ASI presidential candidates share platforms in UU

Brian McMullen
MUSTANG DAILY

The three Associated Students Inc. presidential hopefuls participated in a debate on the stage in the University Union Plaza on Thursday. The debate began with each candidate giving a two-minute speech.

First to speak was civil engineering junior Arvand Sabetian. His speech dealt with three issues that are key to his campaign for presidency: His first issue was working with the city to "irm out the things that haven't been ironed out." Sabetian then spoke on ASI-student relations and said, "A lot of students want to trust ASI but they haven't gotten there yet." The last issue he spoke on was the unfinished business of past presidents, which he said will be taken care of if he is elected.

Agribusiness senior Brandon Souza then explained that his platform will focus on student academic success. The second issue Souza discussed was student safety on and off campus. He said that along with members of his campaign staff, he will be offering free sober rides on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for the duration of his campaign. Souza's last issue was facility improvement. He said that he wanted to make sure that the facilities are growing with the student population.

In his speech, business senior Matt Taylor said that he would run his office with integrity and make sure that the issues he pursues will be ones that represent all 18,000 students. He also said that he chose a platform that's reasonable and will benefit all students who pay dues to ASI. Another issue Taylor said he will tackle is student communication with ASI and that he will have an open-door policy if elected.

"I don't care what your issue is; if a student is treated poorly, it is an issue," Taylor said.

"I want to make sure that the facilities are growing with the student population. This is very important," Souza said.

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Holla for Coachella!
IN SPORTS, 5

Poly goes for fourth straight win tonight in Long Beach
IN SPORTS, 8

Humpty Dumpty's great fall

The annual Egg Drop Competition, created by the Poly Pack Committee, took place on Chorro and Higuera streets at Farmers' Market on Thursday night. The committee gave students and industry professionals particular materials from which they had to construct a protective package so the egg inside it would not break.

The packages were dropped from varying heights and in the end, graphic communication senior Skeda Sobchik, who's also the Mustang Daily's photo editor, won the grand prize of $500. Second place and $200 went to graphic communication student Annie Heck, while graphic communication sophomore Danielle Steussy won third place and $100.

— Photos by Graig Mantle
Debate

continued from page 1

ed unfairly, I want to know about it," he said.

After their speeches, the candidates fielded questions written by students.

One question asked the candidates to explain what makes them different than the other two running for presi­
dent.

Souza responded to the question by addressing the peo­
ple who think that his run for ASI president is to build a

he said, adding, "this is a passion of mine; I've been

studying since the fourth grade." Taylor responded to the question when she said, "I will run my presidency how I run myself as a person. I try and

be a very honest person, a good friend and a good com­

municator," he added that he is concerned with what the students want and that he does not have an agenda that he

is trying to push.

"When it comes down to it, my quality over them is con­
nection to the students," Sabatian said in response,

mentions that he has been involved in many diverse clubs and told the audience that someone to the left or

right of them could get a hold of him in the next hour.

"You can be sure that if I'm elected, you can get a hold of me easily," he said.

The presidential hopeful also discussed how they will improve the campus bus system.

Sabatian said that improving the bus system is part of a larger problem of student transportation and that by

improving bicycle issues as well as parking issues on cam­
pus, the bus system will improve. He also said that he will

work to make sure that bus routes that haven't been

extended will be extended.

Souza responded to the question by saying, "Bottome

line is that extending bus hours and extending bus trans­
portation takes money. And how are we going to get that

money?" He said that he wants to sit down with the uni­

versity and the community next year and discuss options to get better and more effective transportation for stu­
dents.

Taylor tackled the bus issue and said, "We should con­
tinue to work on the bus system for people who need to

get to campus and feel that that is their only method of

transportation." He later added that it becomes a safety

issue when the buses are running late at night and stu­
dents are unable to get a ride home.

"I want to make sure that every student is safe and every

student has a ride home and a ride here," he said.

The candidates were also asked what they thought the

cause of high textbook prices was and how they would try

and lower them.

Souza identified the main problem as professors turning

in textbooks requests late.

"I feel that's a key aspect that needs to take place and

needs to be enforced if we're going to expect to pass on

these reduced prices to students," he said.

Taylor stuck to the reason for high textbook prices and

said, "I'm sick of paying $40 a quarter for my text­

books and I think it's something the students feel as well." Sabatian agreed with both Souza and Taylor's reasons

for the high prices but added that another issue is over­
n head costs.

"I'm going to work with El Corral (Bookstore) and

make sure that a lot of the overhead is out," he said, adding,

"When it comes down to it, we can cut 20 to 30 percent

of textbook pricing."

All three candidates were satisfied with the debate and

were irritated by the questions.

"I think we all answered the questions to the best of our

ability," Taylor said, "I thought the questions were very
diverse," Taylor said, "I was interested to see how many

questions focused on the city, which is very important." Sabatian said that he felt some of the questions were too

complicated and that some words used were probably not

common knowledge to most students.

"I would have rather had more questions about clubs and

how clubs can get what they want from us," he said.

"I'm excited to see that the turnout this year was so

good," he said. "We have three very well-qualified candi­
dates running and I'm glad that they both had the oppor­
tunity to share their platforms."

After watching the debate, civil engineering junior

Peter Parsons said, "It feels neat to know we are rep­
resenting America's schools. We

had a chance to see the candidates and get to know them better than if you were just reading the paper."

When asked if the debate affected his voting decision,

he said, "I actually cemented my position more than before.

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After a project demonstration

at the sensors into the vehicle. The

cart displays autonomous warning

and braking and an airbag deploy­
ment 10 to 20 milliseconds prior

to impact."

"Different senior projects all completed different tasks, we

basically put the brain into the
cart," Parsons said.

After a project demonstration to three representatives visiting

campus from the U.S. Department of Transportation on

March 19, this group was one of

three North American teams

chosen to compete against seven

other regional winners in France.

Other North American finalists

include Stanford University and

Wake Forest University School of

Medicine.

The Enhanced Safety of Vehicles Conference emerged

under the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization's Committee on the

Challenges of Modern Society

back in 1970, although it was

officially implemented by the

U.S. Department of

Transportation. The conference

can be held in any of its 23 par­
ticipating countries, and the last

conference in June 2005 was

in Washington, D.C.

The competition goes hand

in hand with the goal of the confer­
ence to encourage the research

and development of vehicle safety

technology. Applying to be a part of the competition need to have a project that exemplified progress in a real-world vehicle safety problem.

To make the final cut, projects

needed to qualify at one of the

regional levels: North America,

Europe or Asia-Pacific.

During the competition, all

student teams will be reviewed by

a panel of judges. Teams will need
to present a PowerPoint outlining

important information pertaining
to their project and will have a

10-minute time slot to demonstra­
ate the abilities of their func­
tional models.

Contest winners will walk away with the recognition of

their peers and a monetary prize.

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Everyone remembers their first time...
National agency said Thursday. The focus was on the strongest contenders — Giuliani, the former New York City mayor; McCain, a four-term Arizona senator; and Mitt Romney, the ex-governor of Massachusetts. Seven lesser-known rivals were joining them on stage: Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, Jim Gilmore of Virginia, and Reps. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, Duncan Hunter of California and Ron Paul of Texas.

These issues such as the Iraq war, immigration, taxes, abortion, gay marriage and terrorism were certain topics during the debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library north of Los Angeles.

The bill would be a direct challenge to President Bush, who says he cannot accept any legislation that would tie his hands on the war. This week, Bush vetoed a $124.2 billion bill that would have funded operations in Iraq and Afghanistan while requiring troops to begin coming home.

The setting and the state were important in the GOP campaign now that the state has moved up in primary order to Feb 5, far earlier than in elections past. Eight months before the first GOP primary votes are cast, top issues such as the Iraq war, immigration, taxes, abortion, gay marriage and terrorism were certain topics during the debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library north of Los Angeles.

Republican top-tier contenders Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney — as well as some of their underdog rivals — have embraced the conservative icon's legacy and called for their party to be united and to focus on the issues that are under discussion.

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—Jennifer Pawlik
Minna No Anime Club Treasurer

Japanese animation can be a place where fans could gather and talk about it," Christian said. MNA has existed on campus for more than 15 years now, and the club meets every Saturday in the Business building, room 213. However, Christian warned that the club is not for everyone. "It's kind of a niche sort of thing," Christian said. "But it seems like a lot of people like it." Christian then elaborated on how she herself became involved in the world of anime. She felt drawn to certain parts of Japanese animation. "I'm just attracted to how well some of the storylines are plotted out, how beautiful the animation is and the bright colors," she said. Christian said that most people express their interest in anime after watching television shows like "Pokémon," "Transformers," or even "Dragonball Z," or even "Transformers." And that could lead people to look at other types of manga and Japanese animation.

Japanese animation targets a different audience in comparison to comics and cartoons produced in the United States, Pawlik mentioned that while Walt Disney dominates American cartoons, anime takes on a complex approach. "Japanese animation can be aimed at the younger age groups, but a lot of the time it's actually aimed at teenagers and young adults," Pawlik said. "There's a coherent story, there are characters that develop, and anime will address broader, more mature issues." Pawlik provided an example of these complex issues that are present in some anime films instead of an easier to follow plot with a clear hero and villain. "There's no good guy or bad guy," Pawlik explained. "There's a conflicting sense of beliefs and desires, but neither of them is good or bad." Some people wonder how people in MNA could have a social life, given that most club events involve watching Japanese animation with complex themes. However, Pawlik said that MNA helped relieve her shyness amongst her peers. "The anime club was pretty much the only way that I got out of my dorm and met people," she said. "I have a lot more friends here at the club than I ever did in high school." Sometimes MNA members go to anime conventions out of town, often without approval from ASI. But Christian said such gatherings are an opportunity to meet people that work in the anime industry as well as enjoying fun and games. Even without the blessing from the campus clubs, Christian noted that MNA has something for everyone at the price of $2 a quarter for membership. "Even if you don't like anime or manga, it is such a great community club," Christian said. "Everybody's there for each other, and I'm really proud to be the president."
Coachella — hot sun, cool music

Indio’s Coachella Valley Music and Arts Fest definitely worth the heat

Brooke Robertson

What word singularly drove approximately 180,000 people from around the world into the raging heat of the Southern California desert? Coachella.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Björk, and a re-united Rage Against The Machine headlined the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio last weekend, the biggest music festival in the West. Music-lovers from around the world flocked to the small California desert city in order to see an array of favorite artists and bands. A group of Australians flew to California for the festival weekend with the express purpose of seeing Rage Against The Machine, a band which played their first show Sunday night since their break-up seven years ago.

Faithful fans stood in over 100 degree temperatures and braved the dewy scent of sunscreen, sweat and grass clippings to see 122 artists consecutively adorn five stages from approximately 1 p.m. to midnight during all three days of the festival. An occasional breeze provided an escape from the dry heat, which finally cooled after 5 p.m. Despite the unfortunate lack of performing to have in the early afternoon heat, British artist Pop Levi and his band “Woman” appeared on stage dressed in long sleeves and layers, which they continued to wear throughout the extremely energetic set.

Levi leaped and shimmied like a madman across the stage, his eyes possessed and locking with audience members as he and his band soared with their instruments. What’s more, Levi’s guitarist had literally warmed up before the set. Dressed in black pants, black boots and a black turtleneck, he jumped rope with a vivid orange cable backstage only moments before he performed in 100-degree weather. For those without their heat-resisting abilities, the venue provided a mist tent where overheated Coachella-goers could cool off. Water bottles were also sold in all food areas for $2, a price which Coachella’s Web site boasts has not risen since the festival’s opening in 1999. Despite Coachella’s satisfaction with their water prices, many fans complained throughout the festival.

Numerous shade tents, often dis-

nised as art pieces, were available for protection from the sun, although finding a vacant spot was often a problem. Shade tent designs “L.T.” stood across the horizon, ranged from giant flower petals to a white dome with hanging art inside. Interactive art was everywhere at Coachella, and provided both a method of entertainment between bands as well as a uniquely beautiful setting. Giant metal sun-flowers with solar panels charged under the desert sun, lighting up a flashing colors at night. A 40-foot-tall spider-like metal creature called “I.T.” stood across the horizon, the largest twin Tesa coils in the world contributed to the array of art at the festival. Coachella-goers could also experience bike-powered carnival rides in the Cyclone. Bike Rodeo Pedaling a bicycle provided the energy to either propel riders or to propel the cyclist in altered fair rides, located in the middle of the festival.

Fans with low cell phone batteries could also plug their phones into an altered bicycle and pedal to recharge them in the “Energy Factory," an exhibit which also featured biodiesel-powered music and screen printing.

Coachella provided a lot for ticket-holders to look at and listen to.

Other much-anticipated bands included Interpol, Sonic Youth, The Arcade Fire, Kings of Leon, Reggion Spektor, LCD Soundsystem and Lily Allen, among many others, and the star sightings were plentiful.

Actress Scarlett Johansson took the main stage and weakly accompanied Jennifer and Mary Chant on the backup vocals for their song “Just Like Honey” The song appeared on the soundtrack to Lost in Translation, a film Johansson co-starred in.

Heiress Paris Hilton danced off-stage while Brazilian band Cansei de Ser Sexy, popularly known as CSS, played their hit song, “Meeting Paris Hilton.” Lead singer Lovefoxx screamed the lyrics, “I wanna take you home, bitch” at Hilton, which were inspired by the heiress’ 2003 sex video.

Other celebrity sightings included actress Lindsay Lohan, singer Kelly Osbourne, porn star Ron Jeremy and on the 11 list. Jared of “America’s Next Top Model.”

But while wandering celebrities caused fans to take double-looks, music was the main focus for Coachella-goers. When Osbourne abandoned her VIP seat to the side of the stage and joined the crowd during D’J Steve Aoki’s set, the audience was indifferent.

No one abandoned their spot on the dance floor to warm up or beg for an autograph.

This year’s Coachella was about the beats, strums, drums and vocals on stage and the crowd’s connection with them.

Guitarist and vocalist Daniel Auerbach of The Black Keys said their Coachella show was different because they knew that their audience chose to see them over other bands that played at the same time. On the last day of Coachella, guitarist Mike Stroud of Ratatat took a picture of the wildly dancing crowd his band had drawn in with its infectious beats. “This was so fun,” he told the crowd with heartfelt sincerity before leaving the stage.

There’s no doubt everyone who attended Coachella agrees.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**New major just watered down engineering**

Yes, it’s true. Most engineering students aren’t even themselves — out of a paper bag — even if they designed it. And yes, I’m sure there are some lonely engineers who are anxious for attractive classmates. However, for the proposal for a major that merges the College of Engineering and the College of Liberal Arts is a terrible idea. This program will leave students dangerously deficient in both areas and will quickly become the “engineering-slash-Dan-smart major” that will be accredited by ABET, misrepresented by employers, and too compact to be useful even for “business-oriented” engineers.

One of the two main reasons for this proposed major, according to the Academic Senate meeting notes from May 5, is that “Cal Poly has consistently lost a sizable number of its engineering students during the freshman and sophomore years for this college; at the same level, students are able to pursue who possesses the full. Jeff Freitas Civil Engineering

Uneven support for new major a red flag

The bachelor of science in liberal arts and engineering science plan is an engineering. I found it very disturbing that everyone questioning that degree is in the College of Liberal Arts. Yes, College of Engineering Dean Nocier is supporting it too. But with all due respect to the dean — he won’t be the one teaching the classes. What are these students/graduates going to be doing in the future? I don’t know. It’s certainly an engineering... I can write a damn good report, though!” And where is the “engineering” in the curriculum? Every engineer at Cal Poly has to take statics, dynamics and strength of materials (among a multitude of others). Those are the building blocks of engineering. The “engineering science” courses are just harder versions of the math and science classes many students take in other non-engineering majors. And the 300-400 level engineering courses typically need more than just calculus, chemistry and physics as prerequisites.

I’m sorry, but engineering is too hard, maybe you should switch out. But at least find a new major that will actually find you a respectable job — not so you can be an over-qualified retail manager. We work hard to earn the engineering title of our respective departments. I don’t see anyone proposing a liberal arts/architecture science degree. That would make just as much sense as this does. Engineering is a science, not an art. B.A. with engineering in the title goes against everything Cal Poly’s engineering programs are based on.

Katie Robinson Biological engineering junior

Business could learn from engineers

The College of Business could learn from engineers. I applaud the College of Liberal Arts and Engineering for developing a new major which will help students who have a change of heart and want to pursue another career direction. The College of Business does quite the opposite with its new internal transfer policy. They do not allow any students who have previously changed majors to even be considered for acceptance, regardless of their GPA or scores.

I find this policy extremely unfair. Why not base the system on performance or aptitude instead of eliminating some students from even having a chance? A good background in any area or major would give graduates a significant advantage in their field. For example, a background in liberal arts would greatly increase their ability to work with people, an essential part of any business. Switching majors does not make a student any less capable, in fact, it would make them more competent in the business world at large.

College is a place where you have to learn, to embrace diversity, and to figure out who you want to be with their life. When you start putting restrictions on changing career paths, and the number of times you can change, the systems becomes unfair. It’s like telling students, "You have three chances to explore different interests because they can only have expertise in one field. Instead of restricting students from finding their ideal career path, our university should be supporting and encouraging our students to take new opportunities, we need more.

Jamie Sheffield Liberal arts junior

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**American easy to spot in Australia**

_**name_**

In my Sydney campus, it is easy to spot a fellow all American student. Study abroad students are not elusive when it comes to clothes — clad in fleece, baggy pants, cool shoes, low rise jeans, and miniskirts paired with fuzzy Ugg boots. I find people like that out like sore thumbs. But I should clarify; I’d like to think that I am not part of the study abroad crowd since I have been living in Australia for a year. I’m not ashamed of being American, or出国 in any way, but I think that spending the extra six months here taught me how to shop with an Australian eye. I’d like to think my new wardrobe somehow magically transformed me into a native Australian. I’ve been to a few game; I already understand cricket, I know the hidden hot places in the city; and I know public transportation like the back of my hand. So why not look the part? Fashion wise, I have graduated from Supre, the cheap cousin of Forever 21, to Sportsgirl and Myer, the American version of Macy’s (but only when there is a sale). But, unfortunately, I am constantly reminded of a proverb I learned in high school Spanish class: Aunque la mona se viste de cola, mona se queda (although the monkey wears silk, it’s still a monkey). Case in point — when I was traveling in Adelaide, South Australia, a few tourists asked me for directions. Since I had been in the city for a few days, I had an idea of where they needed to go. At first I started speaking, it was rude-cut off: “Oh, you’re just a tourist too. You look like a local. Thank you though. Bye.” I got shut down by a bunch of other tourists … and that really hurt. My quest to assimilate will never be realized unless I remain mute. My Northern Californian accent is a dead giveaway to my foreignness. While I have incorporated a few Ausnish words and phrases in my vocabulary like no worries, ta, bloody, and heaps, it seems that Sydney was as my friend Nada, “it’s heaps funny.” It is ironic that last year I was complaining that I didn’t have an accent. I didn’t realize that you have to travel to discover it. Also, I stubbornly cling onto words like dude, man and crap. All my class­mates are really fond of dude.

But then again, my Australian friends also like to purpose other things that I do which are very “American.” I dance too J-Lo to techno, and to figure out what I laugh at unleash jokes, I walk like I’m in a hurry all the time and I speak too loud.

Tactfully, I am American. I won’t be able to shake it off in a matter of months; I got that part. I realized that if I keep this fool­ish delusion of trying to be a native Australian I will be an over-qualified retail manager. Clothes and words won’t help, I have to travel to discover it. Also, I will have to embrace the fact that I will just be another American student in Sydney, I can’t have a Shelia. This monkey has got to learn to not get a crap!
Cal Poly freshman shortstop Kyle Smith, right, tries to beat the throw to first base during the Mustangs' 3-1 home loss to Big West Conference foe UC Riverside at Baggett Stadium on April 20.

In pursuit of its fourth straight winning season, Cal Poly has a shot at earning its best Big West Conference winning percentage ever this year.

Tristan Aird
SPORTS EDITOR

I f last weekend is any indication, the Cal Poly baseball team's bats are hot. Very hot. The Mustangs scored 35 runs on 45 hits in their three-game non-conference sweep at Fresno State by scores of 6-4, 16-9 and 13-0.

That kind of production is likely to be harder to come by, though, against Long Beach State, which Cal Poly resumes Big West conference play against this weekend. The two teams begin their three-game series at 6:30 tonight. The first pitch at Blair Field in the second and third games is at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. "It was good to get away from conference play for a weekend, get back on the road and play in an offensive ballpark," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said Thursday of the Fresno State series. "For the most part, we swung the bat extremely well, took care of the ball. We'll need to continue going in the right direction in all facets of the game."

All facets of the game because Long Beach State is once again having a season worthy of the national rankings. The 49ers are ranked 24th in the Baseball America poll and 32nd by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper. The series is even more important, though, for the Big West title race.

Long Beach State (27-14) and UC Riverside (28-16) are tied atop the Big West standings at 7-2. Cal Poly (24-20) is just behind both at 8-4.

Lee said he hopes his team can put its controversial 11-10 home loss to UC Riverside on April 22 — which clinched the series 2-1 for the Highlanders — behind him.

" Losing Sunday's game against UC Riverside will come back to haunt us, I'm sure," Lee said. "But that's in the past. Now we'll try to win each conference series from here on out." Pitching has been long Beach State's calling card all season. The 49ers' first two starters for this weekend are projected to be southpaw Shane Peterson (2-1, 1.36 ERA) and ace right-hander Andrew Libiel (6-2, 2.14).

"They always pitch and play defense," Lee said of the 49ers. "They're a team that will scrap for runs. They're as strong a team as they've always been in the past. We don't expect anything different." 

One boost Cal Poly would love to receive this weekend is the return of sophomore center fielder Logan Schafer, who was sidelined against Fresno State with a groin injury. He is fourth in the conference with a .305 batting average in 39 games this season.

"Schafer should be back," Lee said. "He'll be back in the lineup this weekend, which will better us as an offensive and defensive standpoint. We had some bumps and bruises (but) we should be ready to go this weekend." Lee said sophomore southpaw Andrew Libiel will start Friday. Check out mustangdaily.com for a FREE Fast Break podcast with Ryan Chardon and Tristan Aird discussing Cal Poly in the NCAA Draft, along with the Mustangs' baseball, softball, tennis, golf and track and field teams. To listen to the 14-minute MP3, click on "Play Your News" or "Podcast" under Online Features.