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Abbas appeals for more U.S. help in peace process

WASHINGTON — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appealed to the Bush administration Wednesday for more support in peace talks with Israel that have bogged down five months after both sides pledged to reach a deal by January.

In a meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice ahead of talks with President Bush on Thursday, Abbas said time was running out if that target laid out at the Annapolis Conference in November was to be met and that more pressure must be exerted on Israel to stop the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"We are serious in having a serious negotiations to reach an agreement by the end of the year, but the gaps are still wide between us and the Israelis," he said in a speech to the Arab-American Institute after his talks with Rice.

Chief among the Palestinian complaints is Israel's expansion of settlements in the West Bank, a halt to which is a major component of the so-called roadmap blueprint for peace.

"I am telling you frankly that the most important obstacle to the peace process and the negotiations is the continuation of the settlement activities," Abbas said. "Therefore, I am calling on the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities so we can hold proper meetings to reach a solution on the core issues."

Abbas aides said he had pressed Rice for U.S. action on the matter.

"What requires American intervention," his spokesman, Abu Radadha, said.

Abbas is struggling for authority in the West Bank against the militant Hamas movement that controls Gaza. Bush hopes to achieve a peace deal between the Palestinians and Israel before he leaves office in January. Bush met on Wednesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II to discuss the process.

The White House meetings are a prelude to next month's trip by Bush to the Middle East to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel. He also is expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The administration had been holding out hope it could arrange a peace summit during the visit, perhaps at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, where Bush is now set to see Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The idea was to have Arab leaders endorse an interim statement demonstrating at least some progress, officials said.

But there are deep misgivings about such a meeting among both Arabs and the Israelis, given the slow pace of negotiations, and prospects for the summit are slim, officials said.

Abbas wants a framework peace agreement by January with timetables and specifics leading to the creation of a Palestinian state and not just a "declaration of principles," as suggested by some Israeli officials. He has said his talks with Bush on Thursday will focus on achieving a real deal on core issues and not just promises.

"We seek a framework agreement that includes all the core issues and how these core issues will be resolved and ending with the establishment of a Palestinian independent state," Abbas said Tuesday.

The core issues remain the final borders of a Palestinian state, the fate of Jerusalem, disputed Israeli settlements, refugees, water and future relations between the two states.

The White House did not give a readout on the Bush-Abbas meeting. The Jordanian Embassy said Abdullah, who later saw Abbas, stressed the importance of U.S. involvement and Washington's role in overcoming obstacles to progress, particularly in pressing Israel on the settlements and easing Palestinian access.

"King Abdullah said it is important that Israel refrain from measures that would jeopardize negotiations with the Palestinians and called for an end to all Israeli settlement activities, a lifting of the blockade and restrictions on the movement of Palestinians," the embassy said.

Rice is stepping up efforts to boost the authority of Abbas by appointing a senior State Department official to run former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Mideast office. Blair is now an envoy to the Palestinians for the international diplomatic quartet on the Middle East.

Ahead of Bush's trip, Rice is expected to travel to Israel and the West Bank after attending a Palestinian donors' conference that Blair is hosting in London on May 2. A ministerial meeting of the quartet — the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia — is expected at the same time.

Officials said the administration, which already has pledged $55 million to the Palestinians this year, was looking at slight increases to announce at the conference, but that a major boost in aid was unlikely, as Congress has not yet approved the budget.

While Cairo definitely considers himself a beer enthusiast, he said he hopes to contribute more than just another tasty beverage to the planet.

"The yeast was a gift from nature. If we ever make a profit, it should be returned to nature," he said.

Future profits will be used for alternative fuel research at Cal Poly's Environmental Biotechnology Institute. According to Cairo, one possibility is reclaiming the unused energy from the wasted water of beer production to be used as a biofuel.

"Why waste the water?" he said.

Abbas and Egypt. Abbas is struggling for authority in the West Bank against the militant Hamas movement that controls Gaza. Bush hopes to achieve a peace deal between the Palestinians and Israel before he leaves office in January. Bush met on Wednesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II to discuss the process.

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Clintont
continued from page 1

stead, she hopes to convince party leaders who will attend the national convention as superdelegates that she is better able to defeat Republican John McCain in November and persuade them to swing behind her candidacy as a result.

With a handful of Pennsylvania delegates yet to be awarded, Obama had 1,723.5 and Clinton had 1,592.5 in The Associated Press national count. It takes 2,025 to clinch the nomination.

Clinton said donors had contributed more than $3 million to her candidacy in the hours since her Pennsylvania victory, some of it from thousands of new donors. Her campaign said she was on track for raising $10 million in the first 24 hours after her victory.

Financial reports on file with the Federal Election Commission underscored her need. Obama showed $10 million exceeded her cash of more than $40 million in cash on hand, while her debts of $10 million exceeded her cash of $9 million.

McCain sought to strengthen his credentials as an unconventional Republican, campaigning in a poor region of Kentucky following stops earlier in the week in Selma, Ala., and Youngstown, Ohio, a down-at-the-mouth steel city.

He spent part of Wednesday in New Albany, Ind., Obama was asked why he thought he could win Indiana when he lost Pennsylvania and Ohio, two states with large numbers of blue-collar workers.

"People are a little more familiar with me here," he said of a state that shares a border and a northern television market with Illinois.

Police responded to a report of a broken window and commercial burglary Tuesday morning at The Poor Boy Sandwiches on California Boulevard.

Officers discovered that the cash register and tip jar were missing, according to a San Luis Obispo Police Department press release.

Investigation into the burglary led to the discovery of video from a nearby business which yielded a photo of the suspect.

He is described as a white male in his late teens or early 20s with blond hair, wearing a dark sweatshirt with a logo design on the front, and left the area in a light-colored compact car, police said.

The cash register was later located at a nearby park with the money missing, but the tip jar remains outstanding.
State
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The surviving members of the Grateful Dead are turning over the rock band's archives to the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Dennis McNally, a spokesman for ex-Dead guitarist Bob Weir, said Weir and drummer Mickey Hart are going to announce a partnership with the university Thursday. The announcement will take place at San Francisco's Fillmore Auditorium, where the Grateful Dead played many of its legendary shows.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Four multimillion dollar homes in San Diego's upscale La Jolla area were evacuated as a precaution after a landslide cut a 30-foot-deep crevice in a nearby canyon.

City officials are investigating the cause of Wednesday's landslide on the north face of Mount Soledad. It was reported just after 9 a.m.

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — Cohn Saltry and Joey Daniel said they skipped gym class on Monday to rush over to a diner where Sen. Barack Obama's motorcade had just pulled in for an impromptu breakfast stop.

The two met Obama, and they said he even signed excuse slips for them to show their teachers. That didn't work. Saltry and Daniel got one-day suspensions for leaving school grounds, and Saltry was ordered to resign as senior class president.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A bank teller pregnant with twins was shot in the abdomen during a robbery Tuesday morning, but both the teller and the fetuses survived the attack, authorities said.

The masked gunman came into the Huntington Bank branch around 9:30 a.m., jumped over the counter screaming, shot the teller and grabbed cash from her drawer, police said.

National

WORD ON THE STREET
“What's the most interesting fact you know about Cal Poly?”

Compiled and photographed by Sara Wright

“It’s interesting to see how senior projects turn out. They’re very original.”
— Ryan Race, communication studies sophomore

“Weird Al went here.”
— Caleb Bartels, mechanical engineering senior

“There’s only so much there is to know... It started out as an all-boys school.”
— Michelle Schwartz, music junior

“When I want to tell people about Cal Poly, I tell them we invented Jamba Juice. That’s something to brag about.”
— Jeff Kwan, computer engineering freshman

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Where: In front of UPD
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Poly Reps give good first impression

Sara Wright

For a lot of current Cal Poly students, the first person they met on campus wasn’t their roommate or their best friend; it was a young man or woman sporting a green polo proclaiming “Poly Reps.”

Most know the Poly Reps as students who give campus tours to prospective students and their parents, alumni and other visitors. And as some of the first people to greet newcomers to Cal Poly, this group sees the value in making a good first impression.

Ross Macy, an agricultural education graduate student and president of Poly Reps, said previous encounters with the group inspired him to become involved.

“When I took a tour as a prospective student, I thought, ‘Man, I kinda wanna do that,’” he said.

The Poly Rep program began in 1985, according to Terrance Harmon, an admissions officer for Cal Poly Admission & Recruitment as well as a Poly Rep adviser.

“There was a need for student ambassadors to show people the campus and work with the Alumni Association,” Harris said. “People want to know about food on campus, classrooms, so there are certain things you’ll want to show them. Poly Reps give a general overview of what campus has to offer.”

Cindie Thompson, associate director of admissions and the former 21-year adviser of Poly Reps, helped establish the program.

Poly Reps serve as guides, giving walking tours of most of the campus that last for around 90 minutes. They describe campus events, programs and curricula, throw in fun trivia and answer questions while they’re at it.

“I’ve been learning a lot,” said Cathy Hruettinger, mother of a prospective student during a tour. “[The Poly Rep] is doing a really good job...this is a huge tour!”

While more recognizable Poly Reps primarily as campus tour guides, their work includes much more.

Poly Reps also work with the Alumni Association, such as at events like AWOL (A Week of Leaving, for graduates) and new-student welcome events during the summer.

They also serve on panels to discuss student life at Cal Poly for counselors and parents; give presentations at high schools and community colleges; represent Cal Poly at public relations events; and help spread the word about keeping involved with the university after graduation.

They should also have considerable knowledge of the university and the student body, public speaking and people skills, and the ability to adapt to various situations.

“We all like to talk,” Macy said.

“That helps out a lot.”

Students are accepted into the program during spring quarter to replace graduating Poly Reps. Once a student is accepted, he or she is a member for the whole year.

“We always encourage anyone to apply,” Harris said. “We try to give students an opportunity to grow as leaders and to expand public speaking skills.”

Applications are only accepted once a year, starting around January before spring quarter.

Training is once a quarter after acceptance. Training retreats occur during the fall and winter quarters, and tour training is during the spring. Meetings are every other week throughout the year.

Finally, Poly Reps have fun with special events such as a new member celebration, conventions, holiday parties and the annual End-of-the-Year Banquet.

Because being a Poly Rep offers great opportunities to gain skills as well as socialize, many remain for more than the minimum single year.

“We like to say, ‘Once a Poly Rep, always a Poly Rep,’” Macy said.
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International Briefs

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An American mountain climber with a "Free Tibet" banner was forced to turn back from Mount Everest, which Chinese climbers carrying the Olympic torch plan to summit next month, officials said Wednesday. The climber was caught with the banner in his bags at Everest's base camp, said officials at the Tourism Ministry in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters.

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A tiny Australian hospital is closing temporarily because of an infestation of poisonous spiders. The Baralaba Multi Purpose Health Service will close for 24 hours starting Thursday morning so officials can fumigate the building to get rid of redback spiders that have been found in large numbers in the main part of the hospital. Three or four patients will need to be moved to another hospital while the building is closed, according to a statement from Queensland state health officials.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nicole Kidman has urged world leaders and ordinary people to join the global fight to end violence against women. The actress, seven months pregnant and passionately committed to her role as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Development Fund for Women, said Tuesday that "violence was probably the "most widespread human rights violation of our time."

"One in three women will encounter violence in some way, shape or form against them in their lifetime," Kidman told a news conference at U.N. headquarters.
How Oprah Winfrey is like global warming

Earth has had a pretty good week, but it has had better. On Sunday, revelers showed their appreciation for the Earth's handiwork by partaking of a certain mind-shifting leafy substance and on Tuesday, people showed their respect for the biosphere by reprimanding litterbugs as they attempted to toss empty bottles into trash cans. But don't pat yourselves on the back just yet, Earthlings.

You may feel like you have parted your share of the planet from the evils of global warming, but what have you done to save it from Oprah quite yet. Earthlings.

The festivities kick off at 10:30 a.m. Friday with a golf tournament and festival at Cypress Ridge Golf Course in Arroyo Grande. Reservations can still be made for $150, which includes lunch and dinner as well as various gifts.

Other events at the festival include a silent auction and music by Central Coast band The Sireal Experience. The golf tournament and festival are run by student volunteers.

In an effort to promote safe driving practices, buses are provided to and from San Luis Obispo for the first 180 people who made reservations.

Proceeds benefit the Vines to Wine Club as well as the Cal Poly horticulture and crop science department.

“The event is a good way for students to make industry connections. We throw a good group of people together and have a good time. It's a little more social than other events,” Crosbie said.

Wineies from across the world as well as from California's best regions participate in the festival. This year’s entries span from Spain to Napa. Can't-miss wineries include Cordemier Cava Estates from Spain, Lodi’s LangeTwins, Dunn of Napa and Foxen from Santa Maria.

The festival brings in students, faculty, alumni, connoisseurs and industry professionals alike.

“There was a good mix of student, teachers, and adults from the community,” said Scott Robb, a Cal Poly business graduate who attended last year and is driving from Sacramento for the event this year. “Good food, good wine, great time.”

Please join Dean Mohammad Noori & The Engineering Student Council at an Open Forum on Saudi Arabia

Panelists will include:

President Warren Baker
Provost William W. Durgin
Dean of Research and Graduate Programs
Susan Opava
Dean of Engineering Mohammad Noori
Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Programs Ed Sullivan
Dr. Gregg Fiegel

Thursday, April 24, 2008
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Advanced Technology Laboratories (Bldg. 007)

Refreshments will be provided
Comic book series treats fans to a fresh, dark and sophisticated take on the 'Star Wars' story

Tristan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Put yourself in the "Star Wars" universe, but more than 125 years after "Return of the Jedi.

Now picture these characters: Luke Skywalker's great, great grandson; a feared bounty hunter who contributes to the eradication of Jedi in a post-apocalyptic setting; a space pirate who runs with two like-minded gangsters; a drifting drug addict who forgets his problems by using death sticks; and the last remaining Skywalker who could give hope to a Sith-crippled galaxy if only he wasn't jaded by his traumatic childhood.

It's all about Cade Skywalker, the author around which Dark Horse Comics' "Star Wars: Legacy" comic book and graphic novel series is centered.

"Legacy" takes a darker-than-the-movies approach to engage readers in a profoundly narrative narrative that serves as a prime example of how characters from the original "Star Wars" saga are unnecessarily to recreate the magic George Lucas first brought to the silver screen in 1977.

If Episodes VII, VIII and IX are ever made, "Legacy" could easily rival the breakthrough 1999 Timothy Zahn trilogy of "Star Wars" novels as the best possible literary framework from which screenplays could be adapted.

"Legacy"'s psychologically driven themes are complex yet reliable. Its characters are shrouded in mystery, but are understandable. And its visionary creators - writer John Ostrander and his team of 10 artists - remain so true to classic "Star Wars" archetypes that the John Williams orchestra can practically be heard while turning pages.

"Legacy" has not gone unnoticed, as the comic book itself is Dark Horse's breakthrough 1990s Timothy Zahn trilogy of "Star Wars" novels as the best possible literary framework from which screenplays could be adapted.

Along the way in "Broken" and "Shards," readers are introduced to a cast of characters they will quickly become attached to. These characters are almost on par with those of the original trilogy and decidedly better than those of the prequel trilogy. They include: the aforementioned Cade Skywalker; his two gun-wielding pirate associates, the Zeltron female Dylah Blue and the human male Jarial Syn; the Force-inclined Princess Marasiah Fel; her father, the exiled Emperor Roan Fel; Sith such as Darth Talon and Darth Nihl; and self-made Sith Emperor Darth Krayt, a dictator who makes Palpatine look like a voting-rights advocate.

It needs to be said that the binary rule of Sith (i.e. Darth Sidious/Darth Vader) no longer exists under Krayt. Instead, he rules over a legion of Sith who have overtaken Coruscant and turned it into a post-apocalyptic hell that bears no resemblance to the crown jewel of the galaxy seen in Episodes I and II.

Perhaps more interesting than Krayt, though, is Talon. Although in some ways a shameless integration of WIP added to the storyline, the variety remains more intriguing than any of Krayt's other minions because she amounts to a female version of Darth Maul. Her femme fatal ways briefly cross paths with Cade in a couple pages that show the fearless Ostrander has in weaving the story.

"Legacy" capitalizes thoughtfully on its sparing use of original saga iconography, which includes the ghost of Luke, a hallucination of Vader and R2-D2, which is somehow still beeping and rolling around just fine.

Without Cade, though, "Legacy" would be irrelevant. His conflicted nature and deep-rooted pathological rejection of his family's heritage creates a compelling revision of "Star Wars" conventions that authors are too often scared to take with the. The best scene in the original saga is Luke staring at Tannous's twists, desperately longing for adventure. Some of the most powerful art in "Legacy," in contrast, depicts a stoned Cade staring blankly into a ghost of Luke and explaining why he would much rather blend in.

Cade's returnment of the jode code largely stems from watching as a child when his father, Kol, sacrificed himself to save fellow Jedi. Cade and the Sith who killed his father, Kol, then unwittingly set out on an inexorable path toward a lightsaber duel in which a grown-up Cade can stake his claim to power if only he is willing to tread the dark side of the Force.

If Luke could only know that his great, great grandson would have blonde dreadlocks, earrings and tattoos.

Cade, after all, is an embodiment of what the "Legacy" series is about - "Star Wars" with its hair down, completely unchained. It's heavy metal meets "Star Wars" and gangsta rap meets sc-fi.

And now that they're acquainted, hopefully "Legacy" will never have to jump out of hyperspace.

Tristan Aird is a journalism student and loves to read more than a free textbook.

Thursday SHOWTIMES
Downtown Centre Cinema
66 Minutes 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
Singers - Los Angeles 4, 4:45
Smart People - Smart People 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Street Kings - Street Kings 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
Lords of Dogtown - Lords of Dogtown 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
Nim's Island - Nim's Island 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day - Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day 2:00, 7:20
21:14, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
Fremont Theatre
Forgetting Sarah Marshall - Sunset Drive-In
7:45
Prom Night - Prom Night 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00
The Forbidden Kingdom - The Forbidden Kingdom 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Drillbit Taylor - Drillbit Taylor 2:55, 5:30, 7:35
The Reins - The Reins 10:15
Palm Theatre
The Bra Boys - The Bra Boys 4:15, 7:00, 9:15
in Bruges - in Bruges 4:15, 9:15
Flawless - Flawless 7:00
Under the Same Moon - Under the Same Moon 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

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MUSTANG DAILY

Thursday, April 24, 2008
www.mustangdaily.net

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The ghost of Luke Skywalker enlives his great, great grandson Cade Skywalker to right his wrong of hunting down Luke. He is now the Sith Emperor Darth Krayt in "Star Wars: Legacy."

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A Mustang Daily guide to surviving the summer festival season

Dustin Stone

When the mercury is rising and the sun is lingering in the sky a little longer each day, which can mean only one thing: The summer festival season is upon us.

All around the country, music lovers are bracing themselves to face sweltering heat, $4 bottled water and epic B.O.—all in pursuit of the perfect concert experience.

As a service to our readers, I have compiled a list of tips for maximizing the enjoyment of these events, ensuring that festival-goers come out alive when it’s all over.

1. Be prepared for the heat.

This one should be fairly obvious to anyone with half a brain, but every year thousands of festival-goers suffer from blistering sunburns, heat stroke and severe dehydration. Don’t be one of these people.

Sunscreen is your friend, so don’t be afraid of it. Whatever SPF you choose, make sure it is waterproof so it won’t sweat off while you’re shaking your ass to some sweet tunes. Don’t forget to reapply throughout the day. Try doing this every time a new band takes the stage. It may seem excessive, but it saves you a lot of pain and peeling in the long run.

Also, don’t forget the H2O. It keeps you alive, you know.

Last year, architecture junior David Swaim chose to rely on his ingenuity to find water during the Coachella Music and Arts Festival rather than paying $2 for a bottle of water.

“My clever solution was not to drink,” he said, “which, by the end of the day, resulted me lying on the ground fidgeting and hallucinating that my knees were batting. When I heard someone behind me say ‘Look, that guy’s on acid,’ I realized that my ingenuity had failed me. Sometimes water is worth $2 a bottle.”

2. Get plenty of rest.

Festivals involve 12-hour days of music and assorted debauchery that often stretch out over the course of an entire weekend, so don’t burn out early.

Finance junior Jeff Stern likes to catch up on his sleep before he leaves for Humboldt’s Reggae on the River festival each year.

“Get plenty of sleep the week before because you’ll be up, tired and sleeping pretty uncomfortably for most of your time there,” he said.

UC San Diego graduate David Bahrne, 24, takes this one step further and recommends catching up on sleep during down times in the day as well.

During Audiotastic 2003, the early wakeup time, long drive and hard partying caught up with him later in the day. Rather than wussing out and heading for the car, he decided to “take a nap in the middle of everything.”

“Forty-five minutes later, I woke up and the festival was still in full swing,” he said. “I walked over to the bar, did some shots with my friends and partied ‘til the last beat of the last last dance dropped.”

3. Avoid the chill-out tent.

While it may afford you the chance to meet Wavy Gravy (study your festival history and you will find that he is much more than an awesome Ben & Jerry’s flavor), this chill-out tent is not somewhere you want to be. Sure, you get all the free oranges and water you can consume, but it’s not as glamorous as the Hold Steady song makes you get all the free oranges and water you can consume, even if you... "...are really tired of standing in line. So is everyone else!...can’t see well and arrived late to a stage. Just because you have elbows doesn’t mean you need to use them to get to the front of the stage. If you were the biggest fan ever, you would have been two hours early like everyone else at the front.

4. Don’t be a jerkface.

This one comes straight from Cal Poly alum and long-time KCPR DJ Paul Sittig (better known to the public as Sasquatch), who demands you refrain from acting like an ass, even if you...

“...are really tired of standing in line. So is everyone else!

...can’t see well and arrived late to a stage. Just because you have elbows doesn’t mean you need to use them to get to the front of the stage. If you were the biggest fan ever, you would have been two hours early like everyone else at the front.

...real love this song! Getting drunk and/or high then singing off-key and/or stepping on people while you dance only displays you’re a jerkface/douche to everyone around you, not how in tune you are with this song and the whole of the cosmos.”

5. Choose your company wisely.

Festivals are great places to make new friends, but, as is true for life in general, choose those new friends wisely.

Political science graduate of UCSB Brian Galvin, 23, learned this lesson the hard way while attending last year’s Vegoose festival after some friends bailed and left him scrambling to find a Vegas hotel room “on the cheap.”

He wound up staying in room at the Tropicana with a friend of a friend of his roommate’s, along with 15 of that friend’s friend’s friends. When Galvin left the room in search of food and drink, his new Bulgarian roommate, who had made the trip out just for Vegoose, overdosed on heroin and was rushed to the hospital.

“The next morning I go to the bathroom, and while scrambling to find something to read while I do the deed, I find a crumpled paper detailing how the guy had his stomach pumped and was then set free back into the wilds of Vegas,” Galvin said.

The next day, Galvin sprained his ankle and wound up stuck in the hotel room while everybody, the Bulgarian gentleman included, headed out for the festival.

“In the morning he shoots up in front of everyone, making 15 people look at the wall uncomfortably,” he said. “Then they smoked a bunch of pot and go to day two. In the meantime, I’m stuck in the hotel room with the dude’s heroin and a bunch of acid and miscellaneous other drugs (in) the same room that is stinking up the floor and was visited by paramedics the night before. So Vegoose and my new friends come back and drive me back to Santa Barbara after a 10-hour break-out session in the room.”

6. Don’t be afraid to ditch your friends.

One of the best things about attending big festivals is the ability to completely customize your experience.

The variety of acts that play these events is usually pretty overwhelming and not everybody wants to see the same thing. Don’t let your friends’ musical tastes get in the way of your good times, or vice versa.

Keep your cell phone charged and set meeting places and times to meet back up with your group. This will ultimately help in avoiding the obligatory “...but I want to see this band!” argument.

Kinesiology senior Juan Ramirez figured this one out after the first time he attended Coachella.

“I was in a decent sized group, and everyone was afraid to break apart,” he explained. “I was really annoyed with the other people in my group, because I was dragged to shows I had no interest in seeing. I did have a lot of fun that year, but I was pretty pissed off at times due to missing some great shows at the expense of ‘sticking together.’”

7. Wet wipes and talcum powder.

You know what they’re for and when you don’t get to take a shower for three days, you’ll be glad you brought them. “Null said.”

Music lovers from the world over gather at the Coachella Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif. each year in hopes of experiencing the perfect festival/concert. This year’s event begins Friday.
Oprah

continued from page 7

TV, radio, literature and merchandise. Slowly, she went from obscurity to celebrity, and like the thinning ozone, she's trying to spread her sphere of influence to even the remotest parts of the world.

Some people are still in denial.

It may be an "inconvenient truth," but Oprah pretty much controls the world. Even if you don’t want to chances are you’ve been a victim of cultural "O pressure." Sure, she does lots of great things, like increase literacy and properly fitting lingerie, but with one sweep of her fingers, she has the ability to turn on even her "Friends." Like she did with James Frey and Dr. Phil.

Many celebrities have gotten involved.

To commemorate Earth Day, Oprah wrangled Julia Roberts, Sandra Bullock and none other than Al Gore to demonstrate how to encourage sustainability and environmental consciousness. Leonardo DiCaprio must have been hooked.

The harms will be more extensive and will happen sooner than we think.

We are already experiencing the negative effects of global warming in the form of erratic weather patterns and melting icebergs, and experts warn that more is to come. Just this year, Oprah introduced yet another facet of her power with her plans to launch her own network. At this point, it may be impossible to stop the "O-nertia" created by her culture empire.

There is something you can do about it.

You can use reusable bags and stop driving to school, but none of it will do a thing to prevent Oprah from making us dream of getting our homes decorated by Nate Berkus and our wardrobes revamped by Stacey London. While we should continue our waste-free habits, we should perhaps rethink our reliance on Oprah to get all of our information about health, politics, arts and culture. She does know how to pick good books, though.

Note: I have no qualms with the great Oprah Winfrey. I’m simply wary of anyone who has such an incredible influence on what Americans wear, read, listen to, watch and even who we vote for. In fact, I subscribe to her magazine (it’s really a great publication) and admit to watching her show on occasion. All I’m trying to point out is that pop culture dictators become detrimental when they undermine our own ability to find things we care about on our own. I agree that sometimes we need a few nudges to get us in the right direction (I guess that’s what I’m supposed to be here for), but no one should rely on any single source for their information.

But my point may be moot because after all, you’re Cal Poly students — you probably already knew that.

Allison Bieder is an English major, pop-culture enthusiast and Mustang Daily columnist.

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Travel more.
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Lee Barats: Yes, keep adoption safe, free and legal

Alright fine, Sean. We'll debate the one thing nobody wants to debate. It's the most controversial issue in America today, but I find it very hard to see why adoption is a great option for couples everywhere who want a healthy family life, but don't have to see love. First, it is an individual's choice to adopt a child or not. If the government declares adoption illegal, then every American citizen's rights have been denied. As human beings, we can raise children however we want to, as long as they are raised by their biological parents. In a word, adoption is worth of human rights.

If you want to get technical about it, most adoptions take place in a climate of personal freedom, before the age of 25. During this period of a human's development, they are not able to survive in the outside world without the financial assistance of their parents. Therefore, the child is just another one of the parent's financial assets. Adults should be able to cut ties with an investment at any point and give their dependents up for adoption.

I'm sick of hearing about the health risks involved. Adoption is a completely safe medical procedure. Did you know that 95 percent of adoptions are successful with no health damages to the parents or child? Adoptions won't stop you from making illegal. People are going to adopt babies whether you like it or not. Forbid adoption will just result in more and more baby ads, also known as "kidnappings." And you know, most kidnappings result in at least somebody getting the crap kicked out of them. There's the real health risk.

So please, don't tell me something's wrong when it benefits the individuals involved and society as a whole. If you look at the issue logically, there's really no good reason not to adopt children. So, do it, get a boyfriend or girlfriend, and adopt a child today.
The miseducation about the Saudi university

For a while, I watched the madness over Jullab University (JUC) from the sidelines. Finally, I decided to join the conversation and throw my two cents.

First, I should start by acknowledging that there are legitimate points raised by some who are against the now-infamous deal with JUC. Their opposition is based on genuine concern for equal rights and justice for all. For some, it's the modest cost of $5.9 million, which is understandable. As a student who was also accepted to Berkeley, I receive regular e-mails from the UC President, and I learned that it got a lucrative deal compared to us. They signed a $30 million deal with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is cool, unlike Cal Poly's EE program), which has the sixth-largest endowment in the world after a $10 billion donation from the King. Hopefully, Cal Poly will get a slice of this pie in the future.

However, there are many misinformed students who just jumped on the bandwagon before learning the facts. For instance, I read so many unfounded comments posted in a Facebook group of more than 400 Cal Poly students where most of them are against this deal. Its creator believes that "honor killings" take place in Saudi Arabia. Actually, such practice takes place in Turkey, not Saudi Arabia, and a Turk will take being compared to an Arab as an insult.

The main individuals leading the crusade against this deal are some members of the Cal Poly College Republicans (CPCR), the masters of divide and rule. One might fall for their sudden concern for diversity, but their record speaks volumes. In the past, they have organized events and wrote columns offensive to blacks, Hispanics, Muslims, homosexuals, Indians, and women. Their hypocrisy is astounding, and they don't have a moral high ground to stand on the issue of diversity.

Unlike most students, I am optimistic about this collaboration with JUC. I see this as a golden opportunity to enhance international scientific and cultural contacts. This is the best way to promote Western democracy in a country that badly needs it.

"There are many misinformed students who just jumped on the bandwagon before learning the facts."

Despite segregation of the sexes and second-class citizenship of females, Saudi Arabia is a country in transition. In 2003, it had only eight public universities serving a population of 22 million, and a majority of students were under the age of 29. But in the last four years, the education budget has more than tripled; and as a result, the number of public and private universities has increased by 150 percent and 300 percent respectively. As Al Khawaja dean of the Al-Fais­al medical school, puts it, "It's more about transferring to Western culture of learning, and we need people from that environment." We should all encourage such changes as the reformers move Saudi Arabia closer to Western democracy.

Shafeeq Ghabra, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy, says, "It's more about transferring to Western culture of learning, and we need people from that environment." We should all encourage such changes as the reformers move Saudi Arabia closer to Western democracy. In 2003, it had only eight public universities serving a population of 22 million, and a majority of students were under the age of 29. But in the last four years, the education budget has more than tripled; and as a result, the number of public and private universities has increased by 150 percent and 300 percent respectively. As Al Khawaja dean of the Al-Faisal medical school, puts it, "It's more about transferring to Western culture of learning, and we need people from that environment." We should all encourage such changes as the reformers move Saudi Arabia closer to Western democracy.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Look past ‘us vs. them’ tactics

There are many things I felt and thought when reading Ian Nachreiner’s article about the Saudi Arabian "dark side" and its connection to "liberals." I felt hurt, angry, and finally sympathy. My sympathy is not for Nachreiner or his ridiculous argument, but how his belief of "us vs. them" have become acceptable and commonplace as of late. I will explain why Mr. Nachreiner's foundations, and simply misinformed argument is destructive using my ability to look past the classic, "us vs. them" tactics.

Nobody is always "right." That is an undeniable fact. We are all imperfect, which is another undeniable fact. Why, then, do so many people, including Mr. Nachreiner, feel their beliefs are the only ones with merit and it's their way or the highway? We will always disagree with each other; it is our nature as human beings. For instance, I disagree with Jeremy Hicks, Ricky Bailey (a friend of mine), and countless others from issues such as taxes. This is a very complicated issue that can't be reduced to saying, "You are all heartless neo-cons that only care about money" or stating that we "are all bleeding-heart liberals who want to steal money from hard-working Americans." We all know neither of those are logical arguments, but then why do we reduce this incredibly complex topic to petty sound bites? It just seems lazy and hateful.

Ian, as per your confusion, I’ll explain exactly why I have chosen the "liberal" way. I believe we must do all we can to help others who are not as fortunate as us in a variety of ways. I believe that we should take care of the environment, and that we should not go to war over such buzzwords as "WMD" and "9/11 connection." My "liberal" beliefs are guided by my faith, with biblical verses such as "Love thy neighbor as thyself." As they have assigned me to bring good news to the poor," "God will destroy those who destroy the earth," and "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." (in san, shume on you, Mr. Nachreiner. Your reduction of the liberal point of view to us wanting to save a fish over farmers not only makes you look foolish, but also your party. Every member of the Cal Poly College Republicans should be ashamed of you because it is arguments like yours that will get a Democratic president elected. We do not agree on a lot of matters, but that's what makes this country great. However, your tactics lead to further confusion and unnecessary, unproductive division. The time is now for everyone to hold that message to Saudi Arabia, my advice is don't buy their oil.
Tolver
continued from page 16
Tolver was an All-Great West Football Conference Second Team selection in 2007, when he was ninth in the country in average yards per punt return.

Tolver's eyes. Ellerson explains, but he says. "And it leaves me with a lot of early nights and a lot of sore mornings. But it's worth it in the end."

Tolver was really fast when he got here," Ellerson says. "Sometimes it's a trap when you've always been the fastest growing up: things can get too easy for you and you don't learn how to work and train. That's not the case with Tre'dale."

Venturing into both sports only strengthens those routines in Tolver's eyes. "Many people see doing two sports at the same time as a problem, but I try to pull the best of both worlds from each," he says. "I get the strength from football and the speed from track. No track athlete's going to lift like I lift, and no football athlete's going to run like I run."

"Though Tolver calls football his "No. 1 priority," he adds, "Just because (track) isn't primary doesn't mean I'm not going to put forth 110 percent. Sports are sports, and competition is competition, so wherever I can get it in, that's what I plan to do."

Devoting time to both is time-consuming, Tolver explains, but he wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's difficult to balance both," he says. "And it leaves me with a lot of early nights and a lot of sore mornings. But it's worth it in the end."
The CIF extended requests for proposals throughout the state and after being contacted in late February, the San Luis Obispo County Visitors and Convention Bureau immediately reached out to Cal Poly to use Spanos Stadium before returning its proposal, according to Joanne Biaggini, executive director of the San Luis Obispo County Bureau. Buggie said in late March she would’ve expected up to 25,000 people in attendance over the course of the five games they were to be held in San Luis Obispo.
When you're at top speed, it's almost like being in a parallel universe.

— Tre’dale Tolver
Cal Poly sprinter and wide receiver

**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Switching lanes**

Cal Poly's Tre’dale Tolver has become a star in both football and track and field

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Tre’dale Tolver has been used to hearing “ooohs” and “ahhhs” since he was young. He used to draw them in a fashion perhaps unexpected of someone who’s become the best sprinter on Cal Poly’s campus.

“I’m retired thus far,” Tolver says of his days performing magic tricks. “But back in the day, it was pretty good with a little wizardry, card tricks and illusions — that kind of stuff.”

Could he still do them now?

“No even close,” Tolver says.

From another perspective, though, his magic is still there — there just aren’t any tricks.

“Success comes from hard work,” the 21-year-old lightly states.

For Tolver, that success has shown up not only on the football field, where he was an All-Great West Football Conference Second Team wide receiver as a junior in 2007, but on the track, where he’s already put forth several top-five performances in the 100-meter dash this season.

“Track started as a way for me to better myself in football in the offseason, to stay in shape and get faster,” Tolver says. “My last couple years of high school, I ended up excelling really well. Once I got here at Cal Poly, I thought I had a chance to do something special with it here as well.”

Cal Poly’s Tre’dale Tolver ran the 100-meter dash in 10.57 seconds at last year’s Big West Conference Championship preliminaries. The standard for NCAA West Regional qualification is 10.55.

NICK GAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

What began as an offseason hobby has turned into a serious pursuit for Tolver, who opened his season by clocking a 10.78-second mark to come in fourth in the 100 at the UCLA Invitational on March 8. He blazed a 10.47 March 14 at Fresno State to win the event, and a 21.43 in the 200, in which he was second.

“Think I’m running that fast, honestly, is like a science,” Tolver says. “When you’re at top speed, it’s almost like being in a parallel universe. I can’t hear anything going on around me and I’m only in tune to what’s going on on the track. So I can see who’s around me and I can see how far in the race I am, but I’m pretty oblivious to the outside world where that gun goes off.”

Such inner resolve was challenged early in his career, though, when he didn’t compete in track and field due to a hamstring injury suffered his freshman season.

“It scared me away for two years,” says Tolver, who also competes in the 4-by-100 relay and, when needed, the 400. “But being at the Cal Poly Invitational last year brought back a lot of memories and I decided to go out and get after it again.”

A hamstring injury suffered at Fresno State forced him to sit out the Trojan Invitational on March 22, but it hasn’t seemed to threaten his season’s ultimate potential.

“It scared me away for two years,” Tolver says. “But the mark didn’t officially qualify for competition at the NCAA West Regional level, requiring an official 1.21.43.

His season-best time in the 200-meter dash, also at Fresno State

Tolver’s best time, a 10.47 clocked at the UC Santa Barbara Invitational on April 10 (with a 1.21.43).

While the 10.47 clocked at Fresno State is Tolver’s best time, in track didn’t have a wind reading, meaning the mark didn’t officially qualify for competition at the NCAA West Regional level, requiring an official 10.55.

Tolver came close at last year’s Big West Conference Championship preliminaries, with a season-best 10.57.

“I figure all I need is time (to reach 10.55),” Tolver says. “I want to run 10.3 by the end of the season.”

Danny Williams, Cal Poly’s sprinting coach, shares Tolver’s perspective.

CIF looks away from Cal Poly, signs new deal with Home Depot Center

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Although Cal Poly was one of seven sites considered to host five high school football state championship games in December, the California Interscholastic Federation announced Wednesday a two-year deal keeping the games at the Home Depot Center in Carson, where they were played the past two years.

Deemed April 1 by CIF director of communications Emmny Zack as being “substantially more prohibitive in cost” than the other sites, the Home Depot Center seemed unlikely to repeat as the venue before its representatives apparently lowered their monetary demands.

“The Home Depot Center worked with us to bring CIF back to their facility,” said CIF executive director Marie Ishida in a news release. “Their willingness to provide a financial deal and other incentives indicated their strong desire for our football championships to return.”

All five CIF State Football Championship Bowl Games matching teams from Southern California and Northern California will be played Dec. 19-20.

While Zack didn’t divulge specific financial parameters of proposals, she told the Mustang Daily on April 1 the Home Depot Center would’ve cost close to $200,000 for the two-day rental, while Cal Poly’s Tre’dale Tolver has become a star in both football and track and field

Pair of Matthews blasts powers Angels to 6-4 win in Boston

The Los Angeles Angels’ Gary Matthews Jr. rounds the bases during the fifth inning after hitting his second home run of the game against the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night at Fenway Park.

Casey Kotchman hit a solo homer in the sixth to put the Angels ahead. Their 6-4 win snapped Boston’s six-game winning streak.

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