Budget threatens Central Coast beaches, parks

MUSTANG DAILY

Rachel Gillman

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued the 2008-09 state budget, which proposed to lessen the state deficit by taking $10 billion of funds away from several state departments, including $49 of California's 250 state parks, beaches and historic spots. By closing or suspending access to these 48 parks or lessening the number of lifeguards on duty at state beaches, $13.3 million will be saved in 2008-09, according to the budget proposal. According to the World Socialist Web Site, closing these parks would cover only 0.1 percent of the current state deficit.

Some of the Central Coast beaches and parks vulnerable to closures are San Simeon State Park, Montaña de Oro State Park, Morro Strand State Beach and William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach. WSWS also said "one of the parks slated for closing, Henry Cow State Park, is the state's second-largest at over 86,000 acres, and is distinct among other parks in that nearly all of its plant and animal life is indigenous to California."

"I think (the proposed park closures) are a good way to prepare people for an increase in taxes," said Holly Fry, a park aid for Montaña de Oro and Morro Bay and a Cal Poly agriculture education student. "I don't think they're really going to close anything. I'd be very surprised if they did."

Since the proposal, there is no one to answer calls at the Montaña de Oro headquarters, so all calls are transferred to Morro Bay. Fry said she said that if the proposed budget cuts do happen, it will not be fair to park workers. She could also lose her job, which is helping her get through college.

Because no one is stationed at Montaña de Oro to answer calls, the campground at the park is now on a first-come, first-served basis as reservations are impossible to make.

Noah Smukler, the chair of the San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, said it is impossible to restrict access to the beach completely. Tidal zones can't be closed because parks are technically owned by the public.

"To even try to close the beaches completely would be really expensive," he said.

Smukler speculates that if the budget cuts are enacted, parks will be forced to close campgrounds, bathrooms and areas to vehicular access. He said that the details of the budget proposal are still being developed and hopefully they won't be adopted.

"It's going to take some negotiation and some see Proposition, page 2"

Seal crosses highway

ARON GAUDETTE

On Jan. 8, a bull seal chased the 6-year-old elephant seal pictured above off the designated elephant seal rookery, about 12 miles north of Cambria, during the height of mating season. The seal left the beach, crossed Calif. Hwy. 1 and took up residence in a rain puddle. On Jan. 18, a six-person team moved the 1,500-pound bull 300 yards and then herded the seal back into the rookery.

Car burglary remains an issue, 10 vehicles hit

Cary Conrad

Ten vehicles were burglarized on Saturday night on Serano and Rarana streets, according to the San Luis Obispo Police Department. In each case, the car windows were smashed and items such as laptops, iPods, CDs, cell phones, stereo equipment, wallets and checkbooks were stolen, police said.

"Apparently this isn't the first time.\" It's a problem we're constantly battling\," SLOPD Lt. Steve Tolley said regarding car burglary, the most frequently committed felony in San Luis Obispo County. Tolley explained that car burglary has become such a big problem, because it is an easy crime to commit, carrying a low risk of being caught.

"Streets with student housing complexes traditionally have higher burglary rates, because they know students leave items in their car,\" Tolley said. "The majority of burglaries happen to unlocked vehicles."

Most car burglars are caught in the act, not after the fact.

"If people call us if they hear something suspicious at 3:00 in the morning, we usually catch them leaving the area with the area with merchandise,\" Tolley said. "Usually when you catch a suspect, you can clear up a lot of car burglaries."

Tolley advises students to be careful of what they leave in their car over night.

"Keep it parked in a lit area if you can, and if you hear or see anything suspicious, call the police department immediately,\" he said.

Police still have not found the suspects directly responsible for the burglaries.
Proposal
continued from page 1

public outcry and some deliberation on how they really are going to balance the budget "to halt the closings," he said.
Smulder said the state parks that may be closed are very important to the local tourism-based economy.
"Public access to historically accessed beaches and parks is really important. It's an affordable recreation opportunity and outdoor experience opportunity. There's not really a replacement for these experiences," he said.

Since the parks "are basically the essence of why people love to live in this area and travel to the area," the Surfrider Foundation has written a formal opposition to the budget proposal, Smulder said.

"People can contact their representatives and make sure that they let people know how important these parks are to them," Smulder said. Those interested can sign up online at the San Luis Bay Chaper's Surfrider Web site to receive periodic updates from the chapter about the issue. The foundation is also currently drafting a letter to forward to representatives.

"We can create a healthy and balanced budget that doesn't reduce or eliminate these services and basic things that we depend on for a good quality of life," he said.

In his seventh year teaching introductory and advanced-level geology courses, Cal Poly geology professor Antonio Garcia said that if these state beaches were to be closed, a large portion of his instructing would be lost.

Garcia accompanies students in his advanced courses to San Simeon as a concluding part of his advanced class, and he takes advanced classes to Montalvo de Oro in small groups to observe the areas in detail because, from a geologist's point of view, he said the land is a classroom resource.

"Closing any state park is always bad. It's better to have more access than less," Garcia said. "It would take something away from the students. It's their state, it's a state school and they should be able to learn from it."

Garcia said that closing the parks, especially now that global warming and societal consciousness about the earth is such a big issue, would be terrible.

"Right now, it's more important to become in tuned with the earth and how it works," he said, rather than shutting down parks and beaches to reduce a deficit.

David Expo

NAPLES, Fla. — Republican Fred Thompson, the actor-politician who attracted more attention as a potential presidential candidate than as a real one, quit the race for the White House on Tuesday after a string of poor finishes in early primary and caucus states.

"Today, I have withdrawn my candidacy for president of the United States. I hope that my country and my party have benefited from our having made this effort," the former Tennessee senator said in a brief statement.

Thompson's fate was sealed last Saturday in the South Carolina primary, when he finished third in a state that he had said he needed to win.

In the statement, Thompson did not say whether he would endorse any of his former rivals. He was one of a handful of members of Congress who supported Arizona Sen. John McCain in 2000 in his unsuccessful race against George W. Bush for the party nomination.

Thompson, best known as the gruff district attorney on NBC's "Law & Order," placed third in Iowa and South Carolina, two states seemingly in line with his right-leaning pitch and laid-back style, and faced even worse in the four other states that have held customs thus far: Missouri already right, he ran out of it altogether as the kisses piled up.

Thompson, 65, exits the most wide open Republican race in half a century; three candidates each having won in the six states that have voted. In Florida, McCain, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani are battling for the lead ahead of its Jan. 29 primary, while in New Hampshire, Mike Huckabee evaluates his next steps amid money troubles.

In an interview Tuesday, Huckabee suggested he would have beaten McCain in South Carolina if Thompson had dropped out earlier.

"The votes that he took essentially were votes that I would have most likely had, according to the exit polls and every other analysis," Huckabee said on MSNBC.

Despite initial impressions that Thompson could garner stronger conservative support, it never materialized. He never scored higher than more than one in five conservatives in any of the earliest primaries and caucuses, including the 19 percent who exit polls for the Associated Press and television networks showed supported him in South Carolina. His showings were similarly weak with white born-again and evangelical Christians.

State Briefs

GRANITE BAY (AP) — A first-time mother arrested after the apparent drowning death of her 8-month-old baby may have been under financial strain, according to public records.

Kristina Fuelling, 27, was being held in the Placer County Jail on Tuesday after her arrest in the death of her baby, Faith Evelyn. The infant's body was found in a bathroom sink in the family's rental home in Granite Bay, an affluent suburb east of Sacramento.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Officials with the striking writers guild held informal talks Tuesday with Hollywood studios that could lead to the resumption of negotiations, a person familiar with the bargaining strategy said.

The talks preceded an expected guild meeting later in the day that was to address the union's next step as it seeks a new contract, the person who was not authorized to publicly comment and asked for anonymity.

BAKERSFIELD (AP) — Dozens of people in Kern County are getting vaccinated against the hepatitis A virus after a worker at a Bakersfield restaurant was found to have the disease.

The health department says the sick person worked at Chuy's Mesquite Bistro on Rosamond Boulevard and was potentially infectious from Jan. 4 through Jan. 10.

The clinic briefly ran out of supplies Saturday after giving out 90 vaccine shots.

OAKLAND (AP) — Oakland officials are considering a proposal that would put some of the city's homeless to work.

An Oakland City Council committee will consider a proposal Tuesday to hire the homeless to clean up public facilities around the city.

City officials are considering using a portion of $125,000 in Redevelopment Agency and federal emergency funds on the effort.

The party is still over
Word on the Street

"How do you feel about Starbucks coming to campus?"

Compiled and photographed by Cary Conrady

“I don’t think it’s a good idea. There’s already Starbucks in SLO. They should just keep Julian’s. It’s a college.”
— Andy Cerón, psychology senior

“I like Julian’s. It’s fine with me.”
— Scott Mosbacher, architectural engineering senior

“I don’t drink coffee, so I don’t really care, but I think it would be a good idea to get rid of the monopoly of Campus Dining.”
— Peter Anaradian, biochemistry senior

“I’d be totally up for that.”
— Jennifer Habliston, business administration junior

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Taken too young
Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday in a downtown Manhattan apartment, raised in bed with sleeping pills nearby, police said. The Australian-born actor was 28.
It wasn't immediately clear if Ledger had committed suicide. He had an appointment for a massage at a residence in the neighborhood of SoHo, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said. A housekeeper who went to let him know the massage therapist had arrived found him dead at 3:26 a.m.
A large crowd of paparazzi and gawkers gathered outside the building on an upscale block. Ledger's body was still inside, with several police officers guarding the door.
The medical examiner's office planned an autopsy Wednesday, spokeswoman Ellen Borakove said.
Ledger had finished filming his role as the Joker this year in "The Dark Knight," a sequel to 2005's "Batman Begins." The film will be released this summer.
Not so amiable Ringo
Ringo Starr is known for being the amiable Beatle, but the rock star showed his tough side Tuesday when he walked off the set of "Live With Regis and Kelly," rather than cut short one of his songs.
Starr, who is promoting his new album, "Liverpool 8," planned to perform the title song with fellow rocker Dave Stewart. However, due to miscommunication between his publicist, Elizabeth Freund, and the musical director, Starr didn't realize the performance had to be 1 1/2 minutes or less, Freund told The Associated Press.
When told Tuesday morning that the performance had to be shortened, Freund said Starr tried to cut about a minute of the song's 4-minute, 15-second length, down to 3 minutes and 30 seconds. However, according to Freund, producer Michael Gillman said it had to be less than 3 minutes.

What's she been smoking?
A video of Amy Winehouse shows the Grammy-nominated singer smoking... something.
In grainy footage obtained by British tabloid The Sun, Winehouse, 24, is seen inhaling fumes from some sort of pipe reportedly hours before showing up for husband Blake Fielder-Civil's court appearance in London on Friday.
Winehouse, who dyed her hair blond and ditched her signature black hair done up in a beehive handle, can be seen in the video walking around. She sits down and, before lighting the pipe, can be heard saying that she's "had about six Valium." On the wall behind her is a photo of Winehouse and Fielder-Civil.

Finally doing what she's supposed to do
Britney Spears showed up.
The pop star went to a deposition Monday in her dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the custody of their two boys, according to published reports.
Spears drove to the office of Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, with a friend and was seen leaving more than two hours later, People.com and TMZ.com reported.
Calls to Kaplan's office Monday were not answered, and a phone message left with Spears' lawyer, Tara Scott, was not immediately returned.

A star that actually served time
Kiefer Sutherland was released from Glendale jail early Monday after serving 48 days on a domestic violence charge, police said.
The actor was ushered out the back door and into a waiting car at 12:05 a.m. to avoid a growing crowd of media positioned by the jail's main entrance. Glendale police Officer John Balan said.
"It was a joint decision between him and our police department personnel that it would be better if he exited through the back," Balan said.

Most Cal Poly Students Drink Under Four Drinks When They Go Out
message brought to you by Cal Poly students based on a survey of Cal Poly students

Wednesday, January 23, 2008
I could not decide which album I wanted to review this week, so I compromised with myself by deciding to highlight Kranky Records' releases in 2007. Kranky released about four records that made it on my "top 10" list last year. Bruce Adams and Joel Leoshke started Kranky in Chicago with the release of a Labradford record in 1993. Ever since, they have stayed true to releasing cutting-edge music that progresses the use of electronics and noise in experimental, pop, post-rock and electronic music. Some staple Kranky bands over the years include Low, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, and Out Hud.

Kranky's 2007 catalog is impeccable, with some of the strongest ambient and experimental pop albums of the year reaching many critics' top 10 lists. Doehunter's "Cryptograms" and "Silver Tongued Syphilus," which contains two tracks around 10 minutes long that loop and layer as sequencers jumps and play with tones for a subtle, complex sound. The double-disc album tops out at 120 minutes and is impeccably crafted to develop sound waves that oscillate, combine and separate contrast, and compliment and draw the listener in for an aural experience unparalleled by any other ambient group. The group will be passing through California for a rare tour in April.

Robert Lowe, and he has recorded with 90 Day Men and TV on the Radio as well as collaborating on albums this year on the Holy Mountain label with White Rainbow and Cloudland Canyons. The collaborative efforts only further distinguish Lichens as a brilliant innovator with a universal concept behind his music that can accommodate a myriad of musical genres.

Kranky's artists continue to push the envelope with their music, engaging and challenging listeners to experience unparalleled by any other ambient group. The Stars of the Lid album "Stars of the Lid and Their Refinement of the Decline" is simply an ambient, drone masterpiece. The double-disc album tops out at 120 minutes and is impeccably crafted to develop sound waves that oscillate, combine and separate contrast, and compliment and draw the listener in for an aural experience unparalleled by any other ambient group. The group will be passing through California for a rare tour in April.

Charalambides, Strategy, and Andrew Peckler also put CDs out on Kranky in 2007, and the guitar-driven pop, micro house and conceptual electronic albums respectively deserve more than the nod this limited word-count allows. Kranky's artists continue to push the envelope with their music, engaging and challenging listeners to discover a new approach to listening to music. If you enjoy any of these bands, you would most likely enjoy "To Miss is to Be," "Worship the Glitch" and "Teeth and Fur" on KCPR, 91.3 FM.

Brian Cassidy is an English teacher and a music director for KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. He's also completely full of it.

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Getting to know an enigma

Cary Conrady

Matt Costa is an enigma — a 25-year-old former skateboarder who credits his diverse taste in music to the freedom and improvisation he experienced skateboarding.

"An instrument that allows you the freedom to be creative — whether it be a skateboard or a canvas — is a tangible way of discovering yourself," Costa said.

Just before he was ready to turn pro, a leg break led him to turn his attention to songwriting while he healed from painful surgeries. Costa dove headfirst into music, finding solace in the creative process. His music made its way through the vibrant SoCal art scene and into the hands of No Doubt's Tom Dumont, who mentored Costa and produced his first album, "Songs We Sing."

With this album, Costa earned a reputation as one of music's emerging artists, crisscrossing the country with long-promising bands (including Crocodiles, BeachSlang and Lollapalooza) and headlining his own tours.

The following is a phone interview with Matt Costa about what to expect from his new album and his performance at Boo Boo Records tonight at 6 p.m. His newest album, "Unfamiliar Faces," which came out Tuesday, is Costa's second release on Brushfire Records, the label he co-founded with Jack Johnson.

Mustang Daily: So first of all, is Matt Costa your real name or your stage name?

Matt Costa: Both. It's a real stage name.

MD: Why the live performance and signing at Boo Boo Records? Seems uber-nice of you...

MC: Well, I've played before in the store. I just like to support independent music stores. It's just a good environment to play music around all of my favorite musicians. It's all about following the tradition, gaining more music.

MD: What can the fans expect at this performance? Is it totally worth blowing off your usual Wednesday-night plans?

MC: Depends. Ugh, Wednesday night ... isn't "Lost" on Wednesday nights? Well, if you find the need to come out, you won't be disappointed.

MD: So the new album (came) out Jan. 22. About carrying on the tradition, gaming more around all of my favorite musicians, it's all about... MD: One review said, "Costa's music is tailor-made for an audience that would give it right nut to hear Nick Drake one last time." True statement?

MC: Wow. That's a good compliment. I guess if you have a crush on a girl, do you serenade her with a song called "Clapton." No, no, no. I don't think I would. I'm sure I would eventually have to though, since that is what I do.

MD: If you have a crush on a girl, do you serenade her with your amazing voice? Does that work?

MC: I would serenade her with a song called "Cliche." No, no, no. I don't think I would. I'm sure I would eventually have to though, since that is what I do.

MD: We're all deep, but certain people want to show off. How are you with a crush on a girl? Do you have one nut left, the other one would still work. So I would give my nut to hear Nick Drake one last time. Let's all give a little bit of yourself. My imagination is more suave than myself.

MD: Nobody has ever called me "shallow." You have to admit that sometimes you are shallow. You are about relationships or girls. So are you when you say you are a deep person?

MC: No. I am not shallow with the ladies. I'm about putting myself out there to "real" woman in the world — but don't say to me who to say to. The ubiquitous television network, as I always felt, was just the beginning of what the future could hold. Winfrey told TV.com, "For me, the launch of The Oprah Winfrey Network is the evolution of the work I've been doing on television all these years and a natural extension of my show."

As the first lady of daytime, Winfrey would be able to pursue her "vision" and naturally have total discretion as to what makes it into viewers' living rooms. At the end of her contract with NBC in the next few years, her talk show will likely make a permanent, and exclusive, home on the new network. How she will fill the other 23 hours of the day are yet to be seen.

In her long running informal poll would likely yield an overlap of viewership between DHC and Winfrey's talk show, as they might focus largely on the same issues, just from two different perspectives. The tabs on the 10-hour talk show include Food & Nutrition, Healthy Living, Mental Health, Empowerment & Parenting, Physical Activity, and Sex & Relationships.

Winfrey has long dedicated her show and persona upon these very same cornerstone. For years, she has put herself out there to "real" woman — and men — who suffer with these kinds of issues and has made herself totally vulnerable. Watching her weight is a national pastime, and viewers all over the country look to her for literary guidance. She even gave birth to Dr. Phil, for what it's worth. Bother some quack or not, her mere existence has probably helped push emotion and mental health to the forefront of our consciousness in recent years, more than we would like to give him credit for.

Despite all this, the channel will be many die-hard fans up close to see DHC go, including this sad soul. The channel may have taken a backseat to traditional primetime, but make up for it, it has for the better part of a decade brought the issues meaningful and interesting programs, to say the least. MTV should have made the sacrificial lamb, as its programs are nothing insightful nor interesting.

Also, the deal is done. At least, for now, we will always have the other Discovery children: TLC, Animal Planet, the Science Channel, Discovery Kids, the Military Channel, Discovery Times, Discovery Home, HD Theater, FeTV and Planet Green, which debut this year. How appropriate and heartening. Perhaps this is evidence to suggest that it's true that every cloud has a silver lining after all. Oprah knows best.

Singer Matt Costa will give a free, in-store performance tonight at Boo Boo Records to promote his second album, "Unfamiliar Faces."
MEET A CAL POLY GRAD

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Embryonic stem cell research: A 'Cell'-out?

Stem cell research has been arguably one of the most debated and publicized research areas in recent years. The debate does not rest on whether it should be researched but more on what types of stem cell research should be studied and also funded.

Embryonic stem cell research involves taking a blastocyst (a single cell from an eight-cell blastocyst (a developing embryo). Theoretically, this single cell has the ability to grow into any one of more than 200 cell types in the body. Adult stem cell research involves removing a cell from a living human and culturing it to become a new tissue. Until recently, adult stem cells were thought to be incredibly limited, as most scientists thought they could only become a few types of cells.

In 2004, Californians passed proposition 71, which allocated $3 billion to embryonic stem cell research over 10 years. Additionally, our federal government provides funding for 60 genetically diverse embryonic stem cell lines across the country. President Bush has vetoed major legislation that would have expanded embryonic stem cell research twice in the last four years. In November, two studies performed by non-governmental centers in California suggested that embryos from certain cell lines are turning their attention and support to embryonic stem cell treatment because "the cells are in such an embryonic state and can divide quickly, and at times uncontrollably." Harvard Medical School did a study involving 19 rats, which utilized embryonic stem cells to treat Parkinson's disease. By the end of the study, five of the rats had developed tumors. Adult stem cell treatments have not produced a phenomenon like these embryonic cells have.

In November, two studies performed by notable scientists proved that adult stem cells have a much wider range of uses than previously thought. One of them, Dr. James Thompson, a professor at Harvard Medical School did a study involving two labs that in 1998 first began embryonic stem cell research. The advancement and research of adult stem cells is more beneficial than embryonic stem cell research for several reasons. First, the commercial use of adult stem cells in successfully treating patients with injuries and diseases shows significant success in comparison with the same rates in embryonic stem cell research. Adult stem cells have successfully treated over 70 different conditions in humans, including Parkinson's, spinal cord injury and diabetes. Embryonic stem cells have had few if any successes.

In addition, there are many dangers and consequences involved with embryonic stem cell research. According to the Autoimmune Disease Research Foundation, tumors may arise from embryonic stem cell treatment because "the cells are in such an embryonic state and can divide quickly, and at times uncontrollably." Harvard Medical School did a study involving 19 rats, which utilized embryonic stem cells to treat Parkinson's disease. By the end of the study, five of the rats had developed tumors. Adult stem cell treatments have not produced a phenomenon like these embryonic cells have.

In November, two studies performed by notable scientists proved that adult stem cells have a much wider range ofuses than previously thought. One of them, Dr. James Thompson, a professor at Harvard Medical School did a study involving two labs that in 1998 first began embryonic stem cell research. In November 2007, he released a study demonstrating that he was able to get an adult cheek cell to appear as an embryonic cell by adding four additional genes to it. In an article published in Time magazine, Dr. Thompson came out staunchly opposing embryonic stem cell research and even went so far as to say, "Isn't it great to start a field and end it too."

Utilizing adult cells offers many more advantages than simply being "morally upstanding." Potentially it allows a person's own cells to be transplanted into themselves to eliminate the possibility of rejection. Scientists at Cornell Medical College have been able to use mouse stem cells for development into working blood vessels, cardiac cells and brain cells, without none of them being rejected as they were the same DNA. As a big believer in the free market, I am always anxious to see what directions private companies pursue. According to Forbes, there are 15 companies in the U.S. that strictly research research cures through stem cell research. This is fiscally potential of adult stem cell research. This is fiscally possible and medically unconscionable.

Many conservatives have fiercely argued against research and funding for embryonic stem cell research, mainly over ethical concerns. While these reasons have never had much pull on me, the fact that treatments involving adult stem cells have been wildly successful, are much safer and reduce the rate of tissue rejection make me realize that we should focus our money and energy on adult stem cell research, and make embryonic stem cell research a thing of the past.

Jackie DiMarchi is an animal science junior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

Pediatrics released a statement saying, "Every dollar spent on the failed and unnecessary process of embryonic stem cell research steals resources away from the established unity and potential of adult stem cell research. This is fiscally irresponsible and medically unconscionable."

Many conservatives have fiercely argued against research and funding for embryonic stem cell research, mainly over ethical concerns. While these reasons have never had much pull on me, the fact that treatments involving adult stem cells have been wildly successful, are much safer and reduce the rate of tissue rejection make me realize that we should focus our money and energy on adult stem cell research, and make embryonic stem cell research a thing of the past.

Jackie DiMarchi is an animal science junior, a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.
The primaries are two weeks away, and while we've been inundated with speeches and pressure from presidential hopefuls, there still remain issues that haven't been discussed. Yes, it's important to vote, but it's more important to be an informed voter.

Although most of you may have a pretty good idea of who you'll check off for president, there's more than just one bubble to fill in on the Feb. 5 ballot. In fact, there are a total of seven more decisions you'll need to make, one for each of the 2008 California Propositions.

To make your choice a little easier, I've broken down each of the issues with my own two cents thrown in.

Prop 91: Transportation Funding Protection Act

This ballot measure seeks to amend a previous law (Prop 42), which contained a loophole where sales tax on gasoline could be used for non-transportation needs. However, the passage of Prop 1A in November 2006 has already accomplished this goal. Therefore, Prop 91 is redundant, and I urge all of you to vote no.

Prop 92: Community College Governing Board, Funding Stabilization and Student Fee Reduction Act

This is a subject that hits close to home for many of us, with the threat of future tuition increases for the California State University and University of California systems. Although this act will only affect community college students, it's a step in the right direction. If passed, student fees will decrease from $20/ unit to $15, and a separate governing board will be set up for California community colleges. Those who support this measure argue that reducing the cost of college will increase accessibility for more students. Independent studies have shown that for every dollar invested in California community colleges, there is a $3 return for the state.

The other hand, by limiting the amount of money that comes out of pockets from students, the government is left to make up for the rest — about $70 million dollars annually. Interestingly, the California Teachers Association, UC governing board, CSU trustees and the California Faculty Association have all announced their opposition to Prop 92.

As a student, I believe passing this act will set a precedent for funding other types of public higher education such as the UC and CSU system. It's time that we show our support of everyone's opportunity to pursue college.

Prop 93: Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act

Currently, members of the state assembly can serve six years, and eight years in the senate — a total of 14 years in the California State Legislature. Prop 93 would scale back the maximum number of years to 12, but all 12 may be served in either the assembly or senate or a combination of the two.

This bill is backed by two incumbents who will lose their positions if it is not passed, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Senate President Don Perata. Gov. Schwarzenegger has also offered his support, saying that term limits are too strict already. Although the two legislators pushing for the bill are Democrats, many liberal newspapers across the state have voiced their opposition. To some extent, I agree that Prop 93 is aimed less at reforming term limits and is really just a way for politicians to wangle their way back into office for a few more years.

One thing that the critics seem to be forgetting is that legislators still have to win the vote to be able to serve. As a result, I think passing Prop 93 is a way to ensure experienced and dedicated politicians are able to continue their work without being hindered by outdated term limits.

Prop 94, 95, 96, 97: Referendum on Amendment to Indian Gaming Act

Propositions '94 through '97 would allow four Indian tribes to expand the number of slot machines they operate in exchange for higher profits allocated to the California budget. It is estimated that annual revenue would increase by tens of millions of dollars to the state.

Supporters argue that passing these amendments would create more jobs, and the increase in revenue would help balance the budget.

However, providing more jobs and money isn't the whole solution, as the opposition points out. The four tribes affected by these propositions have a history of poor treatment of their employees, and there's nothing in any of these bills that stipulate where the money should go.

Many smaller tribes are adamantly opposed, saying it will give an unfair advantage to four out of the 108 tribes throughout the state.

Honestly, I still don't know where I stand on this issue. Yes, California is in need of more funding, but we also need to make sure it goes into valuable resources like education or healthcare.

Regardless of whether you agree with or disagree on the aforementioned propositions, these issues affect each of us. As residents of California, it is imperative that we demonstrate our willingness to participate in this process. Get registered, get informed and go vote.

Erica Janoff is an industrial engineering senior, president of the Cal Poly Democrats and a monthly Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailypinions@gmail.com

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Girls & Sports

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1212

Girls & Sports

Last Ditch Effort

Edited by John Kroses

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

Mary Poppins' Job Interview
chance to proudly watch her once she's in Beijing this August. And if her past success is any indication, they'll probably all have the

beggars at the college and professional levels. She just missed the Olympic "A" standard but did set a Cal Poly indoor record by jumping 6 feet, 2½ inches, good enough for second place behind three-time Olympian Amy Acuff.

It was the third time Day, a three-time All-American and 2005 NCAA champion, had worn a USA uniform at the senior level. She will leave Wednesday for Glasgow, Scotland, to compete with Team USA in the Norwich Union International Meet, an event that features top athletes from five other countries.

Needless to say, both Day and her coaching staff expressed their enthusiasm for being able to compete internationally with Team USA.

"We're very excited about this opportunity for Sharon to be able to compete overseas in international competition," said Jack Hoyt, the Cal Poly assistant track and field coach focusing on vertical jumps. "Her goal is to make the Olympic team this summer, and this is a great way to start getting comfortable with international competition."

Day concurred that the experience will help her tremendously down the line.

"All of this travel is good practice for me, being without my coach, for when I graduate but will still be competing both in America and internationally," Day said.

Once she returns from Glasgow, Day will go to New York City to compete in Madison Square Garden at the Millrose Games, a yearly indoor meet that's a sort of kickoff for the indoor season and will feature many high-caliber athletes at the collegiate and professional levels.

"Then when she returns to Poly, we'll be back training hard through February, trying to be fresh for other indoor meets," Hoyt said.

And if Day can meet the established 6-foot, 4½-inch quota during this time, she should be able to take advantage of her good position and place well at the U.S. Olympic Trials at the University of Oregon, which is the all-Olympic qualifying event for track and field.

The trials begin June 27 and go through the first week of July.

So while Day has managed to juggle both school and strenuous soccer and track and field schedules, she undoubtedly has been a reason to be proud for herself, her family, her coaching staff, her teammates and all of Cal Poly.

And if her past success is any indication, they'll probably all have the chance to proudly watch her once she's in Beijing this August.

Every year since 1995, Cal Poly Campus Dining has been a Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) winner for its efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled.

WRAP is an annual awards program that was established in 1993 by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to recognize California businesses that have made outstanding efforts to help move the state toward a waste-free future. Realizing that the business sector generates more of the State's waste, the purpose of the WRAP award is to recognize companies that develop creative and aggressive waste-reduction and sustainability programs such as waste prevention, materials reuse, recycling, recycled product procurement and employee education.

Campus Dining has recently and most notably made a move toward waste reduction and sustainability by removing all polystyrene (foam) products from its restaurants. Also, biodiesel - fryer fat - is used to fuel its delivery trucks. Employees frequently use smaller, electric-powered vehicles as well.

Campus Dining began recycling many years ago with a cardboard recycling program, which has since expanded to recycling other materials - including plastic, glass, cans and paper - and purchasing recycled products. Many on-campus restaurants provide and utilize reusable plates and flatware. Additionally, Campus Dining provides refillable mugs, eliminating the need for paper cups, and offers discounts to customers who reuse them.

Biodegradable items such as produce trimmings, coffee grounds, egg shells and other food wastes are sent to the Cal Poly sustainable farm for composting.

Many thanks to the campus community for their efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, which has helped Campus Dining win this award for the thirteenth consecutive time.

Paid Advertisement
Sharon Day at the 2008 Olympics

All she had was 1.95 meters in the summer, higher than most people.

Her personal best is 2.06 meters, while the men's world record is 2.41 meters, a height that no one else had come close to.

And while she trains, she and the rest of the women on the team maintain a schedule. As well as her coaches and other athletes, she says she will go on:

"I just started swimming in high school, but I never thought of it in terms of competition. I just enjoyed it."

While Day is training on the track, she says she is not focused on what Day has to say about her performance.

Whitney S., a student athlete who has been to several meets, says she is impressed.

"She's the real deal. She works hard and can honestly say that she has a good work ethic. She knows what she needs to do to become the best," S. said.

Big West pick

Mustangs dominate

The defending Big West softball title again this season.

Tuesday.

Last season the Mustangs finished in the Big West title game.

The Mustangs finished with 26 points overall, which was good enough for a first-place finish.

Cal Poly received 23 votes for first place in the Big West regional poll.

The Mustangs"
Cal Poly high jumper Sharon Day cleared 6 feet, 2 3/4 inches with Team USA in Fresno on Monday. The mark placed her second, behind only Amy Acuff, a three-time Olympian.

Day’s commitment has given her extraordinary versatility, Sisler said. “I seriously believe that she could do well at any sport she picked up, if she wanted to,” she added. “It’s just her ambition toward being the best that she can be in these sports that’s preventing her from doing so.”

Amidst all this training for soccer games and track and field events, and traveling all over the country — even all over the world — to compete in them, Day has still managed to find time to get school work done to the point that she graduated in June.

Such time management skills are enough to accomplish.”

Day’s success has earned her the No. 17-ranked team in the Collegiate Baseball top-40 preseason poll. Interestingly enough, the Titans garnered 74 total points and the four remaining first-place projections in this year’s poll. Interestingly enough, the Titans were slotted one spot ahead of the Mustangs in the conference poll. Interestingly enough, the Titans were slotted one spot ahead of the Mustangs in the national poll.

The Mustangs, who earned 58 total points, will start the season as Long Beach State, this season’s projected to finish third in the Big West Conference this season, per the 2008 Preseason Big West Coaches Poll released Tuesday.

All nine Big West head baseball coaches issued their opinions on the 2008 title chase, and none believed the Mustangs to be a first-place candidate.

Leading the poll with 77 total points and five first-place votes was Long Beach State, this season’s No. 17-ranked team in the Collegiate Baseball top-40 preseason poll.

The Titans return a plethora of players from last season, and if the polls come to fruition, it would mean their first conference championship since 2003.

In descending order, respectively, UC Irvine, defending Big West champion UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, Pacific, Cal State Northridge and Big West newcomer UC Davis finished out the conference poll.

The Mustangs, who earned 58 total points, will start the season with 20 returning letterwinners and eight returning position players, including their whole infield and seven pitchers.

They hit the dirt at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at Alabama and begin Big West play by hosting UC Santa Barbara at 6 p.m. March 11.