Concerns over possible Saudi partnership surface in town hall meeting

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students voiced their concerns over a potential faculty exchange program on Thursday in a town hall-style meeting that featured a six-member panel, including Cal Poly President Warren Baker.

"Such programs have been a part of Cal Poly for many years," Baker said. "We need to be sure that such programs are forward-looking and allow for significant opportunities to hasten the development of our own engineering programs."

At issue is the controversial proposed faculty exchange program between Cal Poly and Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia. Many of the concerns originate from the conservative nature of Saudi culture, whereby men and women are taught in separate classrooms and certain genders and sexual orientations are still considered taboo.

Political science junior Angela Kramer voiced such sentiments by likening separate classrooms for the sexes to the "separate, but equal" doctrine that governed America for almost a century. Both students and the panel participated in the response.

"Someone has to cross the bridge, but you can't cross it with arrogance or hostility," said Lori Awaner, a general engineering junior. "We have to engage with them with humility; and they have to want to ask questions of us. We can't assume that our way is the best way."

"Promoting our views is a gradual process that won't be adopted overnight," added Dean Mohammad Noori of the College of Engineering. "It took us over 200 years to see Saudi, page 2"

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

"It echoes the silence caused by the trauma of society," said Megan O'Sullivan, a business sophomore and member of the campus Pride Center. "It's a way to spread visibility."

O'Sullivan has participated in the event since she was in high school, and she said everyone is encouraged to participate, including LGBT allies.

The Pride Center — which promotes education and celebration of the LGBT community by coordinating programs and services for campus — supports the National Day of Silence every year.

The exact day the campus commemorates the occasion, however, changes yearly according to what is most appropriate and convenient for Cal Poly students and faculty. Today marks the official National Day of Silence for most other campuses around the country.

Participants in the Day of Silence were still allowed to speak in class, as the event is not meant to interfere with a student's education.

"While many students at other schools hand out speaking cards explaining their silence in classrooms, Cal Poly students were provided with support pins, at which students may point to at their own discretion but are required to abide by the campus-wide "no pin" policy if they do so," O'Sullivan said.

"Promoting our views is a gradual process that won't be adopted overnight," added Dean Mohammad Noori of the College of Engineering. "It took us over 200 years to see Saudi, page 2"

Students demonstrate their Beirut skills at the Root Beer Pong Tournament held by the Smart Students Smart Choices organization on Mott Lawn Thursday.

LA County transit officials in favor of freeway toll lanes

Daisy Nguyen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The freeway may soon not be so free in the land of the automobile.

Los Angeles County transit officials voted Thursday to support a plan that would charge drivers tolls to use some freeway lanes.

The federal government recently offered $213.6 million to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to help convert some carpool lanes to toll lanes in an effort to reduce congestion during busy hours as well as fund transportation improvements.

The MTA board voted to execute an agreement with the US Department of Transportation that would introduce toll lanes to stretches of Interstate 10 and 210, MTA spokesman Dave Sorensen said.

Local officials, the state Legislature and the California Transportation Commission would have to agree to the changes before the project could begin, Sorensen said. The federal offer requires that the lanes be implemented by 2010.

The Transportation Department offered the money after New York lawmakers rejected a plan to charge drivers extra tolls to enter Manhattan's most congested neighborhoods.

see Tolls, page 2
Tolls
continued from page 1

"We have a golden opportunity here," Sotero said.

Charging fees in congested city centers is a concept that has gained popularity around the world. Toll lanes already exist in San Diego, Orange County and Minneapolis, as well as in London, Stockholm and Singapore. The fees in Los Angeles would vary depending on how bad the traffic is. The money would fund transportation improvement projects. Nearly 100 million miles are traveled on Los Angeles County freeways daily, said state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Janine Bonfilio. A national study released in 2007 by the Texas Transportation Institute found the Los Angeles metro area had the worst traffic congestion, delaying drivers an average of 72 hours a year.

Opponents say the toll lane concept, called congestion pricing, uses market forces to keep traffic flowing by discouraging some people from driving during busy times. Opponents argue it's an unfair tax on commuters who already pay taxes to use the roads.

The MTA has not determined the fees or whether to allow solo drivers to use the lanes, Sotero said.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who serves on the MTA board, said he expects to hear concerns about the potential for racial discrimination.

"There are going to be a lot of people who don't think well of the idea of congestion pricing," he told reporters. "But you can't complain about traffic, get in your single-passenger automobile and go two blocks to the market. We're all part of the problem and the solution. And the fact of the matter is, this is another menu option that I think we've got to look at and support."

Currently, fees for accessing a toll lane on a highway connecting Orange and Riverside counties range from $1.20 to $10, said Orange County Transportation Authority spokesman Josi Zlomik. Using the lanes at 5 a.m. weekdays costs $1.20, but the fee rises to $10 at 3 p.m. on Fridays.

The roughly 177,000 motorists who use the 91 Express Lanes pay an average $2.25 toll, Zlomik said. "People do adjust their driving patterns to pay a less expensive toll," he said.

Under the proposed deal, the federal government would pay for 60 passenger buses that would use the new high occupancy toll, or HOT, lane in Los Angeles County. That would free up MTA funds for creating the lanes.

If there's money left, parts of the Harbor Freeway south of downtown Los Angeles would also get toll lanes, Sotero said.

Transportation officials hope enough people use the buses and the tolls clear enough space in the carpool lanes for traffic flow to stay at about 45 mph all the time.

Silence
continued from page 1

15-year-old student of E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard. In February, King was shot and killed by a 14-year-old classmate because of his sexual orientation and gender expression.

The event is a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLEN), a national organization that works to create safety for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in schools across the country.

A 2005 National School Climate Survey by GLEN found that four of five LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school, and 29 percent report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their safety.

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**TONIGHT 6PM**

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**MEN'S SPRING SOCCER MATCH VS. PAC 10 POWER STANFORD**

Saturday 1PM (Alex G. Spanos Stadium)

Adults $5 Youth $3

* Sunday is Youth Jersey Day for Baseball! All Youth, $3 and under, receive FREE admission by wearing a jersey to the game!

Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students!

**MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS**

An article in Thursday's edition incorrectly stated that a Cal Poly business freshman was at the wheel of a car collision on Wednesday, April 23. The Cal Poly San Luis Obispo student, Victor Robles had nothing to do with the accident. Victor M. Robles of Penticton, B.C., was the one at the wheel. The Mustang Daily apologizes for the misunderstanding.

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Chinese authorities stepping up security ahead of Olympics

Tini Tran
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foreigners report random ID checks. Police check on chemicals in school science labs. A music festival is postponed. With 3½ months to go, China is ramping up its campaign to tighten security ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Authorities are taking no chances that Beijing's moment in the international spotlight will be marred by protests or attacks. The pro-Tibet demonstrations derailing the Olympic torch on its world tour have only served to heighten the government's worries. Beijing's Public Security Bureau kicked off an "Olympic security" campaign this month that will run through October, saying "some unstable factors" could affect the August games.

Twice in recent months, the government has accused Muslim separatists in the Xinjiang region of terror plots tied to the Olympics. Activist groups critical of China's human rights abuses and its rule over Tibet have pledged to try to disrupt the games.

"They certainly have reason to be worried," said David Zweig, director of the Center on China's Transnational Relations at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "Given the failure to be prepared for what happened in Tibet, one should not be surprised by overreaction."

The Beijing campaign includes increased security checks at hotels, entertainment areas and rented homes, the security bureau's Web site said.

Officials will also seek to control access to explosives and firearms, ensure the safety of gas and oil pipelines and crack down on crime.

Broader measures range from random ID checks to visa restrictions that severely limit who can visit, live or work in China. Even public gatherings are suspect, with police ordering the cancellation of several major events, including a popular Beijing music festival in May.

"I understand the (police) are mainly concerned about young people gathering together and doing radical things," said Zhang Fan, founder of the MIDI Music Festival, which authorities put off until October.

Schools have been told some 250 chemicals are restricted for purchase between May 1 and Oct. 17, and a senior official at a school in Beijing recently inspected the school's boiler room for safety. The subject was evaluated by a county crisis team, who recommended additional evaluation and treatment.

\[ ... \]

A municipal officer and security guards supervise the demolition of a row of shops. City authorities are removing temporary and illegal buildings, and demolishing older apartments to make way for new complexes in the buildup to the Olympic Games.

"I understand they want heightened security but this way is the completely wrong way to do it," said Weekherlin.

Internet forums for travelers and Beijing residents are buzzing with complaints and tips on circumventing the rules. A popular site is The China Visa Blog, started by German businessman Juergen Weckehrin to help navigate the new rules.

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"I understand they want heightened security but this way is the completely wrong way to do it," said Weckehrin.
**State**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three weeks ago, Screen Actors Guild president Alan Rosenberg insisted his union would vote for a better contract deal than Holllywood writers got after their 100-day strike.

But just nine days into negoti­ations, the guild is far from a deal and finds itself under pressure to settle quickly, as its members note the idea of a walkout and another ac­tions union prepares to negotiate an agreement that could undercut SAG's demands.

In addition, the guild must make its case without significant support from writers and direc­tors, who settled their contract disputes earlier.

• • •

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) A landlord couple accused of cutting the supports under a rented house, the San Francisco apartment facing felony charges in an alleged scheme to remove tenants into leaving.

Prosecutors say 33-year-old software engineer Kip Macy and 32-year-old real estate agent Nicole Macy told workers to cut a hole in a tenant's floor after he successfully fought eviction in court.

The couple also allegedly shut off his electricity, cut his phone line and had workers use a hole in his drywall for food and floral delivery. Authorities arrested the pair Tuesday and charged them with felony stalking, burglary and con­spiracy and other counts.

**National**

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite best efforts to keep school writing assignments formal, two-thirds of teach­ers admit in a survey that emoti­ons and other informal styles have crept in.

The Pew Internet and Ameri­can Life Project, in a study released Thursday, also found that teens are keep blogs or use social-networking sites like Facebook or News Corp.'s MySpace have a greater tendency to slip nonstandard elements into assignments.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A mural in a subway station is worth $15 million, more than the cash­strapped transit agency expected, raising questions about how it should be cared for once it is re­moved before the station is demol­ished.

"We did not expect it to be that much," Port Authority of Allegheny County spokeswoman Jodi McNeil said Thursday. "We don't have the wherewithal to be a caretaker of such a valuable piece."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Youth host camps and youth ref­uge services are using deceptive market­ing practices when trying to con­vince parents of troubled kids to try the programs, a federal investigation has found.

The programs — also referred to as residential treatment facilities, behavior modification programs or therapeutic boarding schools — have been under congressional in­vestigation for about a year. It's esti­mated that at least 20,000 U.S. teens attend such facilities.

**International**

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's former communist rebels were declared the biggest party in a new governing assembly Thursday. While the Maoists won't have a majority, they are expected to usher in sweeping changes for the poor Himalayan nation.

"The first meeting of the Con­stituent Assembly will end the monarchy and establish a republic; there will be no compromise," the Maoist's leader, Prachanda, told reporters Thursday.

LONDON (AP) — A Brit­ish court has overturned the gov­ernment's decision to deny Snook Dogg a visa after he was involved in an airport lounge brawl in 2006. The Guardian newspaper says a panel of immigration judges has rejected an attempt by Britain's Home Office to keep the 36-year­old U.S. rapper out of the country.

"A third arm because I could block bounces in beer pong."

— Justin McCarthy, mechanical engineering junior

**Briefs**

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**The forbidden Kingdom (PG-13)**

- **96 min.**
- **The Good:** An excellent "slick escapade fantasy" (as per the Philadelphia Inquirer).
- **The Bad:** Its moralistic message is Its downfall.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**The Game (R)**

- **92 min.**
- **The Good:** Perhaps the most well-crafted documentary of any live concert to date.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**Snow Angels (R)**

- **106 min.**
- **The Good:** Impressive special effects and fight scenes, playful humor and a fresh take on an aged genre.
- **The Bad:** May not live up to the expectations of kung fu purists.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

---

**The Bad:**

- **An extremely emotional, unsettling film — not necessarily a bad thing, but beware.**
- **May collapse short toward the end.**
- **Those easily offended may not enjoy the film's crude sense of humor.**

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**Nim's Island (PG)**

- **104 min.**
- **The Good:** An entertaining, farcical romance with impressive acting and authentic costumes and sets.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**The Bad:**

- **Semi-interesting characters lie behind a thin veneer.**
- **Impressive special effects and fight scenes, playful humor and a fresh take on an aged genre.**

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

---

**Nim's Island (PG)**

- **96 min.**
- **The Good:** Nim (Breslin) enjoys life on a utopian island, until her father goes missing and she writes to her favorite author for help in finding him.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**Smart People (R)**

- **95 min.**
- **The Good:** Perhaps the most well-crafted documentary of any live concert to date.

([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))

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**The Bad:**

- **Absurdly cheesy story is filled with too many plot twists. Not up to Pacino standards.**
- **May collapse short toward the end.**
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- **A predictable film that fails to reach its potential (and would have benefited from Fey's writing).**
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([Metacritic.com](http://www.metacritic.com))
Harold and Kumar have the munchies — again. And this time, it takes them all the way to Cuba in their newest movie, "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay."

A sequel four years in the making, the bizarro pair of Harold and Kumar — played by John Cho and Kal Penn — are now finding trouble on an international level. And even the actors suggest the sequel has more to offer.

"Well, first and foremost, I would say that this one, the new movie, has a plot," Cho said during a conference call.

The movie does indeed have a plot, and it's a complicated one at that. The two stoned slackers are no longer wandering the wilderness for delicious White Castle burgers; they're trying to outrun authorities who suspect they're terrorists.

Unfortunately, Kumar just can't leave home without his bong, which ends up being mistaken for a bomb. A lot more is at stake this time around besides some burgers, and while the boys try to prove their innocence, hilarity and grossness ensue (of course). Both Neil Patrick Harris and Chris Meloni make cameos.

"I don't think it's a political film in terms of taking a stance on anything, but definitely it inherently deals with some of the pop culture that surrounds the political sphere right now. I mean, we've got a caricature of President Bush in the movie, so you can't deny that you're playing with the idea of politics," Penn said.

But don't expect to see "Harold and Kumar 3: Munchies in Iraq" in theaters any time soon.

"I'm not comfortable doing that sort of stuff at all, which is why you do it as an actor," Penn added. "If you played characters that were similar to you all the time, it would be pretty boring, I think. I don't watch a lot of comedies, and I don't watch a lot of gross-out comedies."

On the other hand, Cho is open to the idea of possibly playing Harold in the future, despite the Emmy-winning actor's preference for participating.

"I think it would depend on how people react to this one," Cho said of the possibility of another "Harold and Kumar." "Really it just depends on whether people vote with their dollars for this movie, just like the first one."

From a desk job to a dream job: folk star comes to SLO

Big breaks are rare in the music business. Even more unusual is when they fall into your lap.

For singer/songwriter Amy Obenski, the unusual has happened — not only once, but twice.

Even if you've never heard of her, you may already be familiar with her music; as some of Obenski's songs have appeared in the popular television shows "Made" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Five years ago, Obenski was working a desk job in San Jose, leaving her childhood dreams of becoming a singer on the back burner. However, she soon quit her nine-to-five job to pursue a full-time career in music.

"It was something I wanted to do my whole life," Obenski said. "I wanted to switch my life and start pursuing my passions."

Growing up, she sang in choirs and began playing the piano at an early age; the genre of jazzy folk-rock seemed the perfect fit for Obenski.

After adding acoustic guitar to her musical repertoire, she wrote her first album, "What We Tell," which was released in 2003.

Obenski's lucky day came in 2005, when she received a mysterious e-mail from MTV executives asking to use her music. "I wanted to switch my life and start pursuing my passions."

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Amy Obenski, whose songs have been featured on Grey's Anatomy and MTV's Made series, will play at Linnaea's Café at 8 p.m. Saturday.

**Obenski continued from page 6**

her songs in several episodes of the popular MTV series "Made." Apparently an executive heard one of Obenski's songs on a friend's iPod, and it made an impression. Not bad for a striving musician.

Fast forward to 2007, after the release of her second album, "Kite," when Obenski again received a random e-mail, this time from an editor of ABC's Grey's Anatomy. The editor had used one of Obenski's songs in a scene on a whim, and the director loved it.

"Getting my songs on television was a complete surprise," Obenski said. "I didn't see it coming. I never try to play a specific type of music; I just write what feels natural to me."

What comes naturally to Obenski is her ethereal vocals and infectious choruses, which sometimes brood with melancholy and at other times gleam with hope. Add some gentle piano ballads and acoustic strumming to the mix and you have an idea of what can be found on her latest album.

With the exposure from Grey's Anatomy, Obenski's song "Canoe" was propelled to No. 23 on last year's iTunes folk music charts.

As a graduate in environmental studies from UC Santa Cruz, Obenski continues her interest in protecting the outdoors through her music. Last year she played in the Take Back Your Forest benefit concert, aimed at raising funds for the purchase and protection of Santa Cruz forestland from loggers and developers.

When not performing in her hometown, Obenski can be found touring the Bay Area as well as other parts of the West Coast. She'll be bringing her live performance to Linnaea's Café Saturday night for an 8 p.m. show.

In an age where it seems hard to get noticed, Obenski has already made her mark within her genre while at the same time turning a lifelong aspiration into a reality.

"The independent music movement is here," Obenski said. "Anyone who has talent and desire can do it; it's just a matter of putting your mind to it."

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In 1970, the Beatles broke up. Apollo 13 made it back to earth. Juni Hendrix’s death, four students at Kent State University were killed in an anti-war protest, and construction of the World Trade Center was completed. Looking back, history 1970 marked a year of change, unrest, and turmoil, but also new beginnings.

In September 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a grassoL movement and “teach in” on environmental issues. (Remember that at this time, air pollution was seen as a sign of economic prosperity, every passenger car was a V-8, loud, gas-sipping steel tank, and conversations about the environment among politicians were few and far between.) Months later, the New York Times reported, “Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation’s campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam.” And sure enough, on April 22, 1970, under the leadership of Sen. Nelson, more than 20 million Americans participated in a day of education, celebration and community service for the first-ever Earth Day.

Ask your parents. Some probably celebrated, protested or cleaned up a creek, while others may have rejected the event as another dirty hippie party. But one thing is for sure: April 22, 1970 changed America as we know it today. Earth Day launched the environment into national conversation and sent a strong signal to Washington, D.C. Following this monumental grassroL event was a wave of government action, including the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act.

Over the years, Earth Day grew to be a critical event to educate and push for stronger environmental policies. Earth Day 1990 involved more than 200 million people from 141 countries. This event focused on recycling worldwide and provided a huge boost to attention of the United Nations Rio De Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, which involved 171 nations (most of which were the nation’s presidents or heads of state) and nearly 20,000 participants. This two-week conference focused on toxicity, water scarcity, and other environmental issues, but it is most remembered for an agreement made on the Climate Change Convention. This agreement eventually led to the Kyoto Protocol (which the U.S. still hasn’t signed, but that’s another column for another time).

The Earth Day Network of 17,000 environmental organizations worldwide predicted that this year, more than 500 million people participated in different Earth Day activities. This year’s focus was on climate change, and with the Kyoto Protocol set to expire in 2012, there couldn’t be a more important time to elevate the discussion for the next international climate agreement.

Just as concerned citizens in 1970 and 1990 raised crucial environmental issues to a national and global level, we have the power to elevate the conversation on the challenges of our generation: climate change. We can start by making changes on campus, but also, when in chorus with more than a half billion others, we can help change the world.

Since Cal Poly officially celebrated Earth Day last week, and you are invited to join in on an important discussion on climate change. Next Tuesday, April 29, in Chumash Auditorium at 11 a.m., British polar explorer Robert Swan will deliver a keynote address about the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving our polar ice caps. Swan will sail into Morro Bay Harbor on a renewable energy power boat as part of the worldwide journey for Cleaner Energy. “I encourage the entire Cal Poly community to attend this discussion and join the world in celebrating our wonderful planet. Chad Worth is an industrial engineering senior, president of the Employer Poly Coalition and an environmental columnist for the Mustang Daily.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Students and guns: an unwise combination that prevents nothing

As I read the article explaining the Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) and their reasons to allow certified individuals to carry concealed weapons on campus, I became slightly disconcerted about a few of the points being made.

Primarily, the legal age to merely apply for a concealed weapons permit in the state of California excludes all but a minute percentage of on-campus student living situations, avoiding most who “live in close quarters.” Secondly, as a stringent requirement to obtain the concealed weapon permit here in California, no one should be able to discern that a weapon is on the person carrying it. A realization that a massive revolver falling out of a backpack is a mere dramatization of the issue, but does send a very pessimistic, inaccurate message.

Because of my familiarity with firearms, understanding of the state’s requirements for the permit process, and observations of campus police presence, I have to agree that, at least for Cal Poly, a permit to carry concealed weapons on a college campus is not a stella idea.

My reasons are as follows: according to the California Concealed Weapons Permit application criteria, “The mere fear of victimization or the desire to carry a firearm is insufficient to obtain a permit.” As tragic as the assaults on college campuses have been, the number of people killed in proportion to the number of students that attend a higher educational facility is minuscule. Many, many more people are murdered with firearms outside campus boundaries on a daily basis than within this academic environment. Earth Day 1990 involved more than 200 million people from 141 countries. This event focused on recycling worldwide and provided a huge boost to attention of the United Nations Rio De Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, which involved 171 nations (most of which were the nation’s presidents or heads of state) and nearly 20,000 participants. This two-week conference focused on toxicity, water scarcity, and other environmental issues, but it is most remembered for an agreement made on the Climate Change Convention. This agreement eventually led to the Kyoto Protocol (which the U.S. still hasn’t signed, but that’s another column for another time).

The Earth Day Network of 17,000 environmental organizations worldwide predicted that this year, more than 500 million people participated in different Earth Day activities. This year’s focus was on climate change, and with the Kyoto Protocol set to expire in 2012, there couldn’t be a more important time to elevate the discussion for the next international climate agreement.

Just as concerned citizens in 1970 and 1990 raised crucial environmental issues to a national and global level, we have the power to elevate the conversation on the challenges of our generation: climate change. We can start by making changes on campus, but also, when in chorus with more than a half billion others, we can help change the world.

Since Cal Poly officially celebrated Earth Day last week, and you are invited to join in on an important discussion on climate change. Next Tuesday, April 29, in Chumash Auditorium at 11 a.m., British polar explorer Robert Swan will deliver a keynote address about the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving our polar ice caps. Swan will sail into Morro Bay Harbor on a renewable energy power boat as part of the worldwide journey for Cleaner Energy. “I encourage the entire Cal Poly community to attend this discussion and join the world in celebrating our wonderful planet.

Chad Worth is an industrial engineering senior, president of the Employer Poly Coalition and an environmental columnist for the Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appalled by student’s reaction to Christian fundamentalist

I would like to write about the incident that took place on campus last week in which a person did something appalling. This person held a sign stating a disgusting personal attack that I will not repeat, and also stated that I hated certain individuals. No, I am not talking about the Christian fundamentalist, I am talking about the Cal Poly student and employee.

I think there are some questionable things the fundamentalist did as well. However, the fundamentalist was a visitor without educational credentials or academic standing. The student and employee, on the other hand, was just that, a student, of Cal Poly nonetheless. I thought this was one of the few places left in the world where arguments could be debated, discussed and criticized in an academic manner. Instead, I saw a student who had been screened by Cal Poly’s “intellectual” professionals.

This past week showed me there is nothing special about attending Cal Poly. I am just as likely to be here as any other student who commit the fallacy of ad hominem, who label groups as hated by God, and who ridicule instead of discuss. This student exposed Cal Poly, and the rest of the American university system, for the sham that it is.

Abel Barba

Philosophy junior

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school so she can become a pathologist, but has always wanted to go to the Olympics and hopes to one day go pro.

"Running is my passion and I would do it for the rest of my life if I could," Byrd says.
Pickett has Olympic aspirations of her own.

"The season's going really well," Pickett says. "I set (personal records) and I qualified for regionals."
Pickett has been jumping for just four years, starting track her freshman year of high school after an accomplished gymnastics career.

"Being a gymnast, it came naturally to me," Pickett says. "But it was time for a change in my life. Gymnastics took a lot out of me."

She won the Ohio state championship in the long jump in 2000, and was a two-time Junior Olympic qualifier while at Urbana High in Urbana, Ohio before visiting Baylor and Michigan State and ultimately committing to Cal Poly.

Now, besides majoring in kinesiology, Pickett is focusing on adapting her jumping technique.

"In the long jump, I've got to work on keeping my eyes up — I always look down," she says.

The freshman is also trying to perfect using the hitch-kick technique, which means she would have to stop throwing her arms and head back when she jumps, and basically run in the air instead.

"I want to do the best that I can and help the team," Pickett says.

Cal Poly will host UC Santa Barbara in a dual meet May 3.

Big Hurt returns and helps A's win

Oakland A's designated hitter Frank Thomas hits a ground ball to third, against the Minnesota Twins in Oakland on Thursday.

Oakland A's designated hitter Frank Thomas hits a ground ball to third, against the Minnesota Twins in Oakland on Thursday.

OAKLAND — Frank Thomas won in his return to Oakland. Rajai Davis got three hits in his Athletics debut.

Yet it was Dominic Murphy who delivered all the power.

With two new and familiar faces in the starting lineup, the A's jumped on Minnesota starter Francisco Liriano for six runs in the first inning on the way to an 11-2 victory over the Twins in the rubber game Thursday.

Murphy hit solo shots in the fifth and sixth innings for his first and second homers of the season and first career multihomer game. Thomas razzed him about it afterward.

"He was giving me a hard time — 'Oh, it's that easy, huh?'" Murphy said with a grin.

Mike Sweeney — whose playing time will probably diminish with the addition of Thomas — had a two-run double off the wall in left in the fourth, a day after connecting for his first home run in 40 games.

"Looking at the lineup, in the cleanup spot as designated hitter, I'm just happy we got a win," Thomas said.

The Big Hurt agreed to terms with the A's after being released Sunday by the Toronto Blue Jays and went 4-for-3 with two walks, receiving a warm welcome back from the crowd. He returned to the cleanup spot as designated hitter, which will be his regular role again for Oakland after he was a catalyst in the team's 2006 playoff run and AL West championship.

"I didn't feel out of place. It really felt like I just left," Thomas says. "I'm happy to be back. I'm happy to shake the rust off today because they pitched me tough. I'm sure their game plan was not to give in because they knew I missed a whole week, so they threw some sliders and breaking balls and ran the bat in on me. I'm just happy we got big win."

Davis was claimed off waivers from the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday and appeared in his first game, getting a single in the first, triple in the fifth and another hit in the sixth. Murphy homered to left to start the fifth, Davis tripled, then Kazuo Suzuki hit an RBI double to chase Brian Bass.

"Our offense was really rolling today," A's manager Bob Geren says. "I think Frank in there drawing pitches was a big win."

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Arkansas running back Daren McFadden runs onto the field before the kickoff of a football game against Troy in September 2007.

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4. Oakland - Al Davis suggests he won't take Daren McFadden, the Arkansas running back. That probably means he will. But he really doesn't need a pass rusher. 

5. Kansas City: The Chiefs are thrilled. They desperately need O.T. help, but other than Jake Long, the O's are rated slightly lower. Ryan Clady, O.T., Boise State, may be a reach, but sometimes 'reaches' work out better than obvious choices.

6. New York Jets: In this scenario, the Jets take Laurent Robinson, WR, Arkansas. In other scenarios, they trade out of here - if they can.

7. New England: BRANDEN ALBERT, G-T-Virginia, is "snoring" at the top of the list because word has gotten out that Bill Belichick likes him - strange, because no one else is tighter with him than Billy B. Still, Albert played for Bill's old associate Al Groh in college and can upgrade the O.T. that runs over in the Super Bowl.

8. Baltimore: There is a hole at Q.B. and different opinions on Ryan. There are other needs and Q.B. might be filled with a trade to the late part of the first round for Chad Henne of Michigan, probably the "hottest" of the three second-tier Q.B.'s. Go with MATT RYAN, Q.B., Boston College.

9. Cincinnati: The Bengals make their fans happy by choosing SEDRICK ELLIS, DT, Southern California. Ellis has "dropped" a bit in the overanalysis of the last couple weeks.

10. New Orleans: If KEITH RIVERS, LB, Southern California, lasts long, the Saints have to take him, although they can use a cornerback, too. Unless, of course, they trade up for Dorse. 

11. Buffalo: The Bills may benefit from Malcolm Kelly's bad workouts (and the whining about it by Kelly and his agent). So now Kelly, the tall wideout from Buffalo, could probably be available now on the second round. Or the third. LEO D'S McKEEVIN, CB, Troy.

12. Denver: The Broncos have a pretty mediocre recent draft record. They thought for a long time that Clady would be available. Instead, it's CHRIS WILLIAMS, OT, Van­ derbilt.

13. Carolina: Jordan Gross is probably in his last season with the Panthers and OT's are disappearing quickly. JEFF OTAH, OT, Pitt.

14. Chicago: It's time for the Bears to get help for Cedric Benson, or someone to send him to the bench. RBs are plentiful in the second and third rounds, but RASHARD MENDENHALL, RB, Penn State, is a local kid who was recruited to college by Ron Turner, Chicago's offensive coordinator.

15. Detroit: The Lions can get a running back later. DT takes priority with DERRICK HARVEY, DE, Florida.


17. Minnesota: If the Vikings can land Jared Allen from Kansas City before the draft, they either won't have this pick or will use it on PHILIP MERLING, DE, Clemson.

18. Houston: Matt Schaub gets battled while the Texans take MACK CHENJENS, CB, South Florida.


20. Tampa Bay: If they stay here, AQUHIB TALIB, CB, Kansas, fits the "Tampa Two" zone.

21. Washington: The Redskins need a pass rusher. CALAIS CAMPBELL, D L, Miami, could have used another year in school, but they seem pretty set on him.

22. Dallas: Jerry Jones wants an Arkansas 3-LB, FELIX JONES, RB, Arkansas, isn't麦克丹但 can give the Cowboys what Julius Jones did.

23. Pittsburgh: The Steelers like to build from the inside out - offensive line to the backfield. GOSHER, CHERILUS, OT, Boston College.

24. Tennessee: Jeff Fisher made the call. Late riser TAJH JACKSON, DE/ LB, California, gives him a certified game-breaker.


26. Jacksonville: JAMES HAJI, D L, Illinois, who's almost as tall as As Break, is a high-risk draft that has real interest, but not a converted Q.B.

27. San Diego: Michael Turner is gone to Atlanta and LaDanian Tomlinson is getting latticed. JONATHAN STEWART, RB, Oregon.


29. San Francisco: The 49ers would be picking second but traded their pick to take Joe Staley last year.

30. JERO UFO MAY, LB, Tennessee.

31. Green Bay: DUSTIN KELLER, TE, Purdue, although he could be obtained later if they trade down a bit with a team seeking a Q.B. such as Brough, Michigan's Chad Henne or Delmarva's Joe Flacco. Can they find a Q.B? It will likely seem to like TYRELL JOHNSON, S, Arkansas State, even though Ken­ ny Phillips of Miami is considered the highest-rated safety.
Ohio track tandem teams up at Poly

Cal Poly track and field freshmen have already qualified for Big West competition and strive to reach various West Regional marks

Two Cal Poly track and field freshmen, Jerae Byrd and Jasmine Pickett, have more than the first letter of their names in common. Both hail from Ohio — 2,341 miles away from the sunny landscapes of San Luis Obispo.

How did two Ohioans end up so far from home?

Byrd and Pickett have been promising in return.

For the Mustangs, both Byrd and Pickett have been promising in return.

The Mustangs have won eight of 11, continue Big West Conference play by hosting rival Gauchos tonight.

“{and} they’re getting outs,” Lee said.

Lee added the return of Smith, who missed the Mustangs’ first two Big West Conference series, in which they went 1-5, “gave (the Mustangs) some stability, especially from a defensive standpoint.”

Some of the Mustangs’ recently helpful relief performances have come courtesy of sophomore right-hander D.J. Maudlin, who hurled 9⅓ scoreless frames during a recent four-game stretch for a win and two saves, and senior right-hander Brian Gerson, who has picked up two victories from 3½ innings against Fresno State and six against Pacific.

Jerae Byrd ran the 100 hurdles in a season-best 14.56 seconds Saturday.

For her long-term goal, Byrd is considering graduate school.

For her long-term goals, Byrd says, “It’s all about rhythm, and the technical demand is intense.”

In order to meet regional standards, Byrd will have to run the 100 hurdles in 13.92, and the 400 hurdles in 58.82.

Byrd has met the Big West bars in the 100 hurdles in 13.92.

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Jasmine Pickett qualified regionally in the long jump at 19 feet, 8⅜ inches April 11.

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