Even though our campus isn't really hostile toward the LGBT community, it isn't the most comfortable place to come out.

— Jessica Cresci, Pride Center student coordinator

New program offers online counseling to students

Shannon Boren

Most agree that college is a time of exploration and self-discovery, and in order to help facilitate students in this endeavor, the Pride Center recently developed Peer Response Involving Student Mentors (PRISM).

PRISM is a peer-counseling program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and is expected to be available at the start of spring quarter.

What's unique about PRISM is its online component, which is designed to allow student/counselor interaction for students who are uncomfortable with coming to the Pride Center in person.

Those who desire face-to-face interaction are welcome to visit the Pride Center.

"Basically, the PRISM program is just a way for current students who work for the Pride Center to help facilitate the coming-out process or other issues students are dealing with in the LGBT community," said Jennifer Ledbetter, student coordinator of the program and psychology senior.

"The online part of the counseling is specifically for anonymity and also for

see PRISM, page 2

Online counseling is now available in addition to the on-campus Pride Center's face-to-face peer counseling.

CLA struggles with identity crisis

Cassandra Carlson

The Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts buildings are in need of a facelift, according to Associated Students Inc. (ASI) student board members.

"The College of Liberal Arts board members and history senior Aaron Warshawsky said the college has no main base since 17 different majors are spread across campus and the CLA has only four designated buildings: Graphic Arts, English, H.P. Davidson Music and Dance.

The College of Liberal Arts is the third largest of six Cal Poly college buildings and received the most applicants of any other college from a highly competitive application pool of first-time freshmen and transfer students for the 2007-08 academic year.

"In reality, all we need is a classroom and professors, but we have no identity besides a sign in front of the faculty office buildings," Warshawsky said.

CLA Associate Dean Debra Valencia-Laver sympathizes with students on this issue.

"It would be great down the line to add additional spaces associated with the College of Liberal Arts. The liberal arts college is highly competitive and I wish there was magical money coming in. I do, however, understand students' concern and sense of pride within their colleges," Valencia-Laver said.

The CLA faculty offices are mainly located within building 47, known as "the maze" to many students and faculty for its complicated structural design.

Valencia-Laver said the main reason for distributing majors throughout campus is due in part to what they are learning.

"Unfortunately, most of the liberal arts majors are distributed and masked by the visibility," she said. "One of the reasons those programs have the space is because of the labs and activities in the major. There are a lot of hands-on learning majors, but fewer majors within the college have that aspect."

So far the only changes within the college are a new studio for Cal Poly's radio station KCPR, in the Graphics Arts, English, H.P. Davidson Music and Dance.

see CLA, page 2
Police investigating letters involving Thursday Times Square bombing

Matt Apuzzo

WASHINGTON — Police are investigating letters that arrived Thursday at Capitol Hill offices containing a phone number of the Times Square military recruiting station before it was bombarded and including the claim: "We did it."

The mailed envelopes contained a photo of a man standing in front of the Times Square recruiting police investigating letters involving alone and call police, the e-mail says.

The man was thin, white with graying hair, wearing a striped flannel shirt and jeans, according to the Democratic aide.

Sgt. Kimberly Schneider, a Capitol Police spokesman, said she had received media calls asking about the letter. She said she had made some initial checks but had not been able to continue reports of the letter.

She said she had made some initial checks but had not been able to continue reports of the letter.

New York City police officers investigating the scene at a military recruiting station in Times Square, where an explosive device caused damage before dawn.

PRISM

continued from page 1

the time component. It’s for people with busy schedules who need someone to talk to, vent to, brainstorm ideas with for a solution, or just to know someone is there who is willing to talk.

According to Ledbetter, students will log into a system similar to instant messaging in order to chat.

In addition, the program hopes to eventually offer the choice of grouping students with one peer counselor and several students at a time. Students who wish to remain anonymous will have the option to choose a screen name.

A nine-person team, composed of students who applied and interviewed for the positions, is currently training with various professors and campus counselors to learn about counseling styles, ways to handle conflict and crisis, and special issues facing LGBT students.

Recreation administration sophomore Jessica Cresci, a student coordinator for the center who is training to become a peer counselor, said the program will serve the campus community.

"It’s going to be great for students coming out at Cal Poly because there really aren’t a lot of students who are out, and I know there are a lot of people on campus that may identify as LGBT," she said.

"Even though our campus isn’t really hostile toward the LGBT community, it isn’t the most comfortable place to come out. With (PRISM), they don’t have to meet face-to-face, we can do it completely online. We don’t even have to know who they are," Ledbetter said.

Once the program begins, PRISM will likely accept more applications toward the end of spring quarter in order to train additional counselors for the fall term.

"Most of our efforts are on the actual face-to-face peer counseling," Ledbetter said.

The Pride Center’s Web site will have a link to PRISM, and it will include a list of counselors available, along with biographies and pictures.

Ledbetter said she expects a lot of people in the LGBT community to be interested in and utilize the counseling program once the service begins.

"It’s for everybody basically, it’s more specifically for queer and questioning students, or anyone who has a question regarding sexuality and wants to talk," she said.

CLA

continued from page 1

Arts building renovation Dean Linda Halweske’s office and temporarily moving Melissa Loeber’s office to the fixtures building. The only future plans for the CLA is a renovation of the H.P. Davidson Music Department.

ASI CLA board member and political science junior Angela Kramer said that the issue involves needed policy changes.

"In a 2-year plan the only facility that will be completely remodeled of the music department, I’m going to echo what Anisa said and say that the identity factor is huge part of it," Kramer emphasized.

"There are professors and faculty on the Academic Senate who don’t see a need for our departments, who say that Cal Poly has too many stuffy classes like English and too many touchy-feely classes like English and modern languages," she said.

"It’s ridiculous because the things we study and what we want to do with them are the same importance of letting engineering be the engineering, that’s the difference.

Part of the ASI board and CLA student council people is to note enthusiasm within the CLA and establish a sense of pride. Halweske said that they are actions for the College of Liberal Arts through campus-wide issues.

Because CLA students pay close to the same tuition each quarter to students in the other colleges, Kramer said, it is unfair that the CLA lacks the main infrastructure that other colleges have. But she also acknowledged that other colleges are constructing new buildings, such as the College of Science and Math or those made possible by the anonymous $60 million given to the College of Architecture.

"Most CLA grads are not known for the big bucks," Kramer said. "Basically we can sit and hope and encourage administration to construct CLA buildings until the cows come home. But they are not going to do anything unless someone hands them a big check."

Stay and Play Package!

Lodge and Lift Ticket Starting at $59

Sunday through Thursday nights. Lift ticket valid Monday through Friday. Rates per person (double occupancy required).
Wax House from Bush endorsement

Deb Riechmann
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beware, John McCain. The money comes with a price. Sure, President Bush will raise millions of dollars for your Republican presidential campaign and GOP candidates. But he'll also give you the aura of a presidency tarnished by painful gasoline prices, a sagging economy, the threat of recession, a hemorrhaged U.S. reputation around the world, turbulence in the Middle East and many more problems.

There's also the unpopular war in Iraq — although you already are closely associated with that.

How often to rub shoulders with an incumbent president — or whether to appear with him in a delicate matter for presidential wannabes.

Al Gore's decisions during his 2000 campaign against Bush not to embrace President Clinton was probably a gift to the GOP. Many people think that despite Clinton's personal troubles, Gore should have stood shoulder to shoulder with Clinton, who had high approval ratings as he left office.

"McCain's got to make it very clear that this is not a third Bush term, but a John McCain presidency," said Republican pollster David Winston.

"As long as he can make that clear separation, then have him. In 2007, Bush raised $66.3 million for the Republican Party and its candidates. But he'll also give you the aura of a presidency — or whether to appear with him at all — is a delicate matter for presidential wannabes.

President Bush and Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain walk together to the Rose Garden. "If he (McCain) wants me to show up, I will. If he wants me to do, I want him to win.... If he wants my pretty face standing by his side at one of these rallies, I'll be glad to show up." McCain skirted a question about whether Bush would be an asset or albatross on the campaign trail. McCain says he hopes Bush will campaign for him, although he knows the president has a busy schedule.

Bush plans to campaign in states where Republicans have tight congressional races but that offer little strategic value to McCain, freeing up the Republican presidential nominee to spend time and money where he needs the most votes.

While Bush and McCain dined privately at the White House, the president's top political team and McCain's chief advisers were having their own lunchtime strategy session. The McCain team thanked the White House for not offering running commentary during the primary process. They plan to coordinate the two men's schedules through regular phone calls, although a formal process for meshing Bush's calendar with McCain's has not been set yet.

"We'll figure it out," said Ed Gillespie, the president's counselor. "The fact is that even when you've had vice presidents who are running to succeed sitting presidents, they had to feel their way at first — even after working in the same building. But we're all friends, and there is no higher priority for the president than making sure John McCain is elected president.

Raising money will clearly be priority No. 1. Even through Bush's approval ratings are low, he remains popular with the party faithful who still pay to get in a room with him. In 2007, Bush raised $66.3 million for the Republican Party and its candidates.

"Maybe Bush didn't do McCain any favors, however, when he followed up by saying that McCain is not going to change U.S. policy when it comes to battling terrorism.
State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California parents without teaching credentials can no longer home school their children, according to a recent state Court of Appeal ruling. "Parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children," Justice H. Walter Crocker wrote in a Feb. 28 opinion for the 2nd District Court of Appeals.

DAVIS (AP) — A student was in custody Thursday following the discovery of explosive devices at the University of California, Davis. Two partially assembled pipe bombs were found in the student's dorm room, university spokesman Lisa Lapin said. Authorities believe it was an isolated incident and said there was no need to detain any devices.

More than 450 students were evacuated "Wednesday night" to eight dormitories and slept in dining halls or at the homes of family and friends.

FRESNO (AP) — A group of Hispanic University of California students are attempting to create a school designed to teach their cultures and traditions.

Unlike U.S. ports, where less than 5 percent of containers were inspected last year and only a fraction of those opened up and inspected, Haitian cargo handlers said each container at Cap-Haitien must now be completely emptied and inspected. Customs chief Michel Krabacher's group says it has paid nearly $16,000 in fees in the first six weeks of 2008 alone, compared to $23,418 for all of 2007.

Three times higher than those in neighboring Dominican Republic, the fees are stacking up in the nation's ports because of government requirements for licenses and manifests in triplicate.

"We are looking at a way to implement a 'fast-track' policy, so people can get their merchandise out more quickly," said Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis about the port delays during a February no-confidence vote.

"I'd have rather thrown the aid in the water," said Michaud. Krabacher's group says it has paid nearly $16,000 in fees in the first six weeks of 2008 alone, compared to $23,418 for all of 2007.

After years of debate over whether and how to preserve the structure, that staircase will be moved to memorial.

"I realize they couldn't leave it where it was," said Canavan, 48. "I realize they couldn't do that."

By summertime, the stairs will move again:This time a crane will lift them 70 feet in the air and across the site to the memorial, where it will be installed 50 feet from the twin towers' footprints, with stairs on either side for visitors to stand alongside.

"Once it's in the museum and people can see it, that's the main thing I think there's a little reverence to it," he said.

Food is unloaded from a cargo ship at the port in Port-au-Prince. While millions of Haitians go hungry, containers of beans, rice and other staples are rotting in the nation's ports because of government red tape.

Briefs

National

LAVS (AP) — A top health official said a hepatitis C outbreak caused by unsafe practices at a Las Vegas clinic "should never have happened.

Southern Nevada Health Dist­­trict Dr. Lawrence Sadowsi is testifying at the state legislative committee on health care.

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. troop morale improved in Iraq last year, but soldiers fighting in Afghanistan suffered more depression as violence there worsened, ac­­cording to an Army mental health report.

In a recurring theme for a force strained by its seventh year at war, the annual battlefield study released Thursday found once again that soldiers on their third and fourth tours of duty had sharply greater rates of mental health problems than those on their first or second deployments.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has banned Google Earth teams from making detailed street-level video maps of U.S. military bases.

A message sent to all Defense Department bases and installations around the country late last week told officials to not allow the popular mapping Web site from taking panoramic views inside the facili­­ties.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two gasslmen infiltrated a Jewish semi­­nary in Jerusalem and opened fire in a dining hall Thursday night, kill­­ing at least seven people, police and medical sources said.

Israeli media said about 35 peo­­ple were wounded.

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A Russian arms dealer accused of breaching U.S. arms embargoes by supplying weapons to African war zones was arrested Thursday in Bangkok, Thai police said.

Viktor Bout was arrested in the heart of the capital city on a warrant issued by a Thai court said Police Lt. Gen. Pongurat Chayapan, head of the Crime Suppression Bureau.

International

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two bombs went off within minutes of each other in a packed Baghdad shopping district Thursday evening, killing 12 people and wounding more than 120, the chief Iraqi military spokes­­man said.

There were no claims of re­sponsibility, but double bombings became the hallmark of attacks on civilians by al-Qa'ida in Iraq during the worst of the violence in Baghdad in 2006. An initial explosion was designed to draw in people, es­­pecially security and medical work­­ers rushing to the scene, before a second larger bomb detonates to maximize casualties.

The Vessey Street staircase in New York is the only piece of the World Trade Center standing exactly where it was before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sept. 11 escape route to be moved to memorial

Amy Westfield

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A student was arrested Wednesday night for making threats and possessed a mobile phone with a bomb-making application.

Two partially assembled pipe bombs were found in the student's dorm room, university spokesman Lisa Lapin said. Authorities believe it was an isolated incident and said there was no need to detain any devices.

More than 450 students were evacuated "Wednesday night" to eight dormitories and slept in dining halls or at the homes of family and friends.

Jonathan M. Katz and Jennifer Kay

Associated Press

While millions of Haitians go hungry, containers of food are stacking up in the nation's ports because of government red tape — leaving tons of beans, rice and other staples to rot under a sweltering sun or be devoured by vermin.

"So many times, by the time (the food) gets out of customs it's expired and we've forced to burn it," said Susie Scott Kra­­bach, executive director of the Crime Suppression Bureau.

Supporters of the creation of a health care committee on health care.

Parents do not have a consti­t­­tu­tion right to home school their children," Justice H. Walter Crocker wrote in a Feb. 28 opinion for the 2nd District Court of Appeals.

"Parents do not have a constit­­tional right to home school their children," Justice H. Walter Crocker wrote in a Feb. 28 opinion for the 2nd District Court of Appeals.

"With that staircase, I don't see myself getting out of that place before the north tower comes down and kills me," said Canavan, one of count­­less Sept. 11 survivors who escaped the burning ruins by the same route.

That staircase — 37 stairs that once connected the outdoor plaza outside the twin towers to the street below — survived Sept. 11 and remains the only above-ground remnant of the trade center complex.

Tom Canavan saw the stairs through the smoke after tunneling out of debris that buried him when the World Trade Center's south tower collapsed. The sun fell on a section of gold-­­plated iron that led him down the stairs to safety on a nearby street.

"Without that staircase, I don't see myself getting out of that place before the north tower comes down and kills me," said Canavan, 48. "I realize they couldn't do that."

By summertime, the stairs will move again: This time a crane will lift them 70 feet in the air and across the site to the memorial, where it will be installed 50 feet from the twin towers' footprints, with stairs on either side for visitors to stand alongside.

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### Movie guide

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<th>film</th>
<th>grade</th>
<th>cast &amp; crew</th>
<th>the big picture</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Band's Visit (PG-13)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Sassan Gabai, Rondi Elbazetz, Salam Bakri; directed by Eran Kolir</td>
<td>Summary: A comedy about an Egyptian police band that goes to play at the Arab Cultural Center in Israel. The only problem: they took the wrong bus and end up in a small Israeli town in the desert. The Good: Lively, smart and beautifully understated. The Bad: What do you say about a movie that has a 99 percent RottenTomatoes rating? (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bank Job (R)</td>
<td>87 min.</td>
<td>Jason Statham, Saffron Burrows, Daniel Mays; directed by Ronaldonson</td>
<td>Summary: A car dealer teams with a model to perform an impeccable bank job that will score them millions in cash and jewelry. Unfortunately, the loot also comes with a massive web of scandal. The Good: A classic heist film with gritty suspense and excitement. The Bad: Confusing plot that never lives up to its potential. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Kind, Rewind (PG-13)</td>
<td>101 min.</td>
<td>Jack Black, Mos Def, Danny Glover, Mia Farrow, Molonoi Diac; directed by Michel Gondry</td>
<td>Summary: A paranoid Jack Black accidentally erases the tapes in a rundown New York VHS rental store, forcing him and Mos Def to reenact zero-budget recreations of the destroyed movie. The Good: Written by Charlie Kaufman (same writer of &quot;Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.&quot;) The Bad: Jack Black is still obnoxious and the customers' embrace of the rip off is a tad unrealistic. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Road Trip (G)</td>
<td>83 min.</td>
<td>Martin Lawrence, Raven-Symone Pearlman; directed by Roger Kumble</td>
<td>Summary: A high school student goes on a road trip across the U.S. trying to find the perfect college. Her overprotective cop father, played by Lawrence, tags along to turn it into a terrible film. The Good: At its best when it dops any pretense of plot for sheer goof. The Bad: Overplayed nonsense is thoroughly manufactured to Disney specifications. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Ryan Reynolds, Isla Fisher, Derek Luke, Abigail Breslin, Rachel Weisz, Elizabeth Banks; directed by Adam Brooks</td>
<td>Summary: Described within the film as a &quot;mystry love story,&quot; Maya (Breslin) beg her father (Reynolds) to tell her about his life before she was born, and the three women who shaped him. The Good: Reynolds and Breslin create a brilliantly witty pair; plot gives away few hints to the finale. The Bad: Enjoyable, but forgettable. A temporary heart-warmer not destined for chick-flick history. (Kristen Marschall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Country for Old Men (R)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Joaquin Phoenix, Woody Harrelson, Kelly Macdonald; directed by Ethan and Joel Coen</td>
<td>Summary: Evil is personified in Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a man set on hunting down Llewelyn Moss (Brooks) to recover stolen money. Chigurh is tracked by small town sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Jones). The Good: A high-octane thriller with a sense of foreboding and exquisitely directed by Ethan and Joel Coen. The Bad: The film is extremely violent and disturbing. (Brooke Jordan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13)</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johannson, Eric Bana; directed by Justin Chadwick</td>
<td>Summary: Two women fight for the love of a king. While one falls aside, the other rises beyond her capabilities. The Good: Two talented women play amazing roles; the plot never loses the audience. The Bad: Important points of the book are left out and others are slightly changed for a PG-13 rating. (Christina Caci)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penelope (PG)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Christina Ricci, James McAvoy, Catherine O'Hara, Reese Witherspoon; directed by Mark Palansky</td>
<td>Summary: Afflicted by a family curse that will only break when &quot;she's loved by one of her own kind,&quot; Penelope tries to break the hex, then flees, determined to find out who she is away from home. The Good: An emotionally resonant story with a heartwarming family journey. The Bad: An underwhelming film with a predictably happy ending. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Pro (R)</td>
<td>90 min.</td>
<td>Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, Maura Tierney; directed by Kent Alterman</td>
<td>Summary: A classic heist film with gritty suspense and excitement. The Good: A car dealer teams with a model to perform an impeccable bank job that will score them millions in cash and jewelry. Unfortunately, the loot also comes with a massive web of scandal. The Good: A classic heist film with gritty suspense and excitement. The Bad: Confusing plot that never lives up to its potential. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Freddie Highmore, Mary-Louise Parker, Nick Nolte, Joan Plowright, David Straithman, Seth Rogen; directed by Mark Waters</td>
<td>Summary: Three children dealing with the separation of their parents find that there's more to the world than what they saw after opening a chest that leads them on a fantasy adventure. The Good: Entertaining for kids and adults alike. The Bad: Might be too scary for the little ones it's meant for. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vantage Point (PG-13)</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox; directed by Pete Travis</td>
<td>Summary: A Moroccan terrorist tries to assassinate the president with his palm pilot (literally). The Good: Enjoying the movie is like the assasination attempt is repeated through five somewhat interesting perspectives. The Bad: Visceral action that leads up wonderfully to the main climax, tying all views together. The Bad: But then comes the most nauseating, unrealistic, over-the-top, cliché ending. Ever. (Brian Charterand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 B.C. (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis; directed by Roland Emmerich</td>
<td>Summary: A movie about a man who loses his way in the desert and is rescued by a group of Native Americans. The Good: Rawless acting: plot for both thought-provoking drama lovers and scary movie aficionados. The Good: Enjoyable, but forgettable. A temporary heart-warmer not destined for chick-flick history. (Kristen Marschall)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FRIDAY SHOWTIMES

- **Downtown Centre Cinema**
  - The Bank Job: 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
  - The Band's Visit: 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
  - No Country For Old Men: 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00
  - The Spiderwick Chronicles: 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00

- **Fremont Theatre**
  - Penelope: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
  - Be Kind Rewind: 2:55, 5:55, 9:45
  - Penelope: 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
  - Definitely Maybe: 5:15, 10:10

Movies showing in San Luis Obispo this week include "The Bank Job," "10,000 B.C.," "The Other Boleyn Girl," "The Band's Visit," "Penelope" and "Semi-Pro."
Poly hosts Arabic music concert

Rachel Glas

You’re looking for something that brings you joy and connects you to others. Look no further than campus Fritby night, when the newly-formed Arab Music Ensemble performs its winter concert. The ensemble, led by music professor Kenneth Habib, who has a doctorate in ethnomusicology, is a great visual to the music,” Sarrouf said.

Habib, about half the students are developed musicians, while the others are less experienced. Members play instruments and provide a variety of music for students to perform. Saundra Sarrouf and Jenna Mitchell, members of the local Saja Zaman ensemble, and ethnomusicology professor Ray Briggs of CSU Long Beach will assist with the program.

The film was made after she posed as a factory worker on the U.S./Mexico border in order to shed light on the issues of poverty, sexual abuse and murder that surround a lot of the female workers in these towns. She is the first Latina ever to be nominated for both a Golden Globe and an Emmy as an executive producer, writer and director for the PBS series “The Real Story of Bordertown.”

The filmmaker also stressed the need to raise socially-conscious issues on campus. “The issue is getting the word out— it’s all about awareness and social issues. We are not just the radical crazy people. ‘We can’t make the entire university listen to us,’ Castro said. ‘We (as students) need to get people involved, so we can actually get an audience.”

According to Castro, the filmmakers and events that raise socially-conscious issues on campus.

Cal Poly students were also compelled to take action. Daniel Castro, an architectural engineering junior, feels that it is important to have speakers and events that raise socially-conscious issues on campus.

“The issue is getting the word out—it’s all about awareness and social issues. We are not just the radical crazy people. ‘We can’t make the entire university listen to us,’ Castro said. ‘We (as students) need to get people involved, so we can actually get an audience.”

Joey Sanchez, president of the American Indian Association at Cal Poly and an aerospace engineering junior, also feels that education about these issues should be a solution to human rights violations. “I think the most important thing students can do is educate themselves. Ninety nine percent of the students don’t know about it. The best thing would be that this gets taught in classes in like a GE or something where human rights violations like these can be heard by students,” he said. “Of course, no rational human being would agree with what happened.”

Castro added that Cal Poly should do more to give power and a voice to the world’s atrocious genocides. “The best thing would be education and showing this documentary on campus.”

Cassandra Carlson

Imagine a 12-year-old girl who not only has to work in a factory making 50 cents an hour to assemble GitN Boys, DVD players, clothes and food products but also has to worry about her safety to and from her home — if she even has one.

Documentary filmmaker Barbara Martinez Jitter discussed the mistreatment, working conditions and murder of 400 young Mexican female workers near the cities of Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico, to a full audience of Cal Poly faculty and students Thursday morning at Vista Grande Café.

Martinez Jitter was invited to speak as part of Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspectives series to discuss her documentary "Femicide in Juarez: The Real Story of Bordertown.”

The film was made after she posed as a factory worker on the U.S./Mexico border in order to shed light on the issues of poverty, sexual abuse and murder that surround a lot of the female workers in these towns. She is the first Latina ever to be nominated for both a Golden Globe and an Emmy as an executive producer, writer and director for the PBS series “The Real Story of Bordertown.”

She uses her success in the industry to advocate for Amnesty International, working conditions and murders across the United States, Canada and Mexico. This agreement, she said, makes it easier for large American companies to take advantage of the Mexican people.

These companies make a profit per hour per person of $7.50. Martinez Jitter stressed.

Most of the women at the factories make 50 cents an hour and these companies choose women because of their strong work ethic and their acceptance of the pay they receive. Many of these women support their families, so they have no choice but to take the minimal wages and work in harsh conditions. The workers are also exposed to higher levels of toxic chemicals.

"The fumes are incredibly toxic; I even talked to the EPA and they said they are not supposed to be exposed to those toxins in," Martinez Jitter said.

There are no regulations in these factories to protect these workers from these extreme toxins, and this is not being discussed at all.”

Her frustration with these conditions motivates her to share her story and her strong opinions on NAFTA and the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which now allows businesses to go to Central America and not pay tariffs.

"When you devalue someone to such a great extent it’s not a free trade agreement, it’s a slave trade agreement, to build products for this global economy. It sends the message that they have no value,” Martinez Jitter emphasized to her audience.
"Art is not a pleasure, a solace or an amusement; art is a great matter. Art is an organ of human life, transmitting man's reasonable perception into feeling."

— Leo Tolstoy

Above, "Spackman," "Pearcey" and "Miroslav" are works by John Hendrix, an artist who belongs to the International Arts Movement. The New York City-based organization seeks to promote dialogue in society and break down barriers between religion and art, while emphasizing people rather than things.

Janelle Eastridge

Ruskin realist author Leo Tolstoy once said, "Art is not a pleasure, a solace or an amusement; art is a great matter. Art is an organ of human life, transmitting man's reasonable perception into feeling."

The International Arts Movement (IAM), a New York City-based arts organization, takes Tolstoy's observation to heart. IAM crosses religious and artistic barriers by encouraging dialogue in society and by acting as "a catalyst to inspire people to hope, engage deeply into the depth of culture's spiritual zones and create a world that ought to be," as per its Web site.

Founded by Makoto Fujimura in 1990, IAM is comprised mainly of volunteers, many of whom are working artists themselves. The group charges that all of society should seek after "the good, the true and the beautiful" in life, through art. And for many, that includes seeking the role religious faith plays in artists' work.

"Since art has become so subjective now," it takes a lot of time and energy to get inside the individual artist's brain and figure out what self-expression they're getting at," said Manon Duncan, an artist advocate closely tied to IAM.

"Overall, I can say that, if art is about individualism and self-expression, I think that definitely reflects society now. But I would love to see art say more than, 'How am I feeling?' and 'Me, me, me.' I would like to see more of an expression that relates to the totality of life and human race as a whole," Duncan said.

But IAM's mission isn't just about religion and art; it's about humanity. Duncan and others at IAM advocate a shift from placing an emphasis on things (the artwork itself, in this case) to one that focuses more on people, for it's people that inspire others and change the world.

"It's really about art and humanity if you take the human being, you can extrapolate religion out of the human being," Duncan said. "I guess because the creation of art is such a fundamentally spiritual process, it has a real kinship with religion. But they're still two different aspects of society, and we respect them as such."

IAM tries to reconcile the divide between artists and the larger community (and in particular, religious sub-communities) by engaging people in the sort of dialogue that crosses these barriers. A sort of cultural-exchange program, Duncan explained.

However, "it takes a lot of patience for people who see the world in different ways due to their own sub-cultural experiences to interact. (But this) enlarges their perspective, and that's always good," he said.

He is also trying to change society's perception of what he calls the "unhealthy, starving artist" mentality.

"I believe in a society that cares for artists in much more rich ways, much more generous ways. When you care for artists in a generously rich way, then you'll get a generously rich culture," he said. "In the past, the artist has always been prophet in culture. They had an active role in speaking truth, whatever that may have been, into the community. And because of that, the community sustained them. Artists have the spiritual role to make a statement to the community as a whole," Duncan said.

For Christy Tennant, IAM's development and public relations chair, true art comes when "we are serving others and we respect them as such."

"I try to model my life after Jesus of Nazareth. Most of the time, his response was not hostility or to become hostile. "If (I think) sometimes people confuse what it means for a piece of art to be a Christian piece of art," she said, "I would not call something a Christian painting just because it had a cross in it, but it wouldn't call something not a Christian painting just because it didn't have a cross in it."

"I would be more inclined to call something a Christian painting because it had a Christian painter because that (faith view) would inform his or her work."

Though Tennant and her fellow IAM staff members are Christians, the organization itself is not religiously affiliated.

IAM does, however, contain "folks who are absolutely committed to excellence in their art and they're at the top," Tennant said. For example, board member James Elaine, who serves as director of the Manuscript Library at UCLA's Hammer Museum, just received the 2008 Oshawa Prize — and with it, an award of $100,000 — for his contribution to the art world.

"These are people that, regardless of their faith affiliation, are positioned in the best of the best of places for art venues. But they are also committed to approaching art from this sense of what is good, what is true, and what is beautiful. And their understanding of that is fundamentally informed by how they approach everything to be good, true and beautiful, which is informed by their faith," Tennant said.

Another one of IAM's goals is to "create the world as it ought to be." This can be done subtly or in a more blatant way, said Kirk Irwin, secretary and creative resources manager for the organization.

"It's stereotypically true that art (creates the world) in general — not necessarily the world that we ought to be," Tennant said. "(Since art has become so subjective now), it takes a lot of time and energy to get inside the artist's experience that most people's initial consideration is to not take (the piece) into context. It could be feeling like it was a threat, but it was a gnomicness to try to understand," Irwin said. "It's been my experience that most people's initial consideration is not to take (the piece) into context. It could be something that visually really offends a person, but there could be motivation behind the piece, and the person could be trying to offend someone in order to get (that person) to move."
America's new clean technology economy

The past year has been encouraging for those Americans resolved to confront the challenges of global climate change. Despite the vast amount of work yet to be done, a series of recent political events has illustrated America's growing commitment to addressing the most critical issue of our time.

On April 2, 2007, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of Massachusetts vs. Environmental Protection Agency made our federal government responsible for the regulation of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Current presidential hopes—fueled from all sides of the political spectrum—have indicated that they will take action to reduce the American contribution to global climate change if elected. Despite the popular shift toward climate change solutions, I frequently hear arguments against expanded carbon dioxide emissions regulations.

Many claim that America should not impose strict emissions regulations because polluters in developing nations will not be held to the same standards. American industries will suffer an unfair financial blow as they are forced to choose between rethinking polluting practices and paying heavy fines. Unregulated overseas operations will continue at a lower cost with a significant advantage over American industries.

President George W. Bush described his similar feelings on climate change in a 2001 letter to several senators: "I oppose the Kyoto Protocol because it requires 95 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions be cut from major industrial, transportation, and household sources. This protocol will dramatically increase the cost of home heating, gasoline, and electricity, and it will negatively affect American workers and their families." The fact that Americans conveniently omit from this statement was that America emits a disproportionately large volume of carbon dioxide for its relatively small population. This means American carbon emissions are significantly higher on a per capita basis than in many other parts of the world. Even though 80 percent of the world's population is unaccounted for in the protocol, its ratification in America would have been a huge step in the fight against growing emissions.

Bush's talk of "serious harm to the U.S. economy" resulting from carbon emissions reductions still resonates with some, but many believe that exactly the opposite is the case. Avoiding new low-carbon technologies could really damage our economy.

As Americans, we have the opportunity to lead the change against carbon emissions. This is not the kiss of death for American industry. It is a chance to pioneer a new industry! The increased regulation of carbon dioxide emissions will rally America's creative minds and lead to the growth of a new clean energy economy.

Even with a skeptical president, however, America is making some progress toward a reduction in human-caused climate disruption. Over the course of his presidency, Bush slowly started to accept the urgency of climate change. In his recent State of the Union address, he called for the establishment of an international clean technology fund, which would "help developing nations like India and China make greater use of clean energy sources."

Working with foreign governments to support clean technology abroad is a wonderful way to cause simultaneous economic growth and pollution reduction. This is a win-win situation for everyone involved. The success of such a fund would be a huge step in the right direction because, if it is set up right, it has the potential to include all world economies in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

As I look forward to graduating shortly, I intend to participate in the United States' shift toward clean energy technology. This emerging industry will not stifle the American economy, but strengthen it. We've got a long way to go, but I am one of many young Americans ready to jump in and get to work.

Matt Humm is an environmental engineering senior, the Emperor Poly Geonson, external vice president, and Mustang Daily environmental columnist.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RESPONSE

The recently-announced tax rebates among many. Reading the Wall Street Journal and attending an economics class have given me a little information about this measure, which is intended to stimulate consumer spending and thereby ward off a possible recession.

On a simple level, I understand how this unexpected influx of cash is intended to influence productivity, income, employment, inventory, and a beaker of similarly fascinating economic minutiae. There is a legion of very smart, well-informed economists and policymakers working around the clock to craft the very best response to the cloudy conditions around us. They have forecasts, recommendations, fiscal advice, policy charts, graphs, and indices. And when they are done, they will put their final policy into action and hope for the best.

This is where I become anxious. Have there been any fire-side chats? Have they missed them. Has any official or figurehead level with the general public, explaining the situation and asking for effort on our part to address it? I know of none. Instead, we are treated as dull agents completely occupied with a shallow world of stimulus and response, which only the experts can transcend. We can be infinitely modeled, poked and prodded, but talking to us makes no more sense than talking to the experts can transcend. We can be infinitely modeled, poked and prodded, but talking to us makes no more sense than talking to the experts can transcend.

Our behavior is considered to be little more than a convergence of note urges. We can be infinitely modeled, poked and prodded, but talking to us makes no more sense than talking to the experts can transcend. We can be infinitely modeled, poked and prodded, but talking to us makes no more sense than talking to the experts can transcend.

This is untrue and unjust. Economic models do indeed work, but this is because we are rational creatures whose actions are informed by the situations in which we find ourselves. We make conscious decisions for ourselves as best as we know how. We do need expert advice, but we are not a cog in the machine. We will never understand each other or proceed, and we are willing to make changes and sacrifices. We've done it before. Come on — talk to us!

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and a guest columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

Edited by Will Shortz

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Iwata continued from page 12

averaging 52 games a season. Her efforts culminated in a game against rival Cal State Fullerton last year when she hit two home runs, including the game winner in a 3-2 victory.

Another aspect that helped Iwata succeed is the different perspective she gained from returning to help coach her former travel team.

"Coaching lets you see things from a different viewpoint," Iwata says. "You learn so much about the strategy and things that make you successful.

I wasn't surprised by Iwata's commitment.

"Coaching is a gift," she adds. "It's a gift of the game." Condon says. "She is always watching and asking questions about strategy and why we did that in a certain situation. She is old-school, a throwback who studies the game, which you don't see that often anymore." As Cary puts it, "She understands the game on all levels.

Though Iwata is not extremely vocal, she still has taken on a leadership role as one of two seniors on the team.

Even as graduation nears and her college career comes to a close, she remains focused on the task at hand, determined to better last season's regional postseason appearance.

She was willing to admit it wouldn't be "weird" to not have any softball obligations next fall.

"I've been playing or coaching," says Iwata, who has played since age 5. "At first it was just playing, but after age 5, I don't really know what to expect.

When Iwata does take time to look back on the game that has played such a prevailing role in her life, she treasures more than just her time on the field.

"I love everything that comes with the game, meeting so many people," she says. "I've met a lot of my closest friends through softball.

And getting to travel, from the East Coast to Hawaii, pretty much everywhere I've been has been because of softball."
LONG BEACH — The NCAA imposed stiff penalties on the Long Beach State men's basketball program on Thursday, including sanctions that were self-imposed by the university.

Penalties against the 49ers include three years probation, forfeiting their 18 victories from the 2005-2006 season, reduced recruiting and fewer scholarships. The limited probation will allow the 49ers basketball team to participate in postseason play.

The case involved improper benefits, improper transportation and phone contacts, unethical conduct by members of the coaching staff and a failure to appropriately monitor the program by the school or the former head coach, the NCAA said Thursday.

The violations by members of the coaching staff occurred between August 2004 and the end of August 2005, according to the NCAA.

Larry Reynolds was the head coach at that time. His contract was terminated by the school or the NCAA and a failure to appropriately monitor the program by the former head coach, the NCAA said Thursday.

The report by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions said Reynolds' coaching assistants committed rules violations and that he did not properly monitor their conduct.

Dan Monson was hired last April to replace Reynolds. Monson had a 22-62 record as the Minnesota coach after a 15-25 season in 1999.

The report by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions said Reynolds' coaching assistants committed rules violations and that he did not properly monitor their conduct.

According to the NCAA, Long Beach State's 2005-2006 recruiting class included six two-year college transfers and none were eligible for admission to the university or its athletic program.

"Beginning in May 2005, with the knowledge, encouragement and assistance of the coaches, the young men took additional classes, including correspondence courses, at various institutions. Some of the young men needed as many as nine hours in a short period of time to meet academic requirements," according to the infractions committee report.

"The violations committed by two former assistant coaches and the former administrative assistant included paying or arranging for payment to register some or all of the six two-year college transfers in classes, paying or arranging for payment of fees so that transcripts of the transfers' coursework could be obtained, providing impermissible tutoring and transportation, as well as making impermissible phone calls.

Long Beach State athletic director Vic Cegels said the school began its own investigation when the possibility of rules violations arose in October 2006. He noted that the involved coaching staff member was immediately suspended, and two student-athletes were withheld from competition.

The university also imposed its sanctions on the men's basketball program before meeting with the NCAA.

The probation will run through March 5, 2011. Among other sanctions, some imposed by Long Beach State and approved by the NCAA are: the school will not bring in junior college transfers during the probation period and men's basketball scholarships will be reduced from 13 to 12 for two years.

Cal Poly forward Tyler McGinn tries to create space in an 80-77 loss to Long Beach State on Feb. 8, 2007.
Taking her time, Sarah Iwata exudes confidence as she steps into the box. Churning the dirt as she dips in with her cleat, she stares down the pitcher in a mode she describes as "intensely being relaxed."

Cal Poly sophomore first baseman Kaysten Cary says Iwata has a look that just says "I'm going to get a hit and there's nothing you can do about it."

When the game is on the line, there is no one the Mustangs are more comfortable with at the plate than Iwata, their senior rightfielder and designated player.

"She doesn't make the game too big," says Cal Poly head coach Jenny Condon. "In high-pressure situations she doesn't change. Everyone is confident in her to come through. She has ice water in her veins."

The senior, four-year starter is coming off one of the best offensive seasons in Cal Poly history, in which she hit .329 with 32 runs, seven home runs and 37 RBI (tied for the third-highest single-season total in program history).

Her campaign was rewarded with an All-Big West Conference First Team selection, after being named an All-Big West honorable mention the previous two years.

Through 15 games this season, Iwata has hit .292 while leading off the plate and designated player.

"When I was being recruited, I knew I had to work on my defense," says Iwata. "I just tried to encourage the defense, and help them however I could," she remembers.

"When I was being recruited, I knew I had to work on my defense," says Iwata. "I just tried to encourage the defense, and help them however I could," she remembers.

Perseverance and hard work has paid off for Iwata, who has been a constant in the lineup for the Mustangs over the past three years, to keep her calm on the field even as the pressure rises.

"My mentality is don't show emotion," she says. "I just concentrate on beating the person I'm facing."

Condons notes that Iwata stays even-keeled and that the team feeds off her attitude. "She doesn't ride the roller coaster," Condon says.

It was this outlook Iwata attributes to helping get her to San Luis Obispo.

"When I was being recruited, I was really struggling at travel ball, hitting .100 or something," she says. "Since my offense wasn't coming around, I knew I had to excel on defense. It was my glove that got me here."

Her success at Cal Poly is even more astounding in the sense that most of her contributions have come offensively.

Iwata filled the designated player role for the past three years before making the move to right field this year, and says the development of her hitting is the individual accomplishment she is most proud of.

A lifelong shortstop, she had never played in right field before but was confident that Condon had the team and her best interests at heart.

The move has allowed other players to fill in as designated player, providing the team valuable experience and versatility.

During her freshman year, between at-bats she had a tendency to over-analyse, dwelling on every pitch, but adjusted by turning her attention to teammates.

"I just went on to encourage that, defend, and help them however I could," she remembers.

Perseverance and hard work has paid off for Iwata, who has been a constant in the lineup for the Mustangs over the past three years.

Senior rightfielder grows into spot in right field after All-Big West Conference First Team selection last season

Old-timer Iwata adjusts to new role

Perseverance and hard work has paid off for Iwata, who has been a constant in the lineup for the Mustangs over the past three years.