**Students fight to freeze tuition rates with new ballot initiative**

Cassandra Carlson  
**Student writer**

Cal Poly tuition rates rose 7 percent for all majors this year from 2006-07. Over the past six years at UC and CSU campuses, tuition has nearly doubled.

With the looming tuition crisis falling upon California, action has spurred among college students to file the first student-led ballot initiative with the California attorney general and, if qualified, it will be put on the November 2008 ballot.

The initiative calls for a five-year tuition freeze for resident undergraduates in both UC and CSU systems. After the fifth year, future tuition increases would have to follow along with inflation index.

The group Students and Families for Tuition Relief Now started the process for the initiative a year ago with students in the Bay Area.

“This last summer the movement truly crystallized as a clear organization,” said Jeremy Bearer-Friend, one of the group’s lead organizers. “This campaign is unlike any other — we are not paying for signatures, we are showing students coordinating and bonding. Really, the goal is for students to flex their muscles.”

The group is leading the proposition along with organizing on many public campuses across the state to push its proposal. They are hoping to collect 434,000 signatures from early January through April while encouraging young voters to make it to the polls in November 2008.

“Students at each campus in California are getting involved and we want more students,” campaign director Chris Varoth said.

“We have a lot of signatures to accomplish but there are 650,000 students on UC and Cal State campuses that can sign and also parents, faculty and any registered Californian voters.”

Students and Families for Tuition Relief Now has infrastructure support from Greenlining Action, a nonprofit public policy organization impacting low-income communities. The organization took on this initiative because it felt college students need this freeze.

“College students are struggling, especially with textbook, credit card and student loan companies taking advantage of them,” Varoth said. “We want to stop attacks on affordability.

“There is a need for an educated workforce. Silicon Valley is in San Jose because of the education of graduates who enter the field but it may be any day now where there will be less and less college graduates due to the lack of affordability.”

Another factor in the proposed law will create new revenue specifically for the cost of educating UC and CSU students through a 1 percent tax on individuals who make more than $1 million.

Administrators from both systems would be accountable by law to report to a citizens’ panel of students.

Kate Stanhope  
**Daily Senior (UCSC)**

Monday marked a new chapter in the Writers Guild of America strike as the WGA and Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers resumed negotiations.

If negotiations succeed, television writers would finally be able to get back to work and salvage their day-time and primetime series before they run out of new episodes.

Several shows, such as “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” have been in repeats and have suffered ad revenue losses since the strike began. While it would take some time, new episodes of such late night shows would air as soon as their writers were able to put together enough material.

Also, non-writing staff members of television shows, such as stagehands and make-up and hair staff, would be able to return to work before losing their jobs that they could otherwise lose as soon as Nov. 30.

With the strike going into its fourth week, many in the entertainment industry are hoping this will also mark the final chapter of this coast-to-coast saga.

Kate Stanhope is a student at UCSC.

Actor John Stamos, center, and other cast members from “ER” support members of the Writers Guild of America as they strike outside the Warner Bros. Television Studios in Los Angeles on Nov. 6.

**Prostitution bust in SLO sends 5 to jail**

Coral Snyder  
**Daily Senior (UCSC)**

In an undercover sting operation, police arrested five suspects from the Central Coast from Nov. 9 to Nov. 13 for allegedly soliciting or agreeing to engage in prostitution.

Investigations began about a year ago when complaints of robberies were taking place through the Web site Craigslist.com. The site gets more than 30 million hits per month and can be used to look for or advertise housing, local activities, items for sale and romance.

Police got involved after individuals reported that they used the site to order a stripper, but were then robbed instead.

Samantha Wolcott, 19, of San Luis Obispo, was arrested after Mustang Village housing complex management alerted authorities that they suspected one of their residents of using the site to solicit prostitution.

“Someone undercover replied to her ad on Craigslist.com, met her and exchanged money, and talked about sex,” said San Luis Obispo Police Lt. Bill Proli.

Authorities said Wolcott had allegedly been using the site to solicit prostitution at one of the Mustang Village complexes for quite some time.

**Online submission guidelines**

Go online to vote in today’s poll. Which TV show will you miss most if it’s taken off the air as soon as Nov. 30.

**Today’s weather**

Sunny  
High 70°/Low 40°

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The president and the prizewinner: Bush and Gore, together again

Ben Feller
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — Talk about an inconvenient truth.

At Gore finally won his place in the Oval Office on Monday — right next to George W. Bush.

Forever linked by the closest and craziest presidential race in history, the two men were reunited by all things, White House tradition said. Gore and Bush met in 2007 Nobel Prize winner, who were invited in for a photo and some chat with the president. Gore got the recognition for his work on global warming.

The two men stood next to each other, sharing a comfortable gaze for photographers and reporters, who were quickly ushered in and out. "Familiar faces," the former vice president said of the media. Bush, still smiling, added nothing.

The two also had a 45-minute meeting in the Oval Office, part of Bush's effort to show some outreach to his lifelong rival. Bush added it was private and would not comment on it.

Gore, trailed by the press as he left the White House very publicly on foot, allowed that he and Bush spent the whole time talking about global warming.

"He was very gracious in setting up the meeting and it was a very good and substantive conversation," Gore said. "And that's all I want to say about it."

Gore's presence added unlikely buzz to a photo op that normally would have been buried by Bush's MidEast peace push. It is not like these two cross paths much. They have not met privately since then-President-elect Bush paid a visit — short, and that not so good — to Gore's residence in December 2000.

That was back when the atmosphere was fairly new, in a country still in disbelief over an election that seemed never-ending. Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court certified Bush's 537-vote victory margins over Gore in Florida to settle the outcome.

Since then, Gore has not shied away from criticizing Bush's latest book, "The Assault on Reason," is a relentless attack against the administration. And the White House's response when Gore won the Nobel Prize was less than giddy, Never mind all that. "I know that this president does not harbor any resentment," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. "Never has."

Indeed, the White House tried to make clear that Bush was hosting Gore not out of obligation, but genuine interest. Bush personally invited Gore. The White House changed its original date to accommodate Gore. And then there was the private Bush-Gore meeting, too.

When it was over, the scene took a bit of turn for the worse. Gore said he didn't want to comment. But with the media waiting for him, Gore and his wife, Tipper, walked out along Pennsylvania Avenue and up 17th Street, toward his nearby office — even though the White House is adept at helping people slip away unnoticed if they want.

The media horde followed the Gores for several minutes. When a veteran reporter asked Gore if he missed all the attention, he adeptly turned the question around. "When you leave this beat," he said. "I'm gonna ask you."
Bush, Mideast leaders voice measured optimism about peace

Anne Gearan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush stepped cautiously into the most direct Mideast peacemaking of his administration on Monday, meeting separately with the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to explore whether peace is possible.

A day ahead of a major Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md., Bush said he was optimistic. The gathering is to launch the first direct peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians of Bush's nearly seven years in office, and has attracted Arab and other outside backing.

Israel and Palestinian leaders have already said they want to conclude a bargain within the 14 months that Bush has left in office. The two sides were unable to frame a blueprint for the talks before they came to the United States, and negotiations over the text were expected to continue into Tuesday.

Bush emerged from an Oval Office meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and told him; "I'm looking forward to continuing the process." Bush said he hoped to "seize the moment." He said history is full of missed opportunities because people just look to the downside.

The agreement that was shaping up, as Palestinian official Yasser Abed Rabbo described it, is a starting point for negotiations and sketches only vague bargaining terms. The big questions that have doomed previous peace efforts would come later.

The document was to include a formal announcement of the renewal of peace talks. Abed Rabbo said, it will set a target for concluding negotiations before Bush leaves office in January 2009. And it commits the two sides to resolving the key issues that divide them.

Some in Bush's administration doubt that a settlement is possible in such a short time frame and have reservations about whether the Palestinians, in particular, are ready to make necessary concessions. The goal of the talks is to set up an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Palestinian women hold pictures of prisoners held in Israeli jails during a Mideast peace summit.

Bush's tempered outlook is in keeping with the Annapolis conference suggested he has his own misgivings, although administration spokesmen said the United States will remain closely involved after Tuesday's session closes.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the administration is committed to moving the process forward but added that "ultimately, it's going to come down to the two parties and bridging the differences that now exist between them on all the issues that we know are out there."

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White House press secretary Dana Perino said Bush urged Olmert and Abbas to "seize the moment."

"He said history is full of missed opportunities because people just look to the downside," she said.

The Palestinian question underlies numerous other conflicts and grievances in the Middle East, and has scattered hundreds of thousands of Palestinians across several Arab states. The Palestinians are unlikely to strike any bargain that their Arab backers and neighbors do not support, so the Annapolis conference is meant to make Arabs what one administration official called "ground-floor investors" in the new round of talks.

"When the president says I am fully backing this effort, I will use every resource ... how can you not be confident?" asked the kingdom's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal.
**State**

REDWOOD CITY (AP) — A man who confessed to pulling the trigger in an 18-year-old murder is set to be the prosecution's star witness — not the one facing jail.

San Mateo County prosecutors say Jesse Rodriguez of Los Angeles was in his 30s when he confessed to shooting Robert Perraquet of Daly City in April 1989.

But Rodriguez was only 14 at the time of the killing, authorities said. Under state law at the time the crime was committed, he can't be tried as an adult.

But if he were tried as a juvenile, the longest sentence he could face is incarceration until he turned 25.

SOM INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The San Diego Zoo's panda cub has a name and it's Precious. It's also Zhen Zhen in Chinese. Following Chinese tradition, the zoo waited until the cub, which was born Aug. 3, reached 100 days old before giving her a name.

More than 2,400 names were initially submitted by zoo visitors. Those were narrowed to four and then 36 percent of voters chose Zhen Zhen in an online poll.

The other choices were Li Hua (Beautiful China), Ming Zhu (Bright Treasure) and Xiao Li (Little Beauty).

**National**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A former police officer who made his dead cousin's identity to get on the force will not go to prison but must leave the country, a judge decided Monday.

Oscar Apuya-Corrêia, 25, was charged in federal court with falsely representing himself as an American citizen after an anonymous tip led the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to him.

He was arrested May 31 and agreed to a plea deal about two weeks later. He was fired from the department in June.

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**International**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Masked gunmen stormed the family home of a journalist who was associated with Saddam Hussein's party and critical of the Iraqi government, killing 11 relatives as they ate breakfast in a neighborhood known as a Shiite militia stronghold, colleagues said Monday.

Dhia al-Kawar, editor of the Jordan-based Asawat al-Iraq news agency, was in Jordan when his sisters, his husbands and his children were reportedly killed Sunday in north Baghdad's Shaab district.

According to the news agency's Web site, witnesses said more than five masked men broke into the home and opened fire, then planted a bomb inside.

LONDON (AP) — The woman behind the gentle, even voice which warns London's subway commuters to "Mind the gap" was fired after telling a newspaper she thought the transit network was dreadful.

Emma Clarke has been recording messages for London's sprawling subway network, "a provocative, fearless and bold leap into increasingly vocal criticism, the state-financed ad campaign is a possible threat to the well-being of the state's $5.1 billion tourism industry. In other words, while the ad may yield a chuckle or two, the joke is on New Mexico.

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The other choices were Li Hua (Beautiful China), Ming Zhu (Bright Treasure) and Xiao Li (Little Beauty).
In the holiday spirit

Coral Snyder

As the holiday season nears, so will the sounds of the San Luis Obispo Vocal Arts Ensemble, a local chorus that features music from the late medieval period through the early Renaissance as well as work from some modern composers.

Concerts will be performed at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 at Mission San Luis Obispo and at 3 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Performing Arts Center, which will feature the Forbes Pipe Organ.

"It's wonderful music; the student rush is a deal and you get to hear the Forbes Pipe Organ," said Brian Lawler, a Cal Poly professor and choir member.

The choir has been singing for 33 years and has competed and placed in world-class competitions in locations such as Austria, Canada and Wales. The chorus is composed of 55 men and women, and is directed by Gary Lamprecht.

The Vocal Arts Youth Choir — a newly formed choir composed of individuals ranging in age from 16 to 26 — will join the Vocal Arts Ensemble this holiday season.

The choir will be singing to music by composers ranging in age from the early Renaissance as well as work from some modern composers.

The first concert at the mission will be a smaller venue and have a different sound because of the Forbes Pipe Organ.

The organ has 2,767 pipes and took eight weeks to build. It also required two people working 12 hours per day over a period of nine months to tune. It was first used in a concert this past June and will be played in this concert by Vocal Arts Ensemble accompanist Barbara Hoff.

"The concerts themselves are a nice way to start off the holiday season," Ge- nace said.

Tickets for the mission performance and special seats at the Performing Arts Center performance can be purchased online at www.vocalarts.org or by calling 541-6797.

Student tickets are on sale for $13, and the concert at the Performing Arts Center will have a special student rush. Students with a valid ID who arrive there 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the concert will be eligible to purchase tickets for $5. The special student discount tickets must be purchased at the door.

Submit your poetry, photography and short stories to MustangDailyArts@gmail.com for a chance to be featured in the Mustang Daily! 

BE SEEN. BE HEARD. STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.
Historically, movies based on video games are failures at the box office with a few minor exceptions. "Hitman" should become another one of the successful exceptions. The film doesn't expand the plot of the video game series nor does it follow any one of the games specifically.

The Organization is a ghost corporation that uses well-trained agents to perform high-level assassinations for the highest bidder, with Agent 47 being the best of these soldiers. Timothy Olyphant is the elusive Agent 47, following the character outline established by the games. He is methodical, ruthless and rarely hesitates when performing a hit. The movie shows the audience a few of the reasons the games have never been so successful. Agent 47 uses many ways to eliminate his targets; these methods often don't work.

At the beginning of the movie, Agent 47 blows up his targets by using this format to give the audience a taste of entertainment. Sometimes the acting and character interaction is a bit choppy, but it adds to the lack of information from the games than to poor acting. This movie will appeal to action fans as well as gamers who know the character. For me, the movie was a huge success, and the film shied away from going over the top like many other crossovers.

The only other major difference between the movie and the games is the lack of information from the games than to poor acting. This movie will appeal to action fans as well as gamers who know the character. For me, the movie was a huge success, and the film shied away from going over the top like many other crossovers.

"Hitman" should become an Oscar winner, but video game crossovers never are. For me, the movie was a huge success, and the film shied away from going over the top like many other crossovers.

"I'm Not There," a new film about singer Bob Dylan, chronicles the life of the famed musician. Dylan film insightful

Ariel Raz

"I'm Not There," a new film about singer Bob Dylan, was created by Todd Haynes, the director of "Small Change," an Oscar-nominated performance for the actress. Blanchett's androgynous character works surprisingly well, perhaps even better so when some eyeliner, later emerging with a scribbled-on moustache. Later, she makes references to a bandmate lacking balls while her breasts are nearly visible beneath an over-sized collared shirt.

Perhaps Blanchett best embodies Dylan because she is aware that she is not him, while the characters around her do their best to conjure some conclusive fact about the man they think is their idealistic leader. While the film covers ideas that have been discussed elsewhere, Haynes' effort is the first one to delve into Dylan's period as a born-again Christian, when he made some of his most controversial music. To his credit, Haynes gets away from the Dylan that everybody is comfortably remembering-the early to mid '60s version. But then again, Pastor John (played as awkward and ignorant by Christian Bale) is not nearly as seductive as Blanchett's Jude, the character Haynes seems to favor. The other Dylans are either wonderful charming or don't fit with the rest of the story and become difficult to watch, which is the main problem with the film: It lacks cohesion and is difficult to keep up with. This might be the hazard of making a film composed of separate narratives that connects obliquely. Yet in one sense, Haynes has it easy, for the music composed entirely of covers from artists like Yo La Tengo and Sonic Youth, and partly by recordings of Dylan himself, is embarrassingly rich.

In the case of Dylan, the incoherent finish matches well with the figure, who is to this day still spending his way across the country on what he calls "The Never-Ending Tour." There are already a number of extraordinary visual records about Dylan, including D.A. Pennebaker's "Don't Look Back" and Martin Scorsese's "No Direction Home." Dylan's film seems to take these films as a sort of starting point, using them to concoct what cannot be called a biopic but more of an experiment that delineates the trajectory of a cultural icon. Although the film may not have wide appeal, it serves as an adequate entry point to those unfamiliar with Dylan and as a satisfying nod to those already in love.
From Irish singer-songwriter Damien Rice comes his latest incredibly soothing album ‘9’

Roberto Curtis
COMMUNICATIONS (VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH U.)

The amorphous and angelic vocal quality of the Irish songwriter Damien Rice intrigues and captivates. The songs come pouring out of his bleeding heart in his latest album, titled “9.”

Almost entirely self-produced, the album’s engineers are also the same musicians performing on the album. In keeping with his reputation, Rice’s abilities to swoon and provoke thought are present throughout. Tracks such as “The Animals Were Gone” and “Accidental Babies” show the poet’s abilities to encapsulate a lover’s torment. Whether it’s overdone is up to the listener.

There is some light-heartedness, however, in the song “Me, My Yoke + 1,” which tells of a young Irish Catholic boy discovering masturbation. “Cirey Room” tells of the hardships of long distance relationships but actually has a happy ending — the only one on the album.

An interesting gimmick Rice includes on this album is the continuation of musical and lyrical themes. The song “Elephant” was originally titled “The Blower’s Daughter Part 2” but was changed at the last minute.

“The Blower’s Daughter” on Rice’s first album alludes to a lost love that was too good to be true, leaving lasting emotional scars. “Elephant” continues the torture, projecting the cursed love on another relationship and suggesting how to best cope with history; by finding happiness from within.

Also harkening back to the first album is “Sleep Don’t Weep.” When played with “Cold Water” from the album “O,” a four-part ray of brilliance emerges from the speakers. “9” also is considerably a harder album than Rice’s previous endeavor. With hard-edged tunes such as “Rootless Tree” and the song about touching oneself, the progressive developments and startling climaxes are stimulating if not a bit off-color for the rest of the album.

The award for originality, honesty and arrangement goes to “9 Crimes.” The strings are used with great effect throughout the album but especially on this track. The lovely chorus is reminiscent of old Henry Mancini arrangements of the late 50s.

Overall, the album is incredibly soothing — maybe a little too soothing. Nicely executed, though, with that homegrown vibe, Rice and company’s album gives their listeners a beautiful treat that warms the ears.
The Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation and length. Letters, comments and cartoons do not re­present the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit letter to 250 words.

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

By e-mail: mustangdaily@gmail.com

By regular mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226.

Editor’s Note: The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please feel free to e-mail your questions to support@mustangdaily.com.

Food for thought

**Good brain foods**

- **Avocados**
- **Bananas**
- **Broccoli**
- **Brown rice**
- **Brussel sprouts**
- **Cantaloupe**
- **Cheese**
- **Chicken**
- **Collard greens**
- **Dark chocolate**
- **Eggs**
- **Flaxseed oil**
- **Legumes**
- **Milk**
- **Oatmeal**
- **Oranges**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Potatoes**
- **Romaine lettuce**
- **Soybeans**
- **Spinach**
- **Turkey**
- **Wheat germ**
- **Yogurt**

**Bad brain foods**

- **Alcohol**
- **Artificial food colorings**
- **Artificial sweeteners**
- **Biscuits**
- **Corn syrup**
- **Frostings**
- **High-sugar drinks**
- **Hydrogenated fats**
- **Nitrites**
- **Refined sugars**
- **White bread**

**College students are often considered lazy. But here’s the truth: We’re not lazy!** After the continual beatings from midterms, papers, the expected “25 to 35” hours a week studying, projects, jobs and an active social life, it’s hard to pro­gram in time for the sleep I once knew. I understand this. However, I don’t find this to be a valid excuse for the epidemic of political apathy sweeping our great university.

Over the past few weeks the voter registration drives have been taking place on campus. The fact is, the gen­eral elections are now less than a year away! Initially, a goal was set of regis­tering 500 people to vote. All told, only 137 ended up taking five min­utes to register. 137! Personally, I’ve decided to take that as a win. Because of the drives there are now 137 more people who can ultimately decide the future of this country and therefore us. What happens if we, as a nation, don’t decide who our representatives should be? This is a question I ask myself often, but does anyone ever think about who we elect to our national leaders? Why do we have such low voter turnout? How many non¬voters do you think there are? It’s far too high. How many of their votes do you want to vote? It’s far too high.

The recent presidential elections were held (Feb. 5) or even what they are. It is equally important, however, to recognize the foods that impede brain power. Alcohol kills brain cells direct­ly, but there are many less obvious brain-attacking foods. Artery-clogging foods can lead to restricted blood flow to the brain (hyperglycemic oils) and high-glycemic-index foods (high-fructose corn syrup) can cause terrible blood-sugar swings that make both your body and your mind re­lax and shuggle. Be sure to get enough water to keep your body and brain hydrated. De­hydration can cause headaches and mental fatigue. Drink 1.5 to 2 liters of water a day to keep your brain well hydrated.

There are other points to remember. First, when studying, it’s best to actually take a break from studying to eat rather than studying and eat­ing simultaneously. This will help control the amount you consume and make your choices more conscious. No one likes the feeling of cramming for a hard test for hours and hours of a sudden wondering, “Who are all my popcorn?” Try some of the following combinations as good snacks to avoid blood sugar crashes while studying, or before an exam for optimum performance.

- **Piece of fresh fruit and a string cheese stick (1 ounce)**
- **Vegetables and cottage cheese**
- **Trail mix with whole-grain cereal, nuts or seeds and dairy**
- **Granola bar and skim milk**
- **Peanut butter sandwich**
- **Whole-wheat English muffin with hummus**
- **Tuna salad with whole-wheat crackers**

**Take a break from studying to eat rather than studying and eating simultaneously.**

**Good luck with finals!**

Sarah Bailey is a nutrition senior, a Mustang Daily nutrition editor and a member of PULSE. E-mail her your ques­tions at sbailey@calpoly.edu.

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

**Voting deserves our attention, too**

People have the right to vote for who they want, but their voices are not enough. We have the power to shape this country through our votes, but not without them. We live in a democracy, and our voices are what make our country what it is.

We need to be aware of our right and responsibilities as voters. This means knowing what candidates stand for, who they are and what they want to do. It also means being informed about the issues that affect us.

The right to vote is something that we should be grateful for, and we should be doing our part to make sure that the voices of those who do not have the right to vote are heard. This means volunteering, working on campaigns and even donating money to candidates who support the issues we care about.

College students are the future of our country, and it is our responsibility to be informed voters. We have the power to shape the future of this country, and it is up to us to use that power.

If your vote doesn’t count in your state, it still counts in the country. You have the power to make a difference, and you should use it.

We need to vote because it is the responsibility of every citizen to be a part of the decision-making process. Our voices need to be heard, and we can make a difference. So let’s get out there and vote, because our future and the future of our country depend on it.
The rise of the independent voter

My biggest fear for the 2008 election is that we'll be forced to choose between the lesser of two evils. This summer I officially became a naturalized American citizen and in doing so, gave my heart over to a nation that was founded on the principles of freedom, democracy and most importantly — personal independence. And yet, for all the glory of the moment when I held up my right hand and thereby earned the right to vote, I felt a different kind of emotion rising in my gut — that of uncertainty.

I've become an American at a time when the country is trying to recover from the failed decisions of a president who, for almost eight years now, has lied to his people, pillaged foreign resources, sponsored war crimes and is now bidding out his final year in the White House as a lame duck.

It would seem that with the next presidential election less than a year away, the nation would be more hopeful, but sadly, we're once again faced with having to choose our next leader from a pool of candidates who don't even remotely embody our national ideals.

The two-party system reduces democracy to a frustrating process. It subverts independent thinking and intelligent inquiry to the amorphous will of being either a Republican or a Democrat and leaves no room for individual preference.

The two-party system works to elect voters with small, binary issues such as gay marriage and abortion, hoping that they'll forget the larger issues of America's place in the world and their own duties as free-thinking voters.

I thought about writing a column decriying the futility of voting in an election that has already narrowed the selection down to a few undesirable candidates, but have instead chosen to take the risk of looking overly optimistic and writing what I truly believe: that non-partisan voting and a movement toward grassroots democracy can save the American political process.

With the true potential of the Internet and information technologies still begging at our fingertips, we're young Americans have more access to knowledge than any generation before us.

Maybe that's why, among my fellow college students, I've noticed an increasing and hopeful trend toward "independence" — a mindset that rejects the limits of partisanship and embraces the wonders of reasoned inquiry.

Thirty-five percent of all Americans currently recognize themselves as independent, and a substantial number of those who are registered Democrat or Republican say that they have registered that way only to be able to vote in their state primaries.

Just as those people who restrict their musical tastes to the Billboard 100 are missing out on some of the best indie music out there, those who stubbornly affiliate themselves with a political party are limiting their political choices to the few candidates who've managed to play the game right with corporate interests.

Partisanship places intelligent thought in a box — it limits innovation and reason. Independence, on the other hand, both embodies and practices those principles of freedom that make America the nation it is.

I challenge those of you who truly think that you are intelligent, reasoned and independent-minded to shed the chains of being tied to a political party, and to explore the many other possibilities being an American entitles you to — like voting for someone you actually want to see in the White House.

Markov van Remonge is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

GUEST COMMENTARY

The politics of science

Let me introduce you to a controversy that you may not have heard of: On Oct. 14 of this year, eminent biologist Dr. James Watson, the co-founder of the DNA double helix, was quoted in The Sunday Times magazine discussing the effects of race and genetics on IQ. He said he was "inherently gloomy about the state of Africa" because recent testing has showed that people of African descent have consistently lower IQs than people of other races. Naturally, there was a liberal outcry, and Watson was forced to resign from his laboratory.

But does he have a point? And if he does, does it matter? According to a piece by William Saletan on Slate.com, the average IQ of African-Americans is 85, Hispanics 89, Caucasians 103, East Asians 106 and Jews 113. This difference persists even when the scores are normalized for environmental factors such as education or economic status.

But this doesn't really change anything. It doesn't mean we should just hand our government and businesses over to Jews, nor that we should shove all the African-Americans back into slavery. It doesn't change the fact that Richard Dean Parsons (African-American) was able to brilliantly turn around Time Warner, nor that William P. Perez (Hispanic) currently runs Nike, nor that Kenneth Lay (Caucasian) ran Enron into the ground. These IQ scores are averages, and like any average, there are those who will excel above the averages, and those who will dive far below. I'm sure everyone can name a dumb Jew or Asian, and they can also name a smart African-American or Hispanic.

So why the outcry? Over the past few centuries, we've had multiple "scientific" disciplines that purport to support institutionalized racism. Phrenology, for example, claimed to be able to tell intelligence and even traits like "kindness" or "honesty" by measuring bumps on the head. The theory was that these bumps correlated to areas of the brain underneath that were associated with these traits. Naturally enough, the bumps were mapped on whites, and blacks and others without the same bumps were demonized by this pseudo-science. And I agree that it is important today to prevent a recurrence of this, and I think it would be ridiculous to use these new results to justify any form of racism.

But it is science. The proper reaction is not indignation or anger, but research. Yelling at scientists does not change science. Either these results will be disproven by new research, or we will have to learn to adapt to them. As I said, they change nothing except our perceptions.

A hundred years ago, at the Scopes trial, liberals supported John Scopes and his insistence on teaching evolution. Will they still support science today, even if it disagrees with them? Or was their previous support simply a matter of convenience?

Troy Kuersten is an aerospace engineering/physics senior and a guest columnist for the Mustang Daily.
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

Across
1 Show anger
5 Round before the final
9 Washroom tub
14 Ph.D. awarder
15 Gave the boot
16 Blessing-inducing sound
17 Flan
18 Gimlet garnish
19 Crockpot concoctions
20 Relax during a drill
23 Temp's work unit
24 Polite affirmation
25 Brazilian dance
27 Big Apple awards
30 Like hair, usually, after combing
33 Post-0.R. stop
36 Craps natural
38 Impoverished
39 Sgt. Friday's org.
41 Calendar units hidden in 20- and 61-Across and 11- and 35-Down
44 Like a brainiac
46 Fire remnants
48 The "R" in Roy G. Biv
49 Trojan War hero
51 Popular snack chip
53 Surveyor Jeremiah, for whom a famous line is partly named
55 Beatle, endearingly
59 Meadow sound
61 Sunshine State school
64 Minute Maid Park player
66 Baylor's city
67 Sp. girl
68 Rodeo animal
69 From the top
70 Ticks off
71 TV show-off from the team bench
72 It's sold in skeins
73 "Great" kid-lit detective
74 Like a brainiac
75 Find a match for 50-Across
76 Baylor's city

Down
1 Hard to please
2 Bring together
3 Greedy monarch
4 "Nevertheless"
5 On the payroll
6 Lighted sign in a theater
7 Hand-waver's cry
8 They may be bright
9 One in the infield
10 Follow direction?
11 Show sadness
12 Political caucus state
13 Like a yenta
21 "That's mine!"
22 Deplete, as energy
26 Cold one
28 FEMA recommendation briefly
29 Play by a different rules
31 Upper hand
32 Like ballet tights
33 Ingrid's role in "Casablanca"
34 Showed up
35 "Time to rise, sleepyhead!"
37 Within earshot
38 Zwei follower
40 Lose the spare tire
41 Calendar units hidden in 20- and 61-Across and 11- and 35-Down
42 Lose the spare tire
43 Worker's pay
44 Like a brainiac
45 Schedule B or C, e.g.
46 Fire remnants
47 Ancient Greek colonnade
48 The "R" in Roy G. Biv
49 Trojan War hero
50 Like a brainiac
51 Popular snack chip
52 Choose to participate
53 Surveyor Jeremiah, for whom a famous line is partly named
54 "Impossible!"
55 Beatle, endearingly
56 Like a brainiac
57 Largish combo
58 Terrible twos, e.g.
59 Bad-mouth
60 Sparkling wine city
62 Deficit (lost money)
63 Pastry prettifier
65 Vintage auto
66 Baylor's city
67 Sp. girl
68 Rodeo animal
69 From the top
70 Ticks off
71 TV show-off from the team bench
72 It's sold in skeins
73 "Great" kid-lit detective
74 Like a brainiac
75 Find a match for 50-Across
76 Baylor's city


Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle:

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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V. EASY # 22

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V. EASY # 22

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com
Conference
continued from page 12

In anticipation of their draw, Mustang players and coaches braced themselves for a number of possibilities.

"We had talked in advance that if we did not host, the best thing for us would be to travel to and travel far," assistant coach Michael Johnson said. "I'd say more than anything, we're excited. Those are games we think we can win and we're going to have to play well. We've played Xavier once before, they beat us once before."

This is the second time Xavier has made it to the field of 64 in program history. Its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament was in 2001.

"We're happy to be in the tournament. We're happy to not run up against any teams in the top ten," Johnson said.

Hayes shares her coach's sense of opportunity.

"This year has a completely different feel," Hayes said. "We had our best practice on Saturday. Of course we wanted to host, but you can't worry about things you can't change."

Cal Poly lost to Xavier 3-2 at the ASCC-Coca-Cola Invitation on Sept. 14. It was the first win for the Musketeers over a ranked opponent in program history.

The Musketeers finished second in the Atlantic-10 West Division regular season. Cal Poly has never faced Xavier in previous NCAA Tournament appearances.

Cal Poly Course | AHC Equivalent
--- | ---
ANT 230 | ANTHRO 101
ART 111 | ART 101
ECON 201 | BUS 121/ECON 121
ECON 222 | ECON 101
ES 114 | SOC 120
KINE 250 | H ED 100
MATH 118 | MATH 131
MU 120 | MUSIC 100
PSY 202 or 201 | PSYCH 101
SOC 110 | SOC 101
CP GE A1 | ENGL 101
CP GE A3 (Not for Engineering Students) | ENGL 102
CP GE A3 (Not for Engineering Students) | ENGL 103

For a complete list of Allan Hancock College spring 2007 online and onsite courses, go to www.hancockcollege.edu and click on University Programs.

The AHC spring semester runs January through May 2007 (some classes end sooner).

Register online
Nov. 16-Dec 22, 2006 and Jan 3-12, 2007
Classes begin January 22, 2007

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Examples of online classes available beginning January 2007:

- Western Holiday Boutique
- Student Community Services
- Technology Support
- Volunteer at Cal Poly
- Western Holiday Boutique
- Counseling Clinic can help.

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Lost and found ads are FREE
Bittersweet accolades for men's soccer

The Cal Poly soccer team's star forward David Zamora was named the 2007 Big West Freshman of the Year, while five other Mustangs received recognition.

Landing on the All-Big West First Team with Zamora was senior defender K.J. Lenehan. Freshman forward/midfielder Kyle Montgomery earned Second Team honors while junior midfielder Anton Peterlin, senior defender Casey Cordray and junior goalkeeper Eric Branagan-Franco received honorable mention.

Leading the record board for the Mustangs this season, Zamora posted six goals and five assists for a combination of 17 points. Zamora, from San Jose, Costa Rica, started the season dominating the field in the exhibition game against California with a hat trick.

During the regular season, Zamora started in all 19 games and helped lead the Mustangs to an 11-4-4 overall record and a 6-2-4 Big West Conference record. In Big West play, Zamora had four goals and two assists for 10 points. He took 27 shots, placing 14 of them on goal.

Ending his Cal Poly career, Lenehan, from Escondido, started in all 19 games on the back line. He posted three assists throughout the season, with two of them in Big West action. Lenehan also leads the Mustangs academically, receiving a spot on the Second-Team ESPN The Magazine All-American Men's Soccer Team in the University Division.

Montgomery, a Seattle native, was on Zamora's tail with 15 points this season, six goals and three assists in the 19 games. In Big West play, Montgomery had five goals and two assists for 12 points.

He finished strong, scoring his final goal of the season against Cal State Fullerton, as the Mustangs defeated them 3-1.

As honorable-mention players and the back bone of the defense for the Mustangs, Cordray and Branagan-Franco helped the Mustangs compile 10 shutouts, five in the Big West. Cordray, an Irvine native, started in all 19 games, while Branagan-Franco started in 17 due to an injury. Branagan-Franco, hailing from Napa, ended the season with a .781 save percentage.

Also receiving honorable mention was Peterlin of San Francisco.

As a starting midfielder for the Mustangs in every game, Peterlin recorded one assist and managed to place four of his nine shots this season on goal for a .444 shots-on-goal percentage.

Sun Devils melt the Mustangs, 75-41

Mustangs shoot a paltry 25.5 percent from the field in first loss since Nov. 10

Many sized up the Cal Poly men's basketball team's game at Arizona State on Monday night as a forecast for how the Mustangs might fare Dec. 22 at USC.

Well, foul weather may be on the way.

Cal Poly was drilled 75-41 in a non-conference loss in which it shot only 25.5 percent from the field, barely cracked 20 points in each half and had just one double-figure scorer in front of 6,151 at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, Ariz.

In having their three-game winning streak snapped, the Mustangs (3-3) were held to their fewest points since a 64-37 loss at UC Santa Barbara in February 1986.

Dawin Whiten scored 12 points on 4-for-16 shooting to lead Cal Poly, which also got nine points from James Harden, who also went 4-for-16.

The Sun Devils (3-1), winners of three straight, are already closing in on their win total from last year's 8-22 campaign. Arizona State outrebounded Cal Poly 49-29 and scored 28 points from the free-throw line.

Coming off their best season at the Division I level — a 19-11 finish in which they were only 13 minutes away from the NCAA Tournament — the Mustangs benefited from an early conference preseason favorite Utah State and even have a nationally televised Big Monday game on ESPN2 on Jan. 28 at Pacific.

Cal Poly should have an easy time regrouping when it hosts Menlo College as an NAIA Division II team that went only 15-12 last year — at 2 p.m. Sunday.

After that, the Mustangs visit Northern Arizona (Dec. 9) and Portland State (Dec. 12).

Cal Poly has only 12 home games this season to 17 on the road.

A long journey to advance in tournament

Agnes-Dei Farrant

Cal Poly women's volleyball will play Cincinnati-based Xavier in a first-round match at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Ohio University. The 16th-seeded Mustangs will be making their second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

The sub-regional will open with Cal Poly (21-7, 15-1 Big West) against the Musketeers (24-10, 11-2 Atlantic-10) at the Convocation Center. The winner will play the victor of Ohio and Purdue, who play Dec. 1 for a place in the Stanford Regional Dec. 7 and 8.

"Ohio is most likely to win against Purdue," senior setter Chebea Hayes predicted. "Ohio runs a quick offense."

See Conference, page 11