Lack of storm season worries officials

Jessica Gresko
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite alarming predictions, the U.S. came through its second straight hurricane season virtually unscathed, raising fears among emergency planners that they will be fighting public apathy and overconfidence when warning people next year.

Friday marks the official close of the Atlantic season, so unless a storm forms in the next few days, only one hurricane — a minor one — will have hit the U.S. during the June-to- November period. Mexico and Central America, however, were struck by a record two top-sale Category 5 storms.

The preliminary total for the season: 14 named storms, five of them hurricanes, two of them major.

That was less activity than the government predicted before the season started, standing in stark contrast to 2004 and 2005, when the U.S. was hit by one devastating storm after another, including Hurricane Katrina.

However, forecasters and emergency managers warned that one result of the good year may be increased skepticism when they urge people to stock up on food and draw up their hurricane evacuation plans for next year.

"Now that we've gone a couple of years without major hurricanes, the public be more apathetic before the next hurricane season," said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

"The further we get away from these types of events . . . the more complacent people become, and that's the challenge we have to continue to fight."
Warming
continued from page 1

Another way to help, according to StopGlobalWarming.org, is by going out and planting a tree. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Shade provided by trees can also reduce air conditioning bills by 10 to 15 percent.

"If we can reduce deforestation and the conversion of farmlands, we will help the global climate change," Markoudakis said. "Also buying organic food products from local growers, thus reducing transportation, packing and more dependence on fossil fuels."

What can you do?

Replace your standard bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs

Clean furnace and AC filters regularly

Be aware of your thermostat settings: a few degrees can make a big difference

Recycle

Try to cut back on printing paper, making copies, etc.

Use a car with good gas mileage

Use alternate forms of transportation (walking, biking, carpooling, transit)

Plant a tree or garden

The big picture

America was ranked as the top global warming polluter in the world by the Environmental Defense Organization. A 90 percent decrease in U.S. pollution is required by 2050 to prevent the worst consequences of global warming.

However, despite the 338 United States mayors who have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement pledging to meet or beat Kyoto goals in their communities, no federal bills have been passed to help cap America's global warming pollution.

President Bush mentioned "climate change" or "global warming" only once in his previous six State of the Union speeches.

Markoudakis says people need to start implementing a smart growth development within cities to reduce urban sprawl. The limitation of fossil fuels within industries and the reduction of emissions can be a big help.

Reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and focusing on renewable energy sources such as photovoltaics and wind power are just a start, and exercising the right to vote can be a big step in the right direction.

"Everyone's voice should be heard, and voting for the right political representative who sees, acknowledges and intends to act on our global crises is another important aspect everyone should be involved with," Markoudakis said.

almost half of the energy used in homes goes to heating and cooling. About 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide could be saved per year by moving thermostats down two degrees in the winter and up two degrees in the summer.

Even tiny chores such as cleaning or replacing filters on furnaces and air conditioners can be enough to make a change. Cleaning dirty air filters can save 350 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Be aware of your thermostat settings: a few degrees can make a big difference.

Try to cut back on printing paper, making copies, etc.

Use alternate forms of transportation (walking, biking, carpooling, transit)

Plant a tree or garden

...
Served AH Day from 7am Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Nation

NEW YORK (AP) — Plagued by turmoil at the top, the American Red Cross ousted its president, Mark Everson, on Tuesday for engaging in a “personal relationship” with one of his subordinates. He took the challenging job just six months ago. The congressionally chartered charity, America’s foremost emergency responder, has now had three leaders in the past six years, including the interim chief named to fill in for Everson.

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — The owner of Spanky’s Pizza fears the new scent.

ACCOMAC, Va. (AP) — A waste truck leaking poultry fat for along 20 miles of roadway Tuesday, causing at least four crashes and making a stinky mess.

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology

Offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic publishing, and digital communications industries. Today, virtually all companies and organizations require effective graphic communications managers to make sense of the options—and take advantage of the opportunities.

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

Information Session: Wednesday, December 12, 6-8 p.m.
Great Hall, Gallaher Center, NYU Stern (Central Campus)
Please call us to RSVP:
scps.nyu.edu/333 1-888-998-7204, ext. 333

Masters in Graphic Communications Management and Technology

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

Initials in Graphic Communications Management and Technology

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS

The NYU-SCPS Master of Arts in Graphic Communications Management and Technology offers a rigorous and unique blend of fundamental management practices, cross-media technologies, and integrated communications. Our faculty of industry experts will help you develop the skills and understanding required to become a leader in this dynamic and constantly evolving field.

NYU-SCPS
Scientists want to wipe out rats on Alaskan island and bring birds back

Mary Pemberton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 200 years ago, rats jumped ship for Rat Island. The muscular Norway rat climbed ashore on the rugged, uninhabited island in far southwestern Alaska in 1780 after a violent storm drove a Japanese ship aground. It was the first time rats had made it to Alaska.

Since then, Rat Island, as the piece of rock was dubbed by a sea captain, has been an island in the southwestern Alaska in the Aleutian chain, of which Rat Island is a part. State and federal wildlife biologists are gearing up for an assault on the rats of still-uninhabited Rat Island, hoping to exterminate them with rat poison dropped from helicopters.

The same for songbirds and seabirds. Rats have all but wiped out the vegetation. Certain plants are all but extinct in the landscape riddled with rat burrows, now often empty for extended periods while mouselike rats breed up to four times a year, each with six to eight pups. The same for songbirds and sea birds.

"As far as bird life, it is a dead zone," said Steve Ebbert, a biologist at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, whose 2,500 mostly uninhabited islands include the Aleutian chain, of which Rat Island is a part.

Scientists want to see how the project goes before deciding whether to try to exterminate the rats on other islands.

The world's biggest island rat eradication took place on seven-acre Campbell Island off New Zealand. Rats also have been wiped out on Canada's 8,090-acre Langara Island and a $10,000 fine. Corporations could also be fined up to $200,000.

The state also is mailing out 15,000 "Stop Rats!" brochures to educate mariners on how to control rats aboard boats and keep them from going ashore.

The brochure tells mariners to kill every rat on board, use traps set at all times, keep rats and food in rat-proof containers, use line guards — funnel-shaped devices that go around mooring lines — to keep rats from getting off or coming aboard, and never throw a live rat over the side. Rats are excellent swimmers.

The assault on the rats of 6,871-acre Rat Island could begin as early as next October. The plan — which involves the use of a blood thinner that will cause the rodents to bleed to death — still must be reviewed and sent out for public comment.

Scientists want to see how the project goes before deciding whether to try to exterminate the rats on other islands.

Steve Ebbert, a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, poses with rat response kit on one of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Rats on the Aleutian Islands prey on eggs, chicks and adult seabirds.
The Owls' new album is a hoot

For your own safety, we'll start out with a bit of disambiguation (just like Wikipedia). By 2001, two bands were playing under the following two names: "The Owls" and "Owls." Now, I know they might look a bit similar, but trust me, it's like chocolate and shit. Don't mix them up! And don't look for help from last.fm, since that train-wreck of a program drops the definite article and groups them together.

Based in Chicago, "Owls" is essentially a forgettable reiteration of the long-defunct and equally disposable emo-pop turd, Cap'n Jazz. Don't listen to Owls; don't eat shit.

The tasty treat you've really been craving is "Daughters and Suns," the first full-length record from The Owls, which, like any good meal, is a diverse array of flavors. Although many bands are built around a single songwriter/composer, The Owls employ three of their present members for this duty, each writer taking on lead vocals for their respective songs. Surprisingly, this arrangement retains cohesion — plus it adds a fun little extra to the listening experience: choosing your favorite Owl.

First up, Maria May constructs cute-as-a-button twee-pop numbers whose sound might be described as that of late Heavenly (minus the guitar riffs), or perhaps a more optimistic and emotionally stable version of The Softies. "Peppermint Patty" is a great example, featuring a delightful burst of whistling to augment the gentle plinking of piano and delivery of lines like, "You will never have to hear the elevens again, you're so dumb!" Fans of May's work should definitely check out The Owls' debut EP, "Our Hopes and Dreams."

Brian Tighe, front man of The Hang Ups, starting in 1990, concentrates on songs having a stronger emphasis on rhythm and uses traditional rock structures that remind me a bit of The Rolling Stones circa 1965 (or the Beatles circa 1965 for that matter). Check out "Channel" or "All Those In Favor" to see what I'm talking about. Toe-tapping is all but inescapable, disarming vocal delivery. Fun game: guess which Owl is my favorite!

Add in former Ashray Hearts drummer John Jer and production by Tighe (what a jack-of-all-trades) and we get a damn solid record.

More important than the mechanics though is the pathos. This is some of the most heartfelt stuff of the year. I should probably elaborate on that (especially after knocking Cap'n Jazz). OK, the music is emotionally charged, yes, but is the most guileless, honest and unaffected way possible. The songs are just so devoid of scoffing irony and overwrought angst it's startling. In 2007! How did this record get made? We're talking about music that swells with such benevolent emotion as to evoke memories of your favorite Carpenters' song!

And there's something nice, yeah? I mean, even in the world of indie pop, how many records can you listen to with your grandmother? Oh, what? Perhaps a more optimistic and emotionally stable Belle and Sebastian? You wanna trot Stuart Murdoch version of The Softies. "Beepermint Fatty" is a great out here? Maybe if he didn't write in all those thinly veiled allusions to illicit sexual deviance. The Polyphonic Spree? They have some squeaky-clean lyrics, of lines like, "You will never have to hear the elevens again, you're so dumb!"

But The Owls exist without vice. In fact, their humanity is so impressive, I almost feel sorry for beginning this article by thoughtlessly spitting in the face of Cap'n Jazz fans. Almost.

FEELING SICK? Think you'll miss class?

mustangdaily.net

Cal Poly's news is at your finger tips — while you rest in bed.

Get a Flu Shot!!
Health Center, no appt. needed, M-F until 4 PM.
$15

Jewelry for Every Occasion

the GOLD CONCEPT
750 Higuera St. • San Luis Obispo California • (805) 544-1098
The Appetite for Construction tour brings rock bands Switchfoot (above) and Relient K to the Cal Poly Rec. Center tonight. The bands share a passion for Habitat for Humanity, an organization with the aim of eliminating homelessness, and will donate $1 of every ticket sold on the tour to the organization.

Marlize van Rensburg

They're coming to Cal Poly tonight and they've got an Appetite for Construction. Guns N' Roses turned me! No, it's Switchfoot and Relient K on their co-headlining nationwide rock tour.

The two Grammy-nominated rock bands will play at the Cal Poly Rec. Center tonight as part of their Appetite for Construction tour, so named because a dollar from each ticket will be donated to support Habitat for Humanity. The tour has raised more than $67,000 for Habitat so far.

Switchfoot and Relient K have long been fans of each other's music, and while working out the details of this tour, discovered they also held a mutual respect for Habitat for Humanity's mission of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness around the world.

"We've known (Relient K) for years, but we met up last year when we were both playing at a Habitat for Humanity benefit concert in Los Angeles and the idea kind of blossomed into what this tour is," Switchfoot drummer Chad Butler explained.

"We found this common desire with the Relient K guys to work with an organization that's nationwide but has very local hands and feet in each community," Relient K's bassist and vocalist John Warne said. "Habitat is an amazing organization that enables people who wouldn't ordinarily be able to buy a home the opportunity to have one, and we're excited to be a part of that."

Appetite for Construction is also Switchfoot's first tour since dropping their breakthrough double platinum album "The Beautiful Letdown," which featured their most successful singles, "Meant to Live" and " Dare You to Move." Their recently released "Oh Gravity" album peaked at No. 1 on iTunes Top Albums chart.

Relient K broke into the music mainstream in 2004 with the release of their fourth record, "Mmhmm," which debuted at No. 15 on the Billboard 200. Their latest album, "Free Score and Seven Years Ago," debuted at No. 6 on the charts, making it their highest-charting album to date.

The band is made up of lead singer Matt Thiessen, drummer Dave Douglas, guitarist Matt Hoopes, guitarist and vocalist Jon Schneck, and Warne.

Self-described as the more pop-oriented band on the tour, Warne said, "The goal with our music is just to get kids to think a little bit. We write songs about the things we believe in and what's relevant in our lives and just hope that other people can relate to that."

Both Switchfoot and Relient K hold Grammy nominations for Best Rock Gospel Album, and the band members consider themselves to be faithful Christians, so their music is often categorized as Christian rock. But both bands have attempted to swerve away from that genre label, fearing it will limit their audience.

"I think that if you label us as Christian, you're going to get some people who aren't Christian who won't even give us a listen because of that," Warne said.

"We've always tried to put out honest music for thinking people," Butler said. "You can categorize it and put it in a box however you want, but I think the music is more dangerous when it's outside of the box and you aren't labeling it."

"If our songs are communicating hope, that's a really meaningful and fulfilling message," Butler continued. "We've been able to travel to places like South Africa and India and see a very different culture than our own, a very different set of circumstances. To find kids that are growing up in dark places of the world and yet they're able to find hope in the midst of that, that's intriguing and inspiring to me."

"People like Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash wrote songs about the journey of life and the questions of life," Butler explained. "There's a connection in music that can be very powerful for talking about things that are uncomfortable to talk about in conversation, yet it feels very natural in a song."

"I want to continue the conversation each night we play," he said. "The most important part of the night for me is to hear people singing along and to feel that they're getting something out of the music more than just entertainment. Hopefully we're making music that extends the conversation for more than just the one night we're in town."

The two bands will bring their music and their appetite to the Recreation Center stage Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.wallet.com and the Mustang Ticket Office for $25.

Hear Switchfoot drummer Chad Butler talk about San Diego and the recent wildfires at mustangdaily.net

CONSTRUCTING HOMES WITH ROCK TUNES

An independent review by Martie van Romburgh

The band has sold more than one million concert tickets worldwide since the 2003 release of their breakthrough Double Platinum album "The Beautiful Letdown," which featured their most successful singles, "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move." Their recently released "Oh Gravity" album peaked at No. 1 on iTunes Top Albums chart.

Relient K broke into the music mainstream in 2004 with the release of their fourth record, "Mmhmm," which debuted at No. 15 on the Billboard 200. Their latest album, "Free Score and Seven Years Ago," debuted at No. 6 on the charts, making it their highest-charting album to date.

The band is made up of lead singer Matt Thiessen, drummer Dave Douglas, guitarist Matt Hoopes, guitarist and vocalist Jon Schneck, and Warne.

Self-described as the more pop-oriented band on the tour, Warne said, "The goal with our music is just to get kids to think a little bit. We write songs about the things we believe in and what's relevant in our lives and just hope that other people can relate to that."

Both Switchfoot and Relient K hold Grammy nominations for Best Rock Gospel Album, and the band members consider themselves to be faithful Christians, so their music is often categorized as Christian rock. But both bands have attempted to swerve away from that genre label, fearing it will limit their audience.

"I think that if you label us as Christian, you're going to get some people who aren't Christian who won't even give us a listen because of that," Warne said.

"We've always tried to put out honest music for thinking people," Butler said. "You can categorize it and put it in a box however you want, but I think the music is more dangerous when it's outside of the box and you aren't labeling it."

"If our songs are communicating hope, that's a really meaningful and fulfilling message," Butler continued. "We've been able to travel to places like South Africa and India and see a very different culture than our own, a very different set of circumstances. To find kids that are growing up in dark places of the world and yet they're able to find hope in the midst of that, that's intriguing and inspiring to me."

"People like Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash wrote songs about the journey of life and the questions of life," Butler explained. "There's a connection in music that can be very powerful for talking about things that are uncomfortable to talk about in conversation, yet it feels very natural in a song."

"I want to continue the conversation each night we play," he said. "The most important part of the night for me is to hear people singing along and to feel that they're getting something out of the music more than just entertainment. Hopefully we're making music that extends the conversation for more than just the one night we're in town."

The two bands will bring their music and their appetite to the Recreation Center stage Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.wallet.com and the Mustang Ticket Office for $25.
"No Country for Old Men" is yet another Joel and Ethan Coen masterpiece. If you don't know, these are the guys who wrote, directed and produced "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

And though "No Country" is an adapted film, the Coen Brothers' artistic hand is evident throughout the entire movie.

Adapted from Cormac McCarthy's novel of the same title, the film begins in Sanderson, Texas, a small, dry desert town about 20 miles away from the Mexico border.

The story focuses on the lives of three people, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin), Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) and Sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones) after they find themselves involved in the aftermath of a drug deal gone wrong.

Moss, a young Vietnam vet, is antelope hunting one day when he stumbles upon the site of the drug deal now turned graveyard — abandoned of all life, just dried-up blood and bodies scattered all around.

Moss finds a briefcase filled with cash — more than $2 million worth. Of course, Moss takes the money.

The man tracking the money goes by the name of Chigurh, or as Moss pronounces it, "Sayo". Woody Harrelson's character, Carson Wells, describes Chigurh as a man without a sense of humor — "peculiar." He is the kind of man that will "kill you just for inconveniencing him," Wells said.

Sheriff Bell, a long-time officer from a line of sheriffs, makes it a priority to find Moss before Chigurh can do the same to him. But like in all good thrillers, the sheriff is always one step behind. Lee as a seen-all-done-all kind of guy is sarcastic and almost cynical.

Having a sense of humor is essential and part of the Coen's "Country." Besides Lee's usual best, Brolin and Bardem stand out for their outstanding performances. But it is Bardem as this psychotic killer — a realistic personified version of evil — that especially sticks out. Just his presence in a scene is so alarming. Even his shadow is so intimidating, his deep voice even more so.

Every scene, particularly an early one where he's talking with a gas attendant, Chigurh is one-on-one with another human being; you are on the edge of your seat, frightened even for yourself. You don't know whether the person opposite Chigurh will live to see the end of the next scene or will be slain at the hands of his partners.

Expect this extremely tight tension throughout most of the movie. And expect to see Bardem in line for an Oscar nomination as well as the Coen's and their "Country."
Buy-o-fuels:
On sale now at participating schools

**Mustang Daily**

**OPINION/EDITORIAL**

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Editor in chief: Kristen Marshall
Managing Editor: Ryan Chartrand
mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

**LEANING LEFT**

by Erica Janoff

With BP able to dictate what and how research is to be conducted at a public institution, this is a blantly excessive conflict of interest on behalf of the University.

**THE TURKIES’ ATTEMPT TO GET AWAY FOR THANKSGIVING**

You thought 'The Matrix' was cool, just wait 'til you check out our virtual newsroom tour at mustangdaily.net
Taxes: what are they good for?

When looking at Presidential campaign Web sites recently, I noticed something confusing. The top four candidates for the Republican Presidential Primary — Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney and John McCain — all seemed to prioritize national issues differently. Obviously the stance each of these candidates take on any particular issue is a clear way to distinguish himself from others. However, it seems that the order in which a candidate chooses to prioritize these issues can also be a significant way to sway voters.

For example, the fact John McCain chooses to put "government spending, lower taxes and economic prosperity" at the top of his issues page in contrast with his opponent Fred Thompson, who gives national security top billing, could be of crucial importance to some voters. Or perhaps if certain voters looked deeply enough, they would be concerned for the way the same issue is being handled differently in each of these candidates take on any particular issue.

Taxes are what lead people to succumb to the cliché “I’m fiscally conservative and socially liberal.” Ultimately taxes represent one of the most clear dividing lines between Republicans and Democrats.

Candidate’s cannabis candor easily consumable

Lauren Williams

DAILY FORUM-News (CAL.-STATE-Long Beach)

Pot smokers exhaled a sigh of relief last Friday when the second major Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, admitted that he had not only smoked marijuana when he was young but that he inhaled, saying "that was the point."

Those who originally partake in recreational drugs can rest assured knowing that one of the most respected, well-known, well-spoken, intelligent candidates not only occasionally smoked marijuana but "did some blow," according to an article in The New York Times that quoted his biography.

As reported in the article, the only reason he hadn’t tried heroin was because he didn’t trust the dealer who was selling it to him.

No wonder his presidential campaign so strongly resonates with the under-25 crowd. He is attractive, successful, has tried drugs and is candid about his lifestyle when he was younger.

While the common perception of pot-heads is often marked by unintelligence, a lack of industriousness and motivation, and a general deficiency of ambition, the Illinois senator clearly not only redeeming those who occasionally experiment with recreational drugs but is doing something related to the respect and approval from politicians. He is being honest.

Rather than take a middle-of-the-road, "admits to smoking 'inhalit' stance or a hard line, drugs-are-the-product-of-Satan position, Obama is showing in the true form that he is human, prone to curiosity, experimentation and error."

Christina Chippis is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Lauren Williams

DAILY FORUM-News (CAL.-STATE-Long Beach)

Pot smokers exhaled a sigh of relief last Friday when the second major Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, admitted that he had not only smoked marijuana when he was young but that he inhaled, saying "that was the point."

Those who originally partake in recreational drugs can rest assured knowing that one of the most respected, well-known, well-spoken, intelligent candidates not only occasionally smoked marijuana but "did some blow," according to an article in The New York Times that quoted his biography.

As reported in the article, the only reason he hadn’t tried heroin was because he didn’t trust the dealer who was selling it to him.

No wonder his presidential campaign so strongly resonates with the under-25 crowd. He is attractive, successful, has tried drugs and is candid about his lifestyle when he was younger.

While the common perception of pot-heads is often marked by unintelligence, a lack of industriousness and motivation, and a general deficiency of ambition, the Illinois senator clearly not only redeeming those who occasionally experiment with recreational drugs but is doing something related to the respect and approval from politicians. He is being honest.

Rather than take a middle-of-the-road, "admits to smoking 'inhalit' stance or a hard line, drugs-are-the-product-of-Satan position, Obama is showing in the true form that he is human, prone to curiosity, experimentation and error."

Christina Chippis is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Taxes: what are they good for?

When looking at Presidential campaign Web sites recently, I noticed something confusing. The top four candidates for the Republican Presidential Primary — Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney and John McCain — all seemed to prioritize national issues differently. Obviously the stance each of these candidates take on any particular issue is a clear way to distinguish himself from others. However, it seems that the order in which a candidate chooses to prioritize these issues can also be a significant way to sway voters.

For example, the fact John McCain chooses to put "government spending, lower taxes and economic prosperity" at the top of his issues page in contrast with his opponent Fred Thompson, who gives national security top billing, could be of crucial importance to some voters. Or perhaps if certain voters looked deeply enough, they would be concerned for the way the same issue is being handled differently in each of these candidates take on any particular issue.

Taxes are what lead people to succumb to the cliché “I’m fiscally conservative and socially liberal.” Ultimately taxes represent one of the most clear dividing lines between Republicans and Democrats.

Candidate’s cannabis candor easily consumable

Lauren Williams

DAILY FORUM-News (CAL.-STATE-Long Beach)

Pot smokers exhaled a sigh of relief last Friday when the second major Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, admitted that he had not only smoked marijuana when he was young but that he inhaled, saying "that was the point."

Those who originally partake in recreational drugs can rest assured knowing that one of the most respected, well-known, well-spoken, intelligent candidates not only occasionally smoked marijuana but "did some blow," according to an article in The New York Times that quoted his biography.

As reported in the article, the only reason he hadn’t tried heroin was because he didn’t trust the dealer who was selling it to him.

No wonder his presidential campaign so strongly resonates with the under-25 crowd. He is attractive, successful, has tried drugs and is candid about his lifestyle when he was younger.

While the common perception of pot-heads is often marked by unintelligence, a lack of industriousness and motivation, and a general deficiency of ambition, the Illinois senator clearly not only redeeming those who occasionally experiment with recreational drugs but is doing something related to the respect and approval from politicians. He is being honest.

Rather than take a middle-of-the-road, "admits to smoking 'inhalit' stance or a hard line, drugs-are-the-product-of-Satan position, Obama is showing in the true form that he is human, prone to curiosity, experimentation and error."

Christina Chippis is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Lauren Williams

DAILY FORUM-News (CAL.-STATE-Long Beach)

Pot smokers exhaled a sigh of relief last Friday when the second major Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, admitted that he had not only smoked marijuana when he was young but that he inhaled, saying "that was the point."

Those who originally partake in recreational drugs can rest assured knowing that one of the most respected, well-known, well-spoken, intelligent candidates not only occasionally smoked marijuana but "did some blow," according to an article in The New York Times that quoted his biography.

As reported in the article, the only reason he hadn’t tried heroin was because he didn’t trust the dealer who was selling it to him.

No wonder his presidential campaign so strongly resonates with the under-25 crowd. He is attractive, successful, has tried drugs and is candid about his lifestyle when he was younger.

While the common perception of pot-heads is often marked by unintelligence, a lack of industriousness and motivation, and a general deficiency of ambition, the Illinois senator clearly not only redeeming those who occasionally experiment with recreational drugs but is doing something related to the respect and approval from politicians. He is being honest.

Rather than take a middle-of-the-road, "admits to smoking 'inhalit' stance or a hard line, drugs-are-the-product-of-Satan position, Obama is showing in the true form that he is human, prone to curiosity, experimentation and error."

Christina Chippis is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Brown's star is rising quickly in Dallas

Every year, only a handful of seventh-round rookies around the NFL even make active rosters, let alone play on Sundays. Former Cal Poly cornerback Courtney Brown, though, has already become a top-flight special teamer for the Dallas Cowboys.

Listed as a third-string free safety and wearing No. 27 for Dallas, Brown has been all over the field on kickoff and punt coverage units the past couple of weeks.

After spending the first eight games of the season for the Cowboys (0-1) on the inactive list with a mysterious biceps injury, Brown has made the most of his last three games.

Against Washington on Nov. 18, Brown made a crucial fourth-quarter tackle of Redskins punt returner Antwaan Randle El for no gain, which helped seal Dallas' 26-23 win in the final minute. The play received praise afterward from Terrell Owens in the Cowboys' locker room, in which Owens—who was presented the game ball for his four-touchdown masterpiece — singled out Brown's special-teams play as an example for teammates, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

On Thanksgiving, Brown recovered a fumble on kickoff coverage in the first quarter against the Jets.

Of his role on the Cowboys' special teams, Brown recently told the Dallas Morning News: "You gotta know which way the play's going. The (return team) will tell you which way the play's going, so you gotta read that, read your blocks and get your fit."

Brown was rarely thrown at as a shutdown corner at Cal Poly in 2006. He had apparently shot up the draft board by running a 4.32 40 in March but fell into the seventh round, where the Cowboys nabbed him at No. 212 overall.

Brown made a name for himself at Cal Poly by picking off a 1-AA school-record seven passes in 2005. Now it appears the Cowboys might have found a steal of their own.
**The Eagle has landed**

**Former Cal Poly star linebacker Shotwell to sign free-agent deal with Philadelphia today**

**Wrestling with the Titans**

**Rachel Gellman**

The Cal Poly wrestling team sees Pac-10 action today at Titan Gym as it takes on Cal State Fullerton, a quite familiar foe following the Cal State Fullerton Open on Nov. 18.

Although the Mustangs competed in a tournament setting at the open, they matched up against several Fullerton wrestlers, which made it safe for head coach John Azevedo to say that today’s going to be a close dual; Fullerton has a solid team.

Cal Poly’s Chad Mendes and Chase Pati won their brackets at the open in the 141- and 157-pound divisions, respectively.

Mendes, 11-0 this season, was 6-0 at the open. He topped the Titans’ Teddy Astorga 7-3 in the title match. In preparation for today’s dual meet, the Mustangs watched video from Nov. 18 and clips from last year’s contest when the Titans came to Mott Gym. Azevedo has been working hard in practice to make improvements.

He explained that assistant coach Sammie Henson has been on the mat with the wrestlers, focusing on riding, turning and being able to get away from opponents.

Wrestling action hits Mott Gym on Dec. 8 when the Mustangs take on No. 1 Minnesota, last year’s national champion.

“Obviously it’s gonna be tough to beat them, but we’re hoping to battle them and get some upsets,” Azevedo said.

Although Azevedo said he won’t focus on the Golden Gophers until after the Fullerton meet, he said that people have already called him in anticipation of the event.

“At this time of year, we want to keep making improvements,” he said in hopes that those changes will lead to the Pac-10 Tournament and then nationals.

**Redskins safety dies by gunshot**

**MIAMI — Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor died Tuesday after he was shot in his home by an apparent intruder, leaving the Washington Redskins in mourning for a teammate who seemed to have redefined his life since becoming a father.**

The 24-year-old player died at 8 a.m. Wednesday in the operating room at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he had been airlifted after the shooting early Monday.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said the league will honor Taylor’s memory at all games this weekend.

“This is a terrible tragedy involving the loss of a young man who leaves behind many people struggling to understand it,” he said in a statement.

Taylor’s No. 21 will be painted in a green parking area leading into Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va.