Crow.

If you hear something, you might forget it ... but if you experience it, you know.

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MUSTANG DAILY

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Graphic Arts Building, Suite 226
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

(805) 756-1700 editorial
(805) 756-1443 advertising
(805) 756-2298 fax
mustangdaily@gmail.com e-mail

EDITORIAL/ STAFF

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Please limit letters to 250 words.
Letters should include the writer's
full name, phone number, major
and class standing. Letters must
come from a Cal Poly e-mail account.
Do not send letters as an
attachment. Please send the text
in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail

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Letters to the Editor
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the neighboring community. We
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thankful for your careful reading.
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of board approval.

February 16, 2006
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"Only God has the balls to wear a pink shirt."

MUSTANG DAILY

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, February 16, 2006

SEX COLUMN

The party in your pants is still on

S

So we’re managing the articles. We’ve heard
the news. We’ve opened the door to
copies bearing pamphlets and hot p e s e f u l smiles. We get it. The party is
still over. But that doesn’t mean you have
to spend this Feb. 28 actually doing
taskwork or studying for the midterm
your witch-of-a-bio-teacher scheduled for the next day. No self-respecting Cal Poly student
would do that on our holiest of holidays, the very
event that puts San Luis Obispo on the map (oh come on, no one really goes to the Mission).
In all the parade-crashing and rioting
craziness, we’ve forgotten the main goal of Mardi Gras: Good old fashioned indulgence, with a sizzling
hot plate of sex on the side. So here’s how we still enjoy all the perks of Mardi Gras
without end­
ing up in the drunk tank

by Janice Edman

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craziness, we’ve forgotten the
main goal of Mardi Gras: Good old fashioned indulgence, with a sizzling
hot plate of sex on the side

by Janice Edman

What does the other sex have to say?

Out of 365 days, Mardi Gras is some sort of fluke day where throwing things
at women makes them want to be naked.
Some thoughts about the faulty e-mail

Thank your Russell, for saying why I thought what I was thinking but afraid to say. I only have two things wrong with what you wrote in your letter to the editor. "Cal PoIy's faulty e-mail system is unacceptable." dated Feb. 10, 2006.

Tim Kerns
Oracle Collaboration Suite (OCS) fan and is not directly responsible for the initial implementation of OCS on campus.

It's sad that only a student had the guts to express public dissatisfaction for such a poorly implemented service.

Every everything else went right on the button. If there is a silver lining to be had it's that students at Cal Poly can say they are truly familiar with a failed "real world" IT project. Mark down today's date and keep track of how long it takes for Information Technology Services (ITS) to respond to the issues. I'll bet it won't be any time soon.

Eric A. Kralick
Newspaper analyst, PCLAN
PolyCard and Specialized Support Services

Here is that same letter minus the satire and fun (my apologies):

Electing religious leaders to our greatest society's posts is a clear affront to the public's personal freedoms. This truth appears to be public understanding, even among religious Americans.

Even though it could be done, we should not present the barbarians of our own personal beliefs into public politics where they would undoubtedly press it unfairly.

Another publicly held understanding contradicts this principle: the right to vote along religiously defined lines. "Say no to electing priests but casting God-fearing Christian men because they believe in the Bible and intend to pass on their Christian belief oriented laws is fine. But what is the difference between this man and the priest?"

For starters the politicians rebuilding a town without any wood. No, wait, that was a dumb analogy. But Matt Fritch, will school really be better without this thing? Morgan Elam
General engineering senior

Thank you Matt Fritch
I would just like to say thank you from those of us who read these letters to the editor for their tragic humor.

I am sure that God appreciates, as I do, that he is now free from the burden of judging whether or not Morgan Elam's beliefs are correct. You are a credit to your organized belief system. Keep up the good work.

John P. Fitch

There's no need for senseless ranting in letters
I have observed a disturbing trend in the Mustang Daily over the course of the last few weeks. Several hot-button issues have made themselves the center of attention. Be it the fake Christian rant, the evolution debate or any of the other debates which have raging in the letter to the editor. The problem is not debate, debate is good and needed, the problem is the pages of the Mustang Daily have become home to personal attacks and smear.

We all know the drill. first Person X writes a letter then Person Y responds and Person X had their fun being completely belligerent to nonbelievers around the world, I think it's time for Muslims to get over it. Just because somebody insults the founder of their religion is no reason for the world's Muslims to call for the beheading of the satirical cartoonist who was trying to make the point that Mohammed just might not approve of suicide bombing. The fact is that nobody cared much about this cartoon published in a Danish newspaper back in September until Muslim clerics brought it down to the absoluting in America is the IDEA that we are all equal. Unfortunately this ideal America isn't the reality.

The reality is we live in a racist, sexist, heterosexual and class society.

You don't have to look very far into the criminal justice system to examine the racial inequities and validation of modern day internalized racism. How does this make us equal?

I'm unsure how times have changed. Blacks continue to be misrepresented in history books. Even upon inclusion how truthful is it? Did your middle school American history course focus on the objectification of black females as a means to increase a slave owner's wealth through sexual violence? Did it mention the white actors of the 1920s performing minstrel shows in black face? Or even the black actors who were forced to perform in black face and perpetuate stereotypes? Writers wrote the history books, and in American history it's the whites.

You make one valid statement, "It is a diversity of history and culture that gives America its strength and makes America what it is today." It is because of this that we need to recognize and celebrate difference.

"Groups" don't get romantically involved with a black woman on campus as they would with a white woman. The point that you made is that "groups" don't get romantically involved with a black woman on campus as they would with a white woman. What does this make us equal?

JOSE M. G. MUSTANG DAILY

Stop riding your bike so fast and slow down
If you ride a bike anywhere near campus on downhill paved terrain, do us all a favor and slow down. You don't need to go over 12,000 miles per hour on your bike.

There are people who wish to use those sidewalks, and they don't want to be hit by some stupid guy who thinks he's more important than the sidewalks. I'm sick of this shit.

Not a day goes by where I don't observe many bicycle riders going down the center of the Mustang Village and see at least ten people hanging as they ride on their bikes — like they're running from the police after robbing a bank.

Thank you.

Manuel Arizvelo
Construction management junior

For more news and views visit www.mustangdaily.net
Savings rate drop reflects American prosperity

Justin Thompson

ATHENS, Ohio — The personal savings rate of Americans has dropped below zero for the first time since the Great Depression, according to a report released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The bureau calculates the figure by totaling personal income and deducting taxes and expenditures, and whatever is left is designated as savings, said Richard Vedder, professor of economics at Ohio University.

That means money in stocks, bonds, or real estate is voided from the equation altogether.

I should point out, (the savings rate) has been falling for a long time," Vedder said. "(Though recently) it literally has inched down to zero, or a little below that.

Several factors have contributed to this decline in personal savings, he said. "People said, 'Heck. The value of our stocks is going up — we're getting richer, ' we're getting better off. We don't need to save.'

He said the real-estate boom has been a major factor. "Some people probably felt really prosperous," he said. "It's kind of on paper. It's not real, in a sense."

The rise in the stock market during the 1990s prompted many individuals to relocate funds from relatively low-interest savings accounts to high-yield mutual funds or individual stocks, he said.

Also, before the Bush tax cuts, individuals could be taxed on fictitious gains in holdings — money gains because of inflation that do not reflect any real gain in purchasing power. That means the real goods people could buy actually decreased even though their personal savings increased.

Though the data do not specify differences in the savings of age groups, college students typically save less than other demographics.

Students are not only earning less per year than most of their off-campus counterparts, the recent rise in tuition also forces many to rely on loans.

A Feb. 2 New York Times article reported the interest rates on federal Stafford Loans will change from 5.3 percent to 6.8 percent beginning in July, as Congress looks for a way to decrease revenue from the loan payments.

Many UC students said they save money only during summer jobs. "I worked during the summer," said freshman Kate McMen, "I worked my way through half of it." She said she thought the savings rate went down because of the perception of advertising has lessened the importance of saving.

"Our parents valued money a lot more than we do," she said. These financial decisions, however, will affect students' futures. "I don't think (students) really grasp they have to pay off the loans, " said freshman Jacqueline Garry. "They're living in the now."

I don't think (students) really grasp they have to pay off the loans ... they're living in it now."

Jacqueline Garry

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New photos of Abu Ghraib threaten to enflame anger in Iraq

Robert H. Reid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — New images showing Iraqis abused by U.S. guards at Abu Ghraib prison three years ago threatened Wednesday to enflame public anger already running high over footage of British soldiers beating youths in southern Iraq.

Images of naked prisoners, some bloody and lying on the floor, were taken at the same time as earlier photos that triggered a worldwide scandal and led to military trials and prison sentences for several lower-ranking American soldiers.

Many of the images broadcast by Australia's Special Broadcasting Service, including some that appear to show corpses, were more graphic than those previously published. One of the video clips depicted a group of naked men with bags over their heads standing together and mumbling. The network said they were forced to participate.

The targeting of the Middle East, at a time of widespread anti-Western protests over published caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, has sparked concern about Western influence, and efforts underway in Iraq to show corpses, were more graphic than those previously published. One of the video clips depicted a group of naked men with bags over their heads standing together and mumbling. The network said they were forced to participate.

Iraq's acting human rights minister, Nermine Othman, said she was "tortured" by the pictures and would study whether any action could be taken against those responsible, even though some offenders have been imprisoned.

"There will be two kinds of reactions from Iraqis," she told The Associated Press. "One will be anger and others will feel sorry that they [SIS] didn't give them to the Iraqi government to investigate. Why use them? Why show them? We have had enough suffering and we don't want any more."

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the Defense Department believed the release of additional images of prisoner abuse was harmful and "could only further inflame and possibly incite unnecessary violence in the world."

Whitman said he did not know whether the photos and video clips were among images the Pentagon has been withholding from public release since 2004.

But another defense official said Army officials had reviewed the photographs posted on the Sydney Morning Herald's Web site and matched them to images that were among those turned over to military authorities in 2004 by a U.S. soldier.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to address the matter publicly, said the photos contained no new information about abuse.

Although the Abu Ghraib case was exhaustively reported here years ago, the new images could revive the issue of treatment of Iraqis by U.S.-led occupation forces, who face the present threat of death or serious injury at the hands of insurgents.

This week's release of video showing British troops beating Iraq youths during a violent 2004 protest in the southern city of Amara prompted the Baar provincial administration to sever ties with British authorities.

Members of Shiite political groups opposed to the U.S.-led coalition appeared to have engineered that move. They were apparently seeking to exploit public sensitivities after attempts by the British to crack down on Shiite militias.

The fresh Abu Ghraib pictures were broadcast as the United States is trying to reach out to the disaffected Sunni Arab community, the backbone of the insurgency, in hopes of encouraging Sunni insurgents to lay down their arms and join the political process.

Most of those who suffered abuse at Abu Ghraib were believed to have been Sunni Arabs. Sunni leaders have also alleged mistreatment by Shiite-led Iraqi government security forces, a development that has sharpened sectarian tensions.

Mindful of the risks, some key Iraqi officials either avoided comment or sought to play down the images, noting the Americans had already punished Abu Ghraib guards.
Iran's president visits plant resuming uranium enrichment

Ali Akbar Dareini
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited the Natanz uranium enrichment plant Wednesday, a day after Tehran confirmed it had resumed small-scale enrichment there last week, the official news agency reported.

Ahmadinejad's visit to the plant in central Iran is widely seen as a gesture of support and a morale boost for scientists involved in Iran's uranium enrichment program. Activities at Natanz had been suspended since October 2003.

"What enemies fear is not production of an atomic bomb, because in today's world atomic bombs are not efficient," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by the Islamic Republic News Agency. "The main fear and concern of enemies is the self-reliance and knowledge of the Iranian nation and the fact that Iranian youth are acquiring peaceful nuclear technology."

Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh and other top officials of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran accompanied the president on his visit, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

"The success of the Iranian nation in acquiring peaceful nuclear technology will help the country to make progress in all fields," Ahmadinejad said.

Iran insists its nuclear program is designed solely to generate electricity. Many Western nations, led by the United States and Israel, fear Tehran is trying to build nuclear weapons and have sought to stop Iran from enriching uranium.

On Feb. 4, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Iran to the U.N. Security Council and called on its government to suspend all enrichment-related activities. Instead, Iran--suspected certain aspects of its co-operation with the IAEA.

On Wednesday, a Russian Embassy official confirmed that Russia and Iran would hold talks in Moscow on Monday on Russia's offer to enrich uranium for Tehran. Moscow has offered to host Iranian enrichment in Russia, where it would have better oversight -- a proposal seen as an international standoff over Tehran's nuclear program.

Also, a spokesman for the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee said Iran's foreign minister would meet the panel on Monday, a possible indication that Tehran was preparing to return to a dialogue with Europe.

Iranian officials announced Tuesday that enrichment had resumed last week at Natanz but that large-scale enrichment, as required for producing fuel for nuclear reactors, had not resumed.

Aghazadeh, who is also the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said resumption of uranium enrichment was limited to "a few centrifuges."

Centrifuges are used to enrich uranium. Uranium enriched to low level is used to produce nuclear fuel for reactors and further enrichment makes it suitable for use in nuclear weapons.

Iran had 164 centrifuges in Natanz sealed by the IAEA in 2003. The seals were removed last month when Iran resumed nuclear research. Iranian officials have indicated that Tehran may possess up to 2,000 centrifuges. For a large-scale enrichment plant, Iran has to build up to 60,000 centrifuges.

Iran insists that as a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which provides for peaceful nuclear development, it is entitled to enrich uranium for nuclear reactors. It has threatened to withdraw from the treaty if it was not allowed to exercise that right.
Olympics
continued from page 10
said Joe Rocha, a sophomore
editorial engineering major. "The
traditions are being missed. The
athletes are a lot less classy in the
Winter Olympics and some of the
marching flat-out disrespectful
during their medal ceremonies.
Just hate to see it go that way."

These safety issues and the
cost of the equipment someone
too can take less benefit.

Xronos.com, an everything
Kiteboarding Web site, based in
"If you haven't learned correctly, the kite can
pull you straight up in the air 10 or 15 feet
and drop you back on the ground."

MAY AND JUNE:
If you just want to check out some local kiteboarding, the fourth
annual KiteXPC will take place at Pismo Beach from
May 19 to 21. This is one of the largest
kiteboarding events in the country with sports,
contests, events, demos and sponsored
events.
To learn more about kiteboarding on the
Central Coast, the CCKA has a chat group on the
Lord of the Rings group. Just search for CCKA.

Outdoor Gunn
continued from page 10

Shell Beach, offers classified, kiteboarding news and lessons. A personal
free-hour instructors course

Kiteboarding continues from page 10
Students actually happen on land before anyone
even gets in the water.

"We haven't learned
correctly, the kite can pull
you straight up in the air
10 or 15 feet and drop you
back on the ground."

Bill Spanier said.

Looking for someone with an
environment we need

Steve Beneran said.

correctly, the kite can pull
you straight up in the air
10 or 15 feet and drop you
back on the ground.

With 70-Across,

And 58-Across

30 Tony-winning
era

65 He pays

53 Camel, notably

42 Thrusts out a lip

48 Without, with

Lana Turner's

14 Camel, notably

22 Hair get

9 Country whose

15 Saved

12 Industry id

11 Brown-coated

elephant

5 Minibus, for

17 Bars on a runway

26 Ed's request

28 Popular ice cream

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
CROSSWORD
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Troy Hagen
30 "Say, ashah, "
32 A pair of rattan
34 Tiny channels
35 Quiq, part 2
41 Lewis Carroll
43 Part of a rare
birth
44 Thrusts out a lip or
two
45 Where a dive might start
46 Criteria: Abbr
50 Boy neighbor
51 Country whose flag says "God
rules"
53 N.C.'s capital
57 Abbr. after a
general's name
62 Padre's

ACROSS

30 Tony-winning
era

63 In... of anger

37 Higher-ups

46 Achievement

49 Collect slowly

53 Camel, notably

61 Suspense

54 Speaker's finale

56 1980's-90's

57 'How sad

58 Like some

59 What a horse's nose is noted

60 Warning sign for

61 Suspense

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MustangDaily
Thursday, February 16, 2006
www.mustangdaily.net

SPORTS

SLO Outdoor Adventures

Central Coast Kiteboarding

Joe Sargent
16KING OF THE WIND

Kiteboarding, the culmination of snowboarding, surfing, wakeboarding, and windsurfing, has made a home for itself on the Central Coast.

Strapped to a board and tied to a kite, boarders are pulled down the face of waves and dragged above the lip for big airs with the power of wind, and San Luis Obispo County has some premium kiteboarding spots at San Simeon, Oceano and Morro Bay.

With spots to ride, places to buy gear, and instructors, the Central Coast is a great place to learn the relatively new sport, however, it has a learning curve, is equipment-focused, and can be a strain on the wallet.

One of the reasons there is so much used equipment is because the relatively new sport of kiteboarding is progressing more every year and new and improved equipment is coming out at the same time, said Steve Benejan, a local kiteboarder and a member of the Central Coast Kite Boarding Association (CCKA).

"Equipment change is pretty radical from year-to-year," Benejan said. "Last year's model can be a quarter of the price."

One of the big improvements over the last two years is in safety, Benejan said, adding that there are a lot of safety issues with the sport and that most see Kiteboarding, page 15

American Olympic Progress

Ryan Chartrand
MUSTANG DAILY

After five days of long and hard fought battles on ice and snow, Team USA has brought home five gold medals from the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics, more than any other country so far.

According to the American winter gladiators have collected eight medals and stand strong in third place among 18 other countries.

Teamed USA proved to be the masters of snowboarding, shoveling in four medals in the men and women's halfpipe. Shaun White, the record-breaking 19-year-old pro-skateboarder/Olympic snowboarder, dominated the halfpipe and won the gold medal for the U.S.

Danny Kass raked in his second silver medal behind White and helped show the American dominance in the third Winter Olympics appearance of the event.

On the women's side, Hannah Teter, an X Games gold medalist, brought home the gold in the halfpipe in her Olympic debut. Gretchen Bleiler, another X Games gold medalist and as the media are now calling her, the "hottest Winter Olympian," polished off the Team USA snowboarding success by winning the silver medal in the halfpipe in yet another impressive debut.

Ted Ligety landed a gold medal for America's golden avalanche. Joey Chest and Chad Hedrick brought home two gold medals for speed skating in the 500-meter and 5,000-meter events, respectively.

Both competitors won with commanding leads, Hedrick coming in 2.5 seconds ahead the runner-up from the Netherlands, Sven Kramer.

Not everyone competing on the ice has been so lucky, however.

Michelle Kwan, the most decorated American figure skater, made headlines before she had even competed. On Sunday, Kwan announced that she was dropping her spot on Team USA because her groin injury had become too aggravating.

This would have been Kwan's third and final chance at becoming a gold medalist, making her withdrawal from the games that much more difficult for her.

Students at Cal Poly have different reactions to the 2006 Winter Olympics.

"The Olympics is the only event I know that combines the past, present and future so majestically," said Coleman Younger, a sophomore aerospace engineering major. "Whether we are watching the highlights of the 1980 'Miracle on Ice,' the graceful bowing out of Michelle Kwan or knowing that children everywhere are practicing ski jumping off their living room couches, we are all brought a little closer by these terrific games."

On the other side of the ice, see Olympics, page 15

The Olympics

Ted Ligety gave the United States the Olympic gold medal that Bode Miller couldn't deliver, putting together the two fastest slalom runs of the day to win the men's combined and break the Americans' lack in Alpine skiing. The 21-year-old from Park City, Utah, had a combined time of 3 minutes, 9.35 seconds, for the downhill and two slalom runs.

Bikes, Mardi Gras and police tape

COMMENTARY

What! A huge, worldwide-class bike race is coming to San Luis Obispo! I know it's shocking but it is true! Time to dust off the Five Star Tour of California, arguably the largest bike race on the West Coast, will finish its fourth stage in downtown SLO on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Awesome. Finally SLO will have some well-earned attention in the national spotlight. Plus, a little fun in the sun with a professional bike race never hurt anyone, right?

But wait, there is more—if you thought for a moment that Feb. 23 sounded like a familiar date, here is one for the books. That same weekend is what would have been SLO's annual Mardi Gras celebration. A holiday formerly dominated by partying college kids, now overrun with $500,000 worth of law enforcement.

Here is a recipe for disaster: Take one professional bike race with over 200 competitors and their teams, families and friends, an inordinate amount of college kids and their visitors hoping to rekindle the crazy times of the past and 400 plus police officers with pepper spray, beanbag guns and night sticks, mix them all together and wait 20 minutes.

I know, I know, it sounds a little dramatic to predict total chaos for that weekend, but one cannot help but wonder, what on earth they are thinking allowing the tour to come into SLO during that weekend.

I contend having the bike race finish in SLO on another date would have allowed for SLO's residents to get out and enjoy the event together in a manner that is peaceful and relatively sane. Having the race come into SLO on Mardi Gras weekend is only going to add another element to a potentially dangerous situation.

Not only will there be no parking and closed roads, but there will also be twice as many people and subse quently twice the opportunity for a potentially dangerous situation.

For complete coverage of Cal Poly women's basketball team face Long Beach State in Mott Gym tonight at 7 p.m.

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www.mustangdaily.net

Sports editor: Frank Szeidl • mustangdaily@saua.com
Assistant sports editor: Chris Gunn

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