ASI brings election to UU

Coral Snyder

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 Enslagoe, 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-change," he spoke. "I see this as an opportunity for you to be the change you want to see in the world." He also urged students to register to vote so they can have a voice in the coming presidential election.

Booths were set up in the University Union Plaza Tuesday in an attempt to get students to learn about the presidential election and register to vote.

Poly hosts powwow

Mike Huckleby

According to both co-directors of the project, welders had to consider several factors when designing the device.

"It was really interesting to see everyone's perspectives come together," said general engineering graduate student Emily Hakun, who co-directed the project with mechanical engineering senior Amber Iraeta.

"We worked with Disney two years ago and it was a good experience," Hakun said. She added that creating a successful product this year was more important than placing well in the competition.

"It's a sign of the dysfunctionality of the legislature that it's self-serving leadership has held the governor hostage on healthcare issues," said Kevin Spillane, a spokesman for the no-on-93 campaign.

A spokesman for Schwarzenegger, Julie Campbell, said the governor's comments "pointless rhetoric" and said the governor was endorsing the ballot measure "so the people of California can make their own decision on healthcare reform."
Competition

continued from page 1

that was not a cost-effective or easy way to ensure award smoothness. Instead, the welder can now use the device while constructing tracks. The competition was a yearlong process, giving team members time to design, construct, find compatible software and test the device. Along the way, they received direct feedback from Disney engineers, an aspect that some considered a privilege.

"It was an amazing experience to see professionals critique our design," said bioresearch junior Cdale Miller.

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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:
- ADVANCE
- AFFILIATE ENGINEERS, INC.
- AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
- AIR SYSTEMS, INC.
- ALCIN LABORATORIES, INC.
- AMAZON.COM
- AMERICAN GENERAL MEDIA
- AMGEN, INC.
- AMHERST-DURHAM COMPANIES
- ARCHER WESTERN CONTRACTORS, LTD.
- BROADACRE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
- CALF DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES
- CALS NETWORKS
- CDML TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
- CHEVRON CORPORATION
- CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.
- CONSOLIDATED GRAPHICS
- CONSOLIDATED GRAPHICS
- CONVENED
- DIRECTV
- DMJ HAN
- DUTRA GROUP (THE)
- EMC CORPORATION
- FACTSET RESEARCH SYSTEMS, INC.
- FASTENAL COMPANY
- FEDERATED INSURANCE
- FLUIDOIS
- PMC FOOTECH - PMC TECHNOLOGIES
- GAP, INC.
- GILbane BUILDING COMPANY
- HILMAR CHEESE COMPANY
- HITACHI GLOBAL STORAGE TECH.
- HONESTY 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
- NAVAR WEAPONS DIVISION
- NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
- NAVSEA PORT HUENEME
- NORTHROP-SAUJMAN CORPORATION
- OLSON ASSOCIATES
- PALM, INC.
- PARENS
- PEPSI BOTTLING GROUP
- PRATT WHITNEY ROCKETDYE
- PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE
- PROVITIV
- RAIN FOR RENT
- ROCKWELL AUTOMATION
- SANDISK CORPORATION
- SANTA BARBARA, COUNTY OF
- SCHLUMBERGER
- SHIMMICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC.
- SIEMENS POWER GENERATION
- SOUTHLAND INDUSTRIES
- STRECKER 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.
- WINDLE & KELLY CONSULTING ENGINEERS
- WOLSELEY'S NORTH AMERICA DIVISION
- WORLD MINERALS, INC.
- WORLDWIDES
- XILINX
- YAHOO! INC.

Companies on Thursday, 1/17/08:
- ADP
- ALFA TECH CAMBRIDGE GROUP
- APPLE, INC.
- APPLIED SIGNAL TECHNOLOGY
- AUSTIN COMPANY (THE)
- BAE SYSTEMS
- BALFOUR BEATTY INFRASTRUCTURE, INC.
- BOSTON SCIENTIFIC
- BRIDGECON
- CA DEPT OF CORRECTIONS & REHAB
- CA DEPT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
- CALTRANS
- CAPITAL GROUP COMPANIES, INC. (THE)
- CARLIE MACY
- CHICAGO TRADING COMPANY
- CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS
- CNET NETWORKS
- COMMUNICATIONS & POWER INDUSTRIES
- CRITCHFIELD MECHANICAL, INC.
- DOLBY LABORATORIES
- DREYERS GRAND ICE CREAM
- ENTERPRISE
- ENVIROCENTER
- FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP
- FCI CONSTRUCTORS, INC.
- FLUOR CORPORATION
- FOSTER FARMS
- FRITO-LAY OPERATIONS
- GARMIN INTERNATIONAL, INC.
- GENERAL ATOMICS AERO SYSTEMS, INC.
- GENERAL DYNAMICS ADV INFO SYSTEMS
- GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.
- GOLDEN BURTON ENERGY SERVICES
- HENRY WINE GROUP (THE)
- HEWLETT PACKARD
- INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING SYSTEMS, INC.
- KGO GROUP, INC.
- LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB
- LIGHTRIVER TECHNOLOGIES
- LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
- LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- MAAT-TRENCH CORPORATION
- MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS
- MAZZETTI & ASSOCIATES
- MIARANDA /SADIE EMESEE & PARTNERS
- MICROSOFT
- MODesto IRIGATION DISTRICT
- NESTLE USA
- NETWORK APPLIANCE, INC.
- NEW UNITED MOTOR MANUFACTURING, INC.
- NUMATIC ENGINEERING
- ORBITAL SCIENCES CORPORATION
- PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
- PARKER AEROSPACE
- PRESTON PIPELINES, INC.
- QUAD GRAPHS
- RADIX TECHNOLOGIES
- RAYTHEON COMPANY
- REHRING PACIFIC COMPANY
- SAFEWAY, INC.
- SANTA CRUZ BIOTECHNOLOGY, INC.
- SHERWIN INDUSTRIES
- SONY ELECTRONICS
- STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
- SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC.
- TDC MEDICAL
- TERAIDNE
- TRANE COMPANY
- TRIAGE CONSULTING GROUP
- UBS POSCO INDUSTRIES
- VASAT, INC.
- VOLVO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT & SERV.
- WALKER PARKING CONSULTANTS
- WALSH VINEYARDS MANAGEMENT
- WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING
- WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL
- WELLS FARGO INTERNET SERVICES GROUP
- ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY
**Word on the Street**

*How important do you feel your vote is?*

Compiled and photographed by Cary Conrad

As important as electing an idiot into power.

- Bridget Rangel, 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 Bungnon, 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.

- Meghan Gonzaga, journalism freshman

*Take a break! and visit mustangdaily.net*

- photo slideshows
- podcasts
- send letters to the editor
- post story comments

**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 distributes her new comedy, "The Home & the Homecoming." Hilton, whose body of work includes "House of Wax" and "TVI's" "The Simple Life," stars as the attractive best friend to a ugly duckling 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. "Christina Aguilera and Jordan Bratman are proud to announce the birth of their son Max Liron Bratman," the brief message said. "He is a beautiful, healthy baby boy." 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)

**Neighborly dispute**

Humert Garren Kellor 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 Kellor, 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 1,500-square-foot addition to the home she has owned since 1999. She lives there with fiance Paul Olson. Olson said he and Anderson were vacationing in New Zealand Nov. 29 when they got an e-mail from Kellor accusing them of building a carriage house. He said they ended their vacation early and returned home, hoping to try to work things out. (AP)

**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.

Daryll 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 Babilonia, Orange County's paleontologist. (AP)

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

"Our interest is to keep oil supplies matching demand with minimal volatility in the oil market," Oil Minister Ali Naimi told Reuters. Naimi said inventory levels appear to be "normal," adding, "we want the inventories to be healthful, but we don't want it to be excessive or extremely low."

**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 with minimal volatility in the oil market," Oil Minister Ali Naimi told Reuters. "We will raise production when the market justifies it. This is our policy."

Naimi said inventory levels appear to be "normal," adding, "we want the inventories to be healthful, but we don't want it to be extremely high or extremely low."
DINING on-campus

The AVENUE
Located across from Mott gym
Hours vary on holidays, quarter breaks, and summer quarter. For menus, photos, and more information, check our web site www.calpolycorporation.org/campusdining

Fresh, delicious pizza by the slice or share a whole pizza with friends. Compliment 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 calls, 756-4089

Located downstairs in the University Union

Garden Grille is the fresh place to eat. Serving freshly toasted salads, home-style cooking and upscale entrees, sandwiches, pastas, Harris Ranch burgers hot off the grill, fruit, desserts and lots more.

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.

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, nondairy frozen yogurt, sherbet, protein powder, wheat germ and other delicious and nutritious stuff.

Located in the Dexter Building

Enjoy the same mouth watering juice drinks at our second, convenient location.

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.

Always Open

Located across from the UU ATM's

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast casserole, breakfast burrito or waffle. For lunch as well as at breakfast, let us fulfill 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, lasty Enchanted Bakery cookies, fresh salads, fruits, yogurt and lots of other delicious items.

Located between Kennedy Library & 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.

Located up the stairs, across from the Rec Center

Cafe-style lunch service featuring Mexican entrees, salads and desserts.

Located near the entrance of the University on Grand Ave

Full-service dining room with a wonderful view of the campus and San Luis Obispo. We serve lunch and dinner during the week and Sunday Brunch featuring soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts and a variety of contemporary and ethnic dishes. Reservations recommended, call 756-1204

Vista Grande Restaurant

VG Café is the place to go! A favorite of Dining Plan patrons offering a grand view and a wide selection of fresh salads, pastas, soups, specialties of chicken and beef, a salad bar, desserts, and beverages.

Brunch: 10:00am-1:30pm(Sat&Sun)
Dinner: 5:00pm-9:30pm(Sat, Sun)

Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm
Dinner: 5:00pm-8:00pm

Hours vary on holidays, quarter breaks and summer quarter. For menus, photos and more information, check our web site www.calpolycorporation.org/campusdining
Patrick Barbieri
MUStA(; DAILY

The band's mantra, "Tiger Army Never Die," couldn't be more fitting. With a rocksy history that would have meant the end of less-determined groups, California's Tiger Army has persevered and is once again bringing their own unique brand of punk rock to San Luis Obispo.

"We always have a good time when we come to SLO. The downtown is beautiful, and the crowd is always fun," vocalist and guitarist Nick 13 said in a phone interview. "We're definitely looking forward to it."

The band has come a long way since their early days in the East Bay punk scene. Forming together in 1998, 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 spending 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 Rohffredo on stand-up bass and James Meza on drums. Despite the turbulence, the new lineup has proved to be a blessing for the band.

"I feel like things are really strong right now," Nick 13 said. "There have only 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 acts like AFI, Good Charlotte, playing shows across the United States, Europe and even Australia. The band even landed a spot on the 2004 and 2007 Van's Warped Tour. With four full-length albums under their belt, the band recently released "Music From Regions Beyond," the band's most defining work to date — Tiger Army show," Nick 13 said. "People come to us from a lot of different backgrounds and styles."

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 Osterloh, are excited for tonight's performance.

"I've already seen them live a few times and they're frickin' awesome," Osterloh said. "I'm definitely looking forward to it."

So what advice does the band have for aspiring musicians?

"It's an intergenerational band who all have separate successes, but we've done this together and learning from each other," lead guitarist Timothy Oster free said.

Other members are pianist Jim McHattie, Green ripped-riffing Tony Bluhard, bassist Derrick Hodge and vocalist Nucema Freeman. Bluhard, who graduated with the group from the "Best Jazz Album" and has over 30 film scores. He's also worked with artists such as Max DeJong, Trilok Gurtu and Jean-Luc Ponty.

The event will feature a musical performance by Moreno and his world-renowned Jazz Band. The concert is presented by the music department and the Performing Arts Center.

"We had a very short list of people who we thought epitomized the way we think about the world," Orr said. "We want to deliver the message of Monterey to the country."

The Monterey Festival is the culmination of Monterey Jazz Festival on the nation and the tour is meant to pay homage to all the leaders who have made the festival a perennial over the years. The annual festival, held the third weekend of September, attracted more than 43,000 spectators last year.

The Monterey Jazz Festival is world-renowned for its musicianship and spotlight on emerging talent, see Jazz, page 7.
Jazz

continued from page 6

as well as being a forum for established jazz masters to perform," said Lisa Woske, head of public affairs for Cal Poly Arts. "The tour virtually provides a whole festival don’t have to travel to Monterey to experience it.”

Fans of jazz know that the beauty of the music is spontaneous composition. The music is the art of artistry and dedication to their craft. As Terri Lyne Carrington sang in one of her songs, "We keep on, we grow on, through it all, we're here to stay."

But for those of you who are already in the Church of Merritt, don’t worry that this record is in any way repetitive or shallow. Much diversity is found within the seemingly limited template of the three-minute-orchestral-trio-pop song. Some of my favorite old MF songs are of the country ballad flavor, and the new album is no exception. "Drive on Driver" delivers the beautifully triumphant, rocking goodness we’ve come to expect. For the rock songs, such as the excellent “Please Stop Dancing,” Merriweather is consistent. The second track instantly put a smile on my face. After decades of music addressing the subject in a wholly one-sided way, it’s about time the world has a pop song that openly declares, in its chorus, "I hate California Girl.”

Jesse BeWedwards is an architectural engineer and a business director for ECPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM.

Win $50 scholarships with Campus Express Club

Campus Dining awarded 10 scholarships worth $50 each to Campus Express Club members last quarter. The scholarship winners were Shelly Berger, Gemma Aguiar, Yvonne Lynch, Andrew Taul, Garrett Crocker, Adelaida Pitts, Peter Thai, Amanda Saney, Justin Gragg and Laura Moniz.

I am excited beyond belief,” Lynch said. "This is truly a blessing...”

To be eligible, members of the campus community needed only to add value to their Campus Express memberships. The first person to add after one of 10 random times was awarded $50, added to their Campus Express Club membership.

The scholarship winners for winter quarter will be chosen from those adding value to their membership during January, so add value before the end of the month for a chance to win.

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E-mail Campus Dining with questions or suggestions at campusdining@calpoly.edu.

www.calpolycorporation.org/express

What is a bit different from past records is the cohesion. I’m not one to balk at Merrick’s propensity for experimentation, but the homogenious production and instrumentation in a nice change of pace, and these aren’t the only moves toward accessibility. Those of you observant of such things might note that every song is almost exactly three minutes in duration.

Yes, this means exactly what you think: if ever there was a gateway drug—or, I mean oil—branch—which could reach everyone not yet in the fold of the Magnetic Fields faithful...it is “Distortion.” (Some of the new songs are up on the band’s MySpace page, by the way.)

But for those of you who are already in the Church of Merritt, don’t worry that this record is in any way repetitive or shallow. Much diversity is found within the seemingly limited template of the three-minute-orchestral-trio-pop song. Some of my favorite old MF songs are of the country ballad flavor, and the new album is no exception.

“Drive on Driver” delivers the beautifully triumphant, rocking goodness we’ve come to expect. For the rock songs, such as the excellent “Please Stop Dancing,” Merrick himself lends his gravelly vocals. And the second track instantly put a smile on my face. After decades of music addressing the subject in a wholly one-sided way, it’s about time the world has a pop song that openly declares, in its chorus, “I hate California Girl.”

Jesse BeWedwards is an architectural engineer and a business director for ECPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM.

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I am Part or Particle of God. — Emerson

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I stood still on the shoreline
Drowning in summer beach trips
And broken picture frames.
Then the shock of the Pacific
Melted beneath my toes
And he drifted with me
Through waters like wheat fields
That submit to mounting winds,
To violent storms.
Like Olympic runners with stone legs,
White-knuckled,
The children gripped their boards,
Let another wave soak them in.
And pass.
— Nathan Stacker, social sciences senior

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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 Republican Politicians on the campaign trail and in the White House couldn’t see the end of the 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 burst 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 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 home prices like this since the Great Depression.”

The suffering housing market is important because it will lead to 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. Juxtapose those high job numbers with the “Depression”-like housing market and it’s obvious that hundreds of thousands of these workers will have to be fired in 2008 — and that’s just on the sales (realtor) side. What about the construction, designing and planning sides of the real estate market? A scary thought indeed.

In addition to growing national unemployment, which is estimated by some Wall Street firms to rise by 80 percent in 2008, the housing market bust will also put a stranglehold on consumer loans and credit, the life blood of our Economy. Without credit, consumers will nearly be forced to stop spending altogether. For the last six years, Americans have been compensating for 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 annual rate 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 (15 percent or more). 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 replace the lost capital from loan defaults? I can’t see how the government wouldn’t do this. I mean, 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 “shockingly” 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 problem. (Six-year bubbles of epic proportions don’t get fixed in 12 months time, no matter what politicians put in a package, it won’t immediately fix the problem.)

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Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Think about what the author is trying to tell you

In the past few days, we have received several reader articles “Why I Hate White People” by James Koman and the subsequent responses in “Letters to the Editor” here in the Mustang Daily I would have to say that Koman’s piece was, if taken at face value, utter garbage. What he says in no way represents white people and is a very disrespectful way of looking at things.

In my view, all of this has been very much in the headlines due to the fact that white people don’t see that they’re very disrespectful toward black people, and it is a very disrespectful way of looking at things.

However, I think it might be because the headlines of the articles to sit down and think about not just what the words are saying but what the author is trying to tell you. Maybe next time, you will stop to consider the possibility that a white guy isn’t a racist against his own heritage, but his intentions may just go beyond what is being said, and he is not being racist against his own heritage, but his intentions may just go beyond what is being said. I recall learning in my high school English classes, when reading an article or essay, it’s also important to understand the “author’s intent.” Whatever that means.

I remember reading things by these guys named Jonathan Swift and Voltaire who wrote stuff you had to do “read between the lines” to understand. It was called something like “Satire,” or maybe “South Park.” One of the two, it’s pretty vague for me, being a fellow science major.

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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 cluster fu#^ 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 stent showed the world that the ice queen is actually not a raging steroidal maniac bent on selling the few remaining military secrets we have to the Chinese, it didn't prove that she has an actual beating heart. On second thought, I am still waiting. We remain military secrets we have to the Chinese, it didn't prove that is actually not a raging steroidal maniac bent on selling the few remaining military secrets we have to the Chinese, it didn't prove that she has an actual beating heart. On second thought, I am still waiting. Never mind, she just kept on being mad at me.

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 someone 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: Home Edition" and work out for Edwards, he can always host "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and be a politician.

Mike Huckabee

I don't want to offend anyone (just kidding), but Huckabee is the Republican version of Howard Dean. Kudos for getting the endorsement of Chuck Norris, but nobody is going to vote for an extreme right-winger any more than they will for an extreme left-winger. Also, good call on pardoning hundreds of murderers as governor of Arkansas.

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 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 community. Personally, I disagree with his social and immigration policies. But I'd feel comfortable voting for him because of his military background. My main concern with him, besides immigration, is his consensus leadership. As a senator, he has taken the middle ground on many issues and hasn't really stood out as a leader but rather a group thinker.

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 message has been inspiring and hopeful. But as soon as he announced his candidacy, polling numbers sink like a lead balloon. I'll just have to cross my fingers.

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 barking 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 different than leading a country.

Ron Paul

Ron 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 revolution is not going to work. It actually failed before it began.

The Bottom Line

You as a voter have to decide which candidate has the values closest to your own for the primary, not who you think is most electable. Are the options great? No, but they are what we have. When push comes to shove in November, if you are a Republican, you will vote Republican. If you are a Democrat, you will vote Democrat. And if you happen to be somewhere in the middle, your hell is just beginning.

Ian Nachman is an agriculture science senior, treasurer for the Cal Poly College Republicans and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

You should be tried for treason, and if not, at least banished from this great country forever. I feel bad for your parents most of all. I can't imagine the shame and humiliation they're experiencing.

Robert
Response to "Why I hate white people"

This article is absolutely despicable. It is a disgrace that this was even put onto the Internet. And I'll bet this punk knows nothing of our founding fathers. This kid should be suspended from Cal Poly for this.

— Paul Duncan
Response to "Why I hate white people"

The most disturbing thing is that he says he is a junior, and can't write a co­herent article. Could it be that Cal Poly is just a glorified high school?

— Mike
Response to "Why I hate white people"

I used to think child molesters and murderers were the worst people in the world ... now it's just you, buddy. You should be tried for treason, and if not, at least banished from this great country forever. I feel bad for your parents most of all. I can't imagine the shame and humiliation they're experiencing.

— Tweet
Response to "Why I hate white people"

I graduated from Cal Poly in '94 and this doesn't surprise me a bit. Ideas like this were running wild, mind you, hand-in-hand with worthless professors. What is even more surprising is that he is a biology student. They are some the most ignorant, self-absorbed "elite" that education has ever created. He probably wrote this column after about three or four joints in his campus dorm room because he was probably scared to move off campus, into the real world where somebody might disagree with him, or tell him to shut up. I was an agriculture major, and these people made me laugh, more than watching freshmen trying to find their classes. He thinks he is God's gift to saving the environment, because whatever he does or thinks should be written down and read around the world. This is a typical father-like-son issue. I had two biology classes in my career at Cal Poly, that being too many, and the biology teachers are all the same. They know everything, they invented the wheel, and they are pissed off because nobody takes them seriously, because in the end, the world will go on without biology. Sorry.
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1205

Answers to Previous Puzzle

The New York Times
Crossword

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1 Old about 1965 - 51, 33 - 35, 23 - 29, 20 - 21, 18 - 19, 16 - 17, 14 - 15, 12 - 13, 10 - 11, 8 - 9, 6 - 7, 4 - 5, 2 - 3, 1

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Edited by Will Shortz
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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're really strong pretty much all over the field, should Gal and our opponents Cal Poly rugby president.

He added that 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.

UCLA poses a physical challenge, he added.

"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 defense is still pretty strong. They're wings and fullback are pretty fast. They might try to test us with those two positions."

Cal Poly is coming off of a successful preseason campaign in which it went 5-2, and not 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 SRFU 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.

Wing Joe Malin 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 in the rout.

Ultimately, the goal for the seventh-ranked Mustangs, however, is to conquer the national championship, which has remained out of their reach since their first national tournament appearance in 2001.

Cal Poly's best showing in the tournament came in 2004, when it reached the final game after knocking the defending champion, Air Force, out of the final four. After a grueling 80 minutes of play against Cal, the Mustangs narrowly missed their first championship and were forced to settle for second place.

At the reigning league champion, Cal Poly's path to another repeat won't be easy.

"That's the way it is every year," Escalera said. "It's typically between us and (UC) Santa Barbara for the league title." UC Santa Barbara finished in third place at 7-2-1 a year ago, behind

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.

Above, the Mustangs vie with UC Santa Barbara on Dec. 23.

San Diego State, which compiled an 8-1 mark.

San Diego State, in addition to the Gauchos, could present itself as a league threat, Escalera explained.

"They're really a really good all-around team this year," he said of the Aztecs, who handed the Mustangs the only league loss a season ago.

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

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 the latest in a string of problems 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 warns Tejada, the 2002 AL MVP, investigated for betting on 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. Adichie Selig told lawmakers that Bonds' San Francisco Giants' agents 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 arrow against the sport's stars Rinaldi 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 Dr. Gary Wadler, chairman of the committee that determines the World Anti-Doping Agency's banned-substances list. "This guy who made the issue three years ago about amphetamines, and base-

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

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 among discerning fans and purists of the sport, or among people who believe the impetus of checking the waiver wire, and so on.

"Yes; they view right in the middle of an actual game, or in response to something 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 fan away football magazines can be found in bookstores than magazines devoted to simply analyzing the tangential sports.

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 loudest 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 Jets' 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, and rompily participate in, such inane systems of equations?

What has resulted is an annual amusing and squandering of the true NFL season.

Of all that time spent fawning over figments 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.

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 among discerning fans and purists of the sport, or among people who believe the impetus of checking the waiver wire, and so on.

"Yes; they view right in the middle of an actual game, or in response to something 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 fan away football magazines can be found in bookstores than magazines devoted to simply analyzing the tangential sports.

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 loudest 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 Jets' 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, and rompily participate in, such inane systems of equations?

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