ASI brings election to UU

Coral Snyder
MUSTANG DAILY

Associated Students Inc. brought students together Tuesday in an effort to inform them about the upcoming presidential election and local and national politics as part of Rock the Vote 2008 in the University Union Plaza.

“Students need to get involved in politics because it’s our future that is involved with decisions that will be made,” said Dennis Esembegoe, a public policy graduate student and secretary of legislative affairs for ASI.

Debbie Arnold, a candidate for the 5th District County Supervisor seat for San Luis Obispo County, spoke, along with a representative for Barack Obama.

There were also representatives from the Cal Poly College Republicans and members of the Cal Poly chapter of the Students for Ron Paul. ASI had a tent set up where students had the opportunity to register 1,000 students by primary election time. Before Tuesday’s event, ASI officials estimated they had already passed the halfway mark, having already registered more than 550 students.

“Make an informed vote, ASI doesn’t take sides and that is why we asked representatives from both sides to be here,” said Nicole Stromness, civil engineering senior and University Union Advisory Board member.

Walter Heath, the representative for Obama, spoke about Obama’s policies and beliefs, why he is the right choice for students and how he can relate to them personally as a candidate.

“There’s a need for a generation-

Poly hosts powwow

Top Republican candidates Fred Thompson, Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Mike Huckabee and Ron Paul were represented at a debate hosted by the Cal Poly College Republicans Tuesday night in preparation for the Feb. 5 California presidential primary election.

Governor switches positions, backs law changing term limits

Steve Lawrence
MUSTANG DAILY

SACRAMENTO — In a surprising move, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger endorsed Proposition 93 on Monday, despite earlier statements that he would not support a change in legislators’ term limits unless it was linked to a redistricting measure.

“Proposition 93 is good public policy, irrespective of redistricting, and on its own it will go a long way toward improving the quality of state government in California,” Schwarzenegger said in an op-ed piece scheduled to be published Tuesday in the Los Angeles Times.

Proposition 93 opponents accused the Republican governor of caving in to pressure from Democratic legislative leaders as part of a backroom deal that would allow Schwarzenegger to generate support for his $14 billion healthcare reform plan. Proposition 93 is on the Feb. 5 ballot.

“It is a sign of the dysfunctionality of the legislature that it’s self-serving leadership has held the governor hostage on health care issues so that it may leverage him into helping them remain in power by loosening term limits,” said Kevin Spillane, a spokesman for the no-on-93 campaign.

A spokeswoman for Schwarzenegger, Julie Brzozowski, defended the governor’s comments “pointless rhetoric” and said the governor was endorsing the ballot measure “so the people of California can vote for it.”

The psychobilly punk rock band Tiger Army will be playing tonight at Downtown Brew.

The psychobilly punk rock band Tiger Army will be playing tonight at Downtown Brew.
California see more productivity out of Sacramento and less screaming."

The endorsement follows the Assembly’s approval last month of a health care expansion supported by Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles. The measure is awaiting action in the Senate.

Currently, lawmakers can serve up to three two-year terms in the Assembly and two four-year terms in the Senate. Proposition 93 would reduce the maximum number of years someone could serve from 14 years to 12 in most instances but allow all 12 years to be served in one house.

It also would allow three dozen lawmakers who otherwise would be term-limited out of office this year to run for re-election. They include Nunez, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, and Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman, R-Tustin.

The measure’s supporters say it would end the experience drain and musical-chairs atmosphere that exists in the Capitol, as nearly a third of the Legislature is termed out every two years and lame-duck legislators maneuver to run for new offices.

But opponents say it’s a deceptive pro


duction and said, “We need to take an active role politically and vote. “Students need to vote because this is your future at stake,” Arnold said. “It’s your government and you have to live with the rules and policy that are made.”

Vote continued from page 1

Four studios cancel TV writers deals, giving up on the season in progress

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four major studios have canceled dozens of writers’ contracts in a possible concession that the current television season cannot be saved, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

The move means the 2-month-old writers’ strike may also endanger next season’s new shows, the Times said.

Arnold worked for Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee’s office and was a legislative assistant for former county supervisor Mike Ryan for five years.

“I just wanted to introduce myself to students on campus and make myself available to hear their issues and let them know that their needs are important to me,” Arnold said.

She said it is important for students to take an active role politically and vote.

“Students need to vote because this is your future at stake,” Arnold said. “It’s your government and you have to live with the rules and policy that are made.”

Vote continued from page 1

al change in this country. He’s got a lot of heart and I think young people can relate to that,” Heath said.

Arnold spoke on the importance of voting as well as her personal goals and beliefs.

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Vote continued from page 1

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# Winter Job Fair

Two Days - Wednesday & Thursday, January 16 & 17

Chumash Auditorium

Network: 9:30 am to 2 pm. Interviews: 2 to 5:30 pm

For all majors both days!

**CAREER, INTERNSHIP & CO-OP OPPORTUNITIES!**

For the complete list of companies and job descriptions, logon to my.calpoly.edu, click on Mustang Jobs and look under Events.

### Companies on Wednesday, 1/16/08:

- ADVANTECH
- AFFILIATED ENGINEERS, INC.
- AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
- AIR SYSTEMS, INC.
- ALCON LABORATORIES, INC.
- AMAZON.COM
- AMERICAN GENERAL MEDIA
- AMGEN, INC.
- AMHERST-BURON COMPANIES
- ARCHER WESTERN CONTRACTORS, LTD.
- BROCADE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
- CALF DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES
- CALIS NETWORKS
- CDM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
- CHERVON CORPORATION
- CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.
- COMERICA BANK
- CONSOLIDATED GRAPHICS
- COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL CORP.
- COVIDEN
- CRYOGENIC
- DMJM-HAN
- OUTRA GROUP (THE)
- EMC CORPORATION
- FACTSET RESEARCH SYSTEMS, INC.
- FASTENAL COMPANY
- FEDERATED INSURANCE
- FLUIDOS
- PMC FOOTECH - PMC TECHNOLOGIES
- GAP INC.
- GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY
- HILMAR CHEESE COMPANY
- HITACHI GLOBAL STORAGE TECH.
- HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL
- INDUSTRIAL COMPANY, THE
- INDUSTRIAL TOOLS INC.
- INTUIT
- J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY (THE)
- JOHN DEERE
- KLA TENCOR
- KPMG LLP
- L-3 COMMUNICATIONS/RANDTRON
- LOCKHEED MARTIN
- L.A. COUNTY DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS
- MEAD & HUNT, INC.
- NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR
- NAVAL WEAPONS DIVISION
- NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
- NAVSEA PORT HUENEME
- NORTHROP-SAUERMAN CORPORATION
- OLSON ASSOCIATES
- PALM, INC.
- PARSONS
- PEPSI BOTTLING GROUP
- PRATT WHITNEY ROCKETDYNE
- PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE
- PROWITT
- RAIN FOR RENT
- ROCKWELL AUTOMATION
- SANDISK CORPORATION
- SANTA BARBARA, COUNTY OF
- SCHLUMBERGER
- SHIMMICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC.
- SIEMENS POWER GENERATION
- SOUTHLAND INDUSTRIES
- STRYKER ENDOSCOPY
- TARGET DISTRIBUTION
- TARGET STORES
- TEACH FOR AMERICA
- TOYOTA RESEARCH CORPORATION
- TOYOTA ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING
- TYCO ELECTRONICS
- UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
- US AIR CONDITIONING DISTRIBUTORS
- US DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
- WEST VALLEY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
- WOLSELEY'S NORTH AMERICA DIVISION
- WORLD MINERALS, INC.
- XILINX
- YAHOO! INC.

### Companies on Thursday, 1/17/08:

- ADELANTO TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
- LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- MAFFI-TRENCH CORPORATION
- MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS
- MAZZETTI & ASSOCIATES
- MCCLARAND VASQUEZ EMEIS & PARTNERS
- MICROSOFT
- MODesto IRIGATION DISTRICT
- NETTLE USA
- NETWORK APPLIANCE, INC.
- NEW UNITED MOTOR MANUFACTURING, INC.
- NUMATIC ENGINEERING
- ORBITAL SCIENCES CORPORATION
- PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
- PARKER AEROSPACE
- PRESTON PIPELINES, INC.
- QUAD GRAPHICS
- RADIX TECHNOLOGIES
- RAHEXIIAN PACIFIC COMPANY
- SAFEWAY, INC.
- SANTA CRUZ BIOTECHNOLOGY, INC.
- SHAW INDUSTRIES
- SONY ELECTRONICS
- STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
- SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC.
- TDC MEDICAL
- TERADYN
- TRANX COMPANY
- TRIAGE CONSULTING GROUP
- USS POSCO INDUSTRIES
- VIASAT, INC.
- VOLVO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT & SERV.
- WALKER PARKING CONSULTANTS
- WALSH VINEYARDS MANAGEMENT
- WALT DISNEY IMAGINERING
- WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL
- WELLS FARGO INTERNET SERVICES GROUP
- ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY
"How important do you feel your vote is?"

Compiled and photographed by Cary Conrady

“As important as eating an idiot into power.”
— Bridget Ranges, political science senior

“It’s important. Trust me. I’m a pol sci major.”
— Jon Creme, political science senior

"Not that important. I think the electoral college system is outdated.

— Lisa Burgnon, ethnic studies freshman

“I’d like to think it’s important, but in all reality, I don’t think it makes much of a difference.”
— Meagan Gonzalez, journalism freshman

**CelebriTyNews**

**Woman of the year**
Paris Hilton is leading to Harvard.

The 26-year-old actress-socialite has been named Harvard Lampoon’s “Woman of the Year,” the comedy magazine said Tuesday.

She will visit Harvard on Feb. 6 to accept her award, said Regent Releasing, the company that’s distributing her new comedy, “The Home & the Nite.”

Hilton, whose body of work includes “House of Wax” and “TV’s” “The Simple Life,” stars as the attractive best friend to a guy ducking in the new comedy, dated for release Feb. 8. (AP)

A normal baby name. What?

Christina Aguilera has given birth to a boy, the pop singer announced on her Web site Sunday.

“The baby was born Saturday night and weighs 6 pounds, 2 ounces. Aguilera, 27, was “resting and doing well,” according to the message on her Web site, www.christinaaguilera.com.

Aguilera said that Saturday was “a very joyful and special day for Jordan and I.” (AP)

**Neighborhood dispute**

Hummer Garrison Keillor and his wife have filed a lawsuit intended to stop their next-door neighbor from building a two-story addition they say would block their access to light and air.

The lawsuit was filed Monday in Ramsey County District Court by Keillor, the host of “A Prairie Home Companion” and creator of fictional Lake Wobegon, and his wife, Jenny Lind Nilsson.

They want neighbor Lori Anderson to stop building the 1,400-square-foot addition to the home she has owned since 1999. She lives there with fiancé Paul Olson.

Olson said he and Anderson were vacationing in New Zealand Nov. 29 when they got an e-mail from Keillor accusing them of building a carriage house. He said they ended their vacation early and returned home, hoping to

**Briefs**

**State**

**LAKE FOREST (AP) —** A whale skull that lay undisturbed for millions of years faces a new threat: bureaucracy.

Some fossil experts are worried that the skull could be washed away by a storm or damaged by vandals before the government paperwork to allow its excavation is completed.

Darryl Hansen, an amateur paleontologist, discovered in September 2006 that a lump of grayish rock in the bed of Aliso Creek was a 5-foot-long baleen whale skull.

It is rare to find an entire whale skull intact, said Lisa Bablona, Orange County’s paleontologist.

**LOS ANGELES (AP) —** The striking Hollywood writers guild likely will bar its members from working on next month’s Grammy Awards, a union spokesman said Tuesday.

Grammy organizers have not yet asked for a waiver allowing writers to work on the show.

However, “if a waiver is requested for the Grammys, it is unlikely to be granted,” Writers Guild of America spokesman Gregg Mitchell said in a statement.

The Recording Academy said it did not have an immediate comment.

**CHICAGO (AP) —** Neighbors fire five votes apart in northern Illinois’ Boone County, but they came running when called.

The rare winter tornado that cut a 13-mile path of destruction, leveling homes and detailing a freight train, spared dairy farmer Brenda Kastning and her family. But in a 40-nip wide ripped apart their barn, which held 16 calves.

It turned out the calves were fine, but the destroyed barn left Kastning with nowhere to put the part of the herd that lived in it.

**International**

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —** The Taliban said Tuesday that its suicide bombers would attack restaurants where Westerners eat in Kabul, an ominous new threat that forced American and European workers to restrict outings in the Afghan capital.

The country’s intelligence chief linked Monday’s deadly attack on the Serena Hotel — a well-guarded, high-profile hotel in Kabul frequented by Westerners — to a Pakistani militant. Afghan officials arrested four people, and said they included one of the three attackers, who was disguised in a police uniform for the assault.

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) —** Saudi Arabia will raise oil production only when the market justifies it, the kingdom’s oil minister said Tuesday, in response to President Bush’s request that OPEC nations increase output to reduce world oil prices.

“Our interest is to keep oil supplies matching demand, not to maximize volatility in the oil market,” Oil Minister Ali Naimi told OPEC’s news correspondents.

“We will raise productions when the market justifies it. This is our policy,” Naimi said.

Naimi said inventory levels appear to be “normal,” adding, “we want to keep the inventory to be healthful, but we don’t want it to be extremely high or extremely low.”

**Richie baby’s good appetite**

Jordana Brewster said her newborn daughter with Nicole Richie has a healthy appetite.

“She looks so much like her mom it’s crazy! She can like a little maniac and she’s really sweet,” the Good Charlotte rocker gushed in a post on her DCMA Collective Web site under the heading, “It’s a Giggles!”

Harbor Winter Kate Madden was born Friday in Los Angeles, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces. She is the first child for Madden, 26, and Richie, 26. The couple began dating in late 2006.

“She barely even cries, even when daddy is changing her diaper,” Madden said. (AP)

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• post story comments

**Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

**Wire Editor: Christina Casci**

www.mustangdaily.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thelma Avenue</td>
<td>Located across from Mott gym. “The Ave”– We’ve got what you want! Hungry for chicken? A custom-made sandwich? How about a burrito? Some fresh stir fry? A bagel, salad bar or soup? The Avenue features Chipotle with chicken entrees, Tapango’s Super with express Mexican cuisine, City Deli or City Subs with custom-made sandwiches or subs; Nathan’s® for hot dogs and the fain’s and Red Dragon Wok with Asian cuisine. Why not enjoy a frozen yogurt at Sweet Perusions?</td>
<td>Mon-Thurs: 7:00am - 7:00pm Fri: 7:00am - 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backyard</td>
<td>Located downstairs in the University Union. Fresh, delicious pizza by the slice or share a whole pizza with friends. Complement your pizza with a salad from our 40-item salad bar and a choice of a wide variety of beverages. Occasional live entertainment on stage. For fast on-campus delivery call, 756-4089</td>
<td>Mon-Thu: 10:30am-9:00pm Fri: 10:30am-10:00pm Sat: 11:00am-9:00pm Sun: Noon-9:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Market</td>
<td>Located by the Library, behind Ag Science building. Your convenient source for special foods and groceries. A convenience store that has just about everything you could need during a day on campus, plus many items you’ll want to take home.</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 6:30am - 10:00pm Fri: 6:30am - 5:30pm Sat: 10:00am - 5:00pm Sun: 10am - 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Grille</td>
<td>Located down the stairs from the U.U. Plaza. Garden Grille is the fresh place to eat, serving freshly tossed salads, home-style cooking and upscale entrees, sandwiches, pastas, Harris Ranch burgers hot off the grill, fruit, desserts and lots more.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Lunch: 11:00am-4:50pm Dinner: 5:00pm-8:00pm Weekends: Lunch: Noon-2:30pm Dinner: 5:00pm-8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiliSili Sushi</td>
<td>Located on the first floor of the University Union. Serving freshly brewed coffee, espresso drinks from lattes to blended Java Blasts, and a wide assortment of freshly baked pastries form cookies to muffins. Our coffee beans are freshly roasted locally and are also available by the pound. Dreyers® ice cream is scooped up for cones, milkshakes and espresso creations.</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 7:00am - 9:00pm Fri: 7:00am - 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Located on Poly Drive, near the mail kiosk, between the Rec Center and U.U. Fresh, fast, fun juice drinks from apple juice to smoothies. (Sorry, no zucchini juice, but we do have carrot drinks.) Blended drinks made to order while you watch, from great ingredients like pure fruit juice, whole fruit, nonfat frozen yogurt, sherbet, protein powder, wheat germ and other delicious and nutritious stuff.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 7:00am - 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too</td>
<td>Located in the Dexter Building. Enjoy the same mouth watering juice drinks at our second, convenient location.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Park</td>
<td>Located in the Dexter Building. Everything from candy bars or sandwiches to fresh brewed coffee. The Park has an attractive seating area that offers you 24-hour-a-day hospitality. Other vending locations include the residence halls, library, University Union, and business building.</td>
<td>Always Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Soup Shop</td>
<td>Located across from the UU ATM’s. Begin your day with a delicious breakfast croissant, breakfast burrito or waffle. For lunch as well as at breakfast, let us build the “sandwich of your dreams” from a selection of over 45 items. For a quick on-the-go meal, pick up some packaged food – European baguette sandwiches made fresh daily, lastly Enchanted Bakery cookies, fresh salads, fruits, yogurt and lots of other delicious items.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Breakfast: 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taqueria</td>
<td>Located between Kennedy Library &amp; Dexter bldg. Express Mexican Cuisine, value-priced for a great on-the-go meal. Quesadillas, breakfast burritos, coffee, orange juice and milk available for breakfast. Tacos, burritos, nachos, quesadillas, rice, beans and soft drinks at lunch.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 6:00am - 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.G. Cafe (Vista Grande Restaurant)</td>
<td>Located up the stairs, across from the Rec Center. Cafe-style lunch service featuring Mexican entrees, salads and desserts.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Lunch: Mon-Fri: 10:30am - 2:00pm Dinner: Mon-Thurs: 5:00pm-8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VG Cafe</td>
<td>Located among the residence halls. VG Cafe is the place to go! A favorite of Dining Plan patrons offering a grand view and a wide selection of fresh soups, pastas, rice, specialties of chicken and beef, a salad bar, desserts, and beverages.</td>
<td>Brunch: 10:00am-1:30pm(Sat/Sun) Dinner: 5:00pm-8:00pm(Sat/Thurs) Late Nite: 8:00pm-Midnight(Sun-Thurs) Closed Fridays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours vary on holidays, quarter breaks and summer quarter. For menus, photos and more information, check our web site www.calpolycorporation.org/campusdining
The band’s mantra, “Tiger Army Never Die,” couldn’t be more fitting. With a rocky history that would have meant the end of less-determined bands, California’s Tiger Army has persevered and is once again bringing its own unique brand of punk rock to San Luis Obispo. “We always have a good time when we come to SLO. The downtown music scene is great; you can see so many different bands,” vocalist and guitarist Nick 13 said. “There definitely have been some rocky times, but to use the cliché, every cloud has a silver lining.”

During the past few years, the band has toured relentlessly alongside other punk bands, such as AFI and Rancid, playing shows across the United States, Europe and even Australia. The band even landed a spot on the 2004 and 2007 Vans Warped Tour. With four full-length albums under its belt — the most recent being June 5, 2007’s release of “Music From Regions Beyond,” the band’s most defining work to date — Tiger Army has reached a level of success uncommon in today’s underground music scene.

“Tiger Army is a billy band,” said Nick 13, the only original member remaining since the band’s inception more than 10 years ago. “There’s elements of dark pop and British ’80s stuff like The Cure, The Smiths and post-punk like Joy Division. We draw from all kinds of things.”

Haunting lyrics are delivered via Nick 13’s soaring croon — sometimes soothing and melodic, other times edgy and abrasive, but always heartfelt and sincere. Nick 13’s poetic lyrics are inspired by classic horror movies, 19th- and 20th-century Gothic authors such as Edgar Allan Poe and H.P. Lovecraft as well as certain Japanese authors.

“Tiger Army is a really lyrical aspect of Japanese literature when it’s translated into English,” Nick 13 said. “It’s a big influence to me.”

The band has come a long way since their early days in the East Bay punk scene. Forming together in early 1996, they played their first show at the legendary 924 Gilman in Berkeley. The band quickly grabbed the attention of Tim Armstrong, frontman of the seminal punk band Rancid, who signed the band to his label, Hellcat Records.

Despite a few early lineup changes, things were going well and the band enjoyed modest success. By 2003, they had embarked on an 18-month tour across the U.S. and overseas to Japan and Europe. Tragedy struck, however, when drummer Fred Hell was shot four times during a home-invasion robbery. The incident left Hell with a bullet lodged in his brain. Despite waiting several months for his recovery, Hell was unable to continue with the band.

“Things seemed almost too hard to keep going,” Nick 13 said. “But somehow we just kept with it.”

A move from the East Bay to Los Angeles and numerous lineup changes later, the band solidified with the addition of Jeff Roffredo on stand-up bass and James Meza on drums. Despite the turbulence, the new lineup has proved to be a blessing for the band.

“Tiger Army is a billy band,” said Nick 13, “It’s a good feeling.” Nick 13 said. “We’ve been doing this for a long time. It seems like each year things get a little better. There are so many people that are really into what we do at this point, it’s a gratifying thing. It seems like our music becomes something important to them.”

Indeed, one glance at the band’s MySpace page reveals dozens of devoted fans that have tattooed the band’s roaring tiger-with-bat-wings symbol on themselves in some way or another.

“You’ll see people who are into every subculture of rock ’n’ roll at a Tiger Army show,” Nick 13 said. “People come to us from a lot of different backgrounds and styles.”

Many fans, including Cal Poly earth science sophomore Kris Oster­ lob, are excited for tonight’s performance.

“I’ve already seen them live a few times and they’re frickin’ awesome,” Osterlob said. “I’m really looking forward to it.”

So what advice does the band have for aspiring musicians?

“Most of the people that I know who have become successful in music started out just for the love of music. It’s not easy; it takes a lot of hard work and it can take a lot of sacrifices,” Nick 13 said. “Do something that’s true to yourself. Whether you’re following a trend or just imitating your influences because you love them, you have to find a way to make those influences your own and combine them with your own sound. Otherwise, you’re just another face in the crowd.”

And what does the future hold for Tiger Army? The band will be spending most of 2008 on the road to support of their new album, but the next album is always in the back of their minds.

“I’m always looking toward the future. I’m always excited about the next record that hasn’t been written and hasn’t been made. If that feeling ever left me, I don’t think I’d bother to make a record,” Nick 13 said.

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‘Distortion’ will change your life

The birth of your first child. A new career. The sudden death of your parents in a hideous crash. Some thing carries such weight that they cannot help but define your very existence.

Events that carry more significance in my life than the release of a new record from The Magnetic Fields can be cataloged in a short list of exactly zero items. This entirely ridiculous fact is exacerbated by the loudly production pace allotted by Magnetic Fields mastermind Stephin Merritt. Sure, he’s busy with like three other bands, sound-track work and those goddammed Volvo commercials, but he should really have some sympathy for those of us with no lives whatsoever. The last full-length outing, “C,” was an agonizing four years ago.

Really, though, the new record is worth the wait. Its appropriate title, “Distortion,” indicates the return of incredibly noisy, fuzzed-out and feedback-heavy production, which last appeared in ass-kicking stompers like “When My Boy Walks Down the Street” back in 1999. Merritt elaborated on the sound in a recent interview, saying he wanted to use consistent instrumentation and evoke the sound of the first Jesus and Mary Chain record.

This noise aesthetic is most fun on the excellent track “Too Drunk To Dream,” which became an instant anthem for my summer pool parties. While the main riffs could use a little bit more variation, I think every song should go on this long, though I can see my friends losing their minds sugaring it down to the last line: “Sober, life is a prison / Shit-faced, it is a blessing / Sober, nobody wants you / Shit-faced, they’re all undressing.” Merritt’s songwriting certainly hasn’t lost any of its absurd honesty.

As Orr said. “Expect the unexpected.” Even those of us with no lives whatsoever should keep our ears out for this record. As O’Shea said, “The fun is in the fact that you can’t predict what to expect.”
In 2008, it’s the economy, stupid!

Several weeks ago, I wrote an article explaining that the economy is in bad shape and how the Republicanpolyans on the campaign trail and in the White House couldn’t see the impending recession approaching the country.

Unfortunately, I was wrong. The economic condition is far worse than I feared. In fact, I believe the economy is going to deteriorate so much in 2008 that it will be the No. 1 issue in the upcoming presidential elections, which says a lot considering the Iraqi quagmire still facing the country.

The first major economic headwind Americans will face in 2008 is plummeting home values. The real estate market is still reeling from the bursting of the housing bubble, which began in 2001 with prolonged periods of low interest rates coupled with poor enforcement of credit standards for mortgage applicants. In fact, there is still such an excess supply of homes that the CEO of Wells Fargo (the nation’s fifth-largest bank) said, “We have not seen a nationwide decline in housing like this since the Great Depression.”

The suffering housing market is important because we will likely see massive shock waves throughout the broader economy, resulting in growing unemployment and restrictions on credit access for millions of Americans in 2008.

According to U.S. News and World Report, in economically critical states, like Florida and California, approximately one in five jobs is housing-related. For example, the number of real-estate agents in Florida has increased by more than 40 percent since 2001, to 305,000; in California, there are more than 500,000 people working as realtors, a lot considering the Iraqi quagmire still facing the country.

In addition to growing national unemployment, which is estimated by Wall Street firms to rise by 30 percent in 2008, the housing market bust will also put a stranglehold on consumer loans and credit, the lifeblood of our economy. Without credit, consumers will nearly be forced to stop spending altogether. For the last six years, Americans have been compounding their stagnant wages by essentially using their appreciating homes as their own personal ATM (via home-equity loans) to fuel their consumption. According to The International Business Times, at the height of the housing bubble (winter 2005), Americans were able to extract $105.5 billion in home equity every quarter to fund their spending. The amount of credit now available to consumers in 2008 is already 35 percent smaller than that available in 2005 and will only continue to shrink as home equity disappears.

What’s worse is that Americans are now increasingly turning to credit cards to offset this loss of home-equity loans available to them. Government data shows that credit usage by Americans grew at a frightening 8.8 percent annually in the fall of 2007, which is 30 percent above the previous three months.

The problem here is that credit cards charge ridiculously high interest rates (up to 15 percent). How much longer can U.S. consumers pile on this 15 percent interest rate debt before they collapse from the economic weight of it? The answer: not much longer, as I have already begun to read that 401k withdrawals in the past six months are reaching the highest levels seen. The point here is that Americans will tap every resource necessary to continue their standard of living, and without any form of serious government assistance, the U.S. consumer will eventually be all tapped out.

So what is the solution to all of this? Will the federal government intervene, fire up the economic printing press, bring back the days of easy credit and make the collapse of the home-equity bubble default? I can’t see how the government wouldn’t do this. In fact, last time I checked, it’s their job to prevent events like the “Great Depression.” Granted, this intervention would certainly spark inflation, but that inflation is “shocking” due in large part to this current administration’s irrational energy policy, which revolves around oil, ethanol and more oil. (Just for the record, I am in favor of ethanol, just as long as it is made of sugarcane, not corn.) However, looking at all the fundamental problems in employment and credit access, even if the government does intervene with a stimulus package, it won’t immediately fix the problems. The deficit of GNP proportions don’t get fixed in 12 months time, no matter what politicians do. The economy is already on the fast track toward a serious downturn in 2008. Hold on, it’ll be a bumpy ride.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.
Will the real presidential candidate please stand up
(and Ron Paul, please sit down.)

I must admit that this whole presidential primary season is quite the headache. On one side of the aisle, we have a clusterfuck because the presumed victor had a campaign implosion ... thank you very much, Bill Clinton. On the other side you have alphabet soup of candidates and their positions. With the California primaries just around the corner, it might be helpful to evaluate the candidates. At least most of them ... as I see them. Muhahahaha!

Hillary Clinton
I have maintained that I have no problem with a woman as president. While her crying stunt showed the world that the ice queen she has an actual beating heart. On second thought, I am still waiting remaining military secrets we have to the Chinese, it didn't prove that is actually not a raging steroidal maniac bent on selling the few re-

Barack Obama
Quite frankly, Obama scares me. I'm all for minorities, but he has "Hussein" in his name. I thought the Hussein mess was taken care of. All kidding aside though, as a candidate, we the people know very little about him. Yes, he is a fresh and engaging individual, but so are the tigers at the San Francisco Zoo.

John Edwards
I must admit that, as a Republican, I really like John Edwards. I always have thought that anyone who looks like a game show host and knows politics should be president. I just hope that John "Silky Pony" Edwards doesn't end up with a hangnail while in office ... that would be a bad week in the White House. Besides, if it doesn't work out for Edwards, he can always host "Extreme Makeover:"

Dennis Kucinich
I only mention him because he is like Ron Paul: short, big ears and has a snowball's chance in hell at winning anything short of dog-catcher in Humboldt County. I'm also really confused by his slogan "Strength through peace." What does that even mean? That instead of going to war to fight terrorism, we should have instead invited Osama and his cronies over for a barbecue? Sigh.

Mike Huckabee
I don't want to offend anyone (just kidding), but Huckabee is the Republican version of Howard Dean. Kudos for getting the endorse-

Ron Paul
Paul is crazy. Fiscally, he is my kind of guy, but on all other issues I start to wonder what his drug of choice is. The only good thing about Paul is that he has brought an energy to the campaign that is quite refreshing. The sad truth of it, though, is that the revolu-

Mitt Romney
I really have no problem with Romney. However, as a friend of mine brought up, "Do we really want a president named Mitt?" The only other contentions I hear from people and the media is that he is rich and Mormon. Religiously, he can't do anything negative — even if he wanted to (which I doubt he does). As for being rich, more power to him, Sure, he might not relate to the common man, but the economy is key and he might know a thing or two about that. Besides, his Ken doll features will get more women involved in politics.

John McCain
McCain is old and short. While I have no problem with "little people," I don't think it sends the right message to the world com-

Fred Thompson
In the interest of disclosure, I should admit that Thompson is my man. He is the only true conservative in the race. The problem has been with his campaign, though. When he has been awake, his mes-

Rudy Giuliani
I actually had the chance to meet him during the summer. I must admit that Rudy seems like a really nice guy. However, he is banking too much on the fact that he was the mayor of New York City when Sept. 11, 2001 happened. Sure, he was a great prosecutor lowering crime in NYC, but as mayor, NYC was a sanctuary city. I wonder what he is really going to do for the country. Leading a city is differ-

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The Bottom Line
You as a voter have to decide which candidate has the values clos-

Ian Nachreiner is an agriculture science senior, treasurer for the Cal Poly College Republicans and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.
Fantasy
continued from page 12

the name of winning a cool $100 or message-board bragging rights from a mi-and-match, hodgepodge hustle of a computerized swap meet.

Ilonovan Aird is (he Mustang Daily sports editor and a journalism junior.

Sports STUMPER
Q: How many times in NFL history has a team won all of its games in the regular season only to lose in the league championship game?

A: None. The 1978 New England Patriots were 14-0 in the regular season but lost 10-7 to the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl.

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MUSTANG DAILY
Sports

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 send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@glamour.com.

It’s Monday, Jan. 16, sport s section. The Mustang Daily accidentally inverted the score of Cal Poly's dual wrestling meet against Boise State in a header. The actual score was 26-5 in favor of Boise State, not Cal Poly, as inadvertently written. We apologize for the mistake.

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I am not here to talk about the past,” said Rafael Palermo's finger-wagging denial of steroid use only months before failing a drug test.

“I am proud of the progress we've made. I never delude myself, because I know there's always more work to be done,” Selig said after Tuesday's hearing. "But when you think of where we were three years ago to where we are... I appreciated the response from them today.

In the aftermath of the 2005 hearing, baseball and the union agreed to toughen their drug policy, including harsher penalties, more testing and a ban on amphetamines.

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MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS
Rugby club team scrums for third straight title

Dustin Stone

Members of the Cal Poly rugby club team are chomping at the bit for their first taste of league play this weekend against UCLA.

The Mustangs begin the 2008 season looking to maintain their dominance of the Southern California Rugby Football Union (SCRFU) by walking away with their third consecutive league championship.

"We've really strong pretty much all over the field, and we've got a group of seniors who are Cal Poly rugby president," he added. That added the Mustangs, who lost three starters from the past season, should field a "pretty dynamic" team.

"Our backs are pretty agile, and we're pretty strong in the forwards," Escalera said.

"They're a pretty good team," Escalera said. "They gave us a good test last year, and I don't think they've lost too many players from then. I think their six, seven and eight (positions) are really good."

"Cal Poly is coming off of a successful preseason campaign in which it went 5-2, and totes an impressive league record of 15-1 over the course of its past two, championship seasons."

In 2007, the Mustangs went 8-1, outscoring their opponents 506 to 119. Both outputs were SSCRFU highs.

In their final preseason outing of this year, the Mustangs built on their past defensive success by not surrendering a single point to the San Francisco Golden Gate Under-23 men's club, winning 27-0.

"We know Joe Moini paced Cal Poly with three scores in the first half alone."

Lock Kurt Puder and wing Trenton Yackzan provided the rest of the offensive threat.

Ultimately, the goal for the seventh-ranked Mustangs, however, is to shift to players Tuesday.

San Diego State, which compiled an 8-1 mark, is a league threat, Escalera explained.

"Their six, seven and eight (positions) are really good."

San Diego State, in addition to the Caliuchos, could present itself as a Southern California Rugby Football Union championship sleeper last year, has gone 15-1 over the past two seasons.

Above, the Mustangs vie with UC Santa Barbara for the league title.

The Cal Poly rugby club, which lost three starters from its league-title squad last year, has gone 15-1 over the past two seasons.

The season opener will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday at the fields of the Cal Poly Rec Center.

Congress throws heat at Bud Selig and Donald Fehr

Howard Fendrich

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taking a leadership role never once again, Congress kept the finger-pointing and tough questioning to a minimum. Maybe that's because the people under the most scrutiny this time — Miguel Tejada, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens — were nowhere to be seen.

Commissioner Bud Selig and union leader Donald Fehr accepted responsibility for the sport's drug boom and the author of the Mitchell Report defended his findings in the same wood-paneled House hearing room that hosted a far longer and far more contentious session in March 2006.

It didn't take long for the focus to shift to players Tuesday.

The hearing opened with word that Congress wants Tejada, the 2002 AL MVP, investigated for lying to federal authorities. The first witness, former Senate majority leader George Mitchell, testified he believes a former trainer's allegations that he injected seven-time Cy Young Award winner Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone. And Selig told lawmakers that Bonds' San Francisco Giants should have reported concerns about the home run king's personal trainer.

The 4-hour, 15-minute session before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee also exposed what might be the latest drug bust by the sport's stars: Ritalin and Adderall, stimulants better known as treatments for hyperactive kids. According to data provided to the committee by MLB and the union, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, there were 35 "Therapeutic Use Exemptions" for drugs in 2006, of which 28 were for ADD and ADHD medications. In 2007, the exemptions skyrocketed to 111, of which 103 were for ADD and ADHD.

"It seems to be a little bit odd," said Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., in questioning the exemptions.

The possibilities are endless.

Some people may be stuck in the past, when the other playoffs — the fantasy football playoffs — happened a few weeks ago.

Symptoms of this keyboard-locked affliction continue to be exhibited globally, coming in the form of gaming or curbing statistical outcomes, bragging about fifth-round gems no one else believed in, compulsively checking the waiver wire, and so on."

"YES! they shout right in the middle of an actual game, in response to anything physically taking place in the realm of reality, but for numbers about to run through a calculator. "I have him on my fantasy team!"

These days, before the start of the NFL season — the existing NFL season, that is — more fantasy football magazines can be found in bookstores than magazines devoted to simply analyzing the tangible season.

This plague of phantasm has even infiltrated TV venues for analysis of the genuine article; fantasy "experts" are paid to proclaim to the audience "sleepers" and players to pick up or bench that particular week.

Some of the leastest talking heads paid to dissect the impact of players' injuries nowadays are these pigskin-inclined mathematicians who are perfectly happy discussing how Thomas Jones' ding will affect his fantasy outlook rather than the Jen' s Playoff hopes.

So infectious now is this chimerical shenanigan, that it is beginning to supplant discourse about the authentic season at the proverbial water cooler.

Is the real thing so boring to some fans — and there are wonderful fans of the real thing who entertain fantasies — that they need to build a bridge, and rombly participate in, such inarticulate systems of equations? What has resulted is an annual tarnishing and squandering of the true NFL season.

Of all that time spent fawning over figurants of the imagination, how much could've been spent appreciating the game itself or debating its all-time great teams and players, and which of the current crop belong among them?

So the football nation is in the midst of the playoffs. Well, most of it, anyway.

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Tom Brady or Joe Montana? (Yes, it is an increasingly legitimate question.) Would a Vince Lombardi-helmed current incarnation of the Patriots do better or worse than Bill Belichick's? Just how good could Adrian Peterson be?

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