Calif. gay weddings available soon

Lisa Lef
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Same-sex couples in some California counties will be able to marry as soon as June 14, the president of the California county clerks association said.

Stephen Weir, who heads the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, said Monday he was told by the Office of Vital Records that clerks would be authorized to hand out marriage licenses as soon as that date, which is a Saturday and exactly 30 days after the California Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage should be legal.

The court's decisions typically take effect after 30 days, barring further legal action.

"They are shooting for the 14th," said Weir, adding that the state planned to give California's 58 counties advice this week for implementing the historic change so local officials can start planning.

Suanne Buggy, a spokesperson for the California Department of Public Health, which oversees the vital records office, would not confirm Monday that state officials have settled the matter of when counties can or must start extending marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"We will be giving guidance out to the counties soon," Buggy said.

According to Weir, it would be up to each county clerk to decide whether to open their offices to gay and lesbian couples on that Saturday or to wait until the following Monday.

Some clerks have said they would try to accommodate couples at the earliest possible date, depending on their staffing and anticipated demand, he said.

The court's decision does take effect on June 14, couples could, in theory, plan to obtain their licenses and take their vows at 12:01 a.m. that day, he said.

As it happens, Weir's office in Martinez already holds open hours on the second Saturday of each month, so serving couples who want to get hitched as soon as possible won't be a problem, he said. He and his partner of 18 years hope to be the first ones to the knot.

"Just because we have been so close to it, and so far, I would really like to be first," Weir said.

An effort, however, is under way to stay the Supreme Court's decision until voters can decide the issue with an initiative planned for the November ballot. The measure would overrule the justices' decision and amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage.

Justices have until the ruling's effective date to weigh the request, but could give themselves longer to consider it, attorneys have said. Another complicating factor is that the Supreme Court also directed a midlevel appeals court that upheld the state's one-man-one-woman marriage laws a year ago to issue a new order legalizing same-sex marriage, and it's not clear when the appeals court would comply.

Massachusetts is the only other state to legalize gay marriage, something it did in 2004. More than 9,500 same-sex couples in that state have wed.

One audit worth liking

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

Graduating on time requires a lot more than taking the right classes at the right time; it also includes filling out a graduation evaluation and meeting with advisers frequently, among other things.

Associated Students Inc. and the Office of Academic Records know how hard this can be, and are nearing completion of a computerized degree audit program to help students track their graduation status.

The audit program, called Poly Progress, has actually been in the making for several years, according to Associated Students Inc. President Brandon Souza, who has supported the grad audit.

"It was a major focus of my platform when I ran for president, as it was of my opponents," he said. "I knew it was something students wanted."

According to Associate Registrar Maureen Muller, the purpose of Poly Progress is to give students an opportunity to check their progress toward graduation, without having to fill out grad evaluations or check unofficial transcripts. Students will be able to check their progress toward their degree at any time during their college career.

The construction of Poly Progress suffered a setback with the switch the California State University system made in fall 2006 to PeopleSoft, the current application students and faculty use to see Audit, page 2
Mechanics, police say gas theft changing with times

Jeff Karoub
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Dale Forrin is getting a new kind of customer at his Detroit auto repair shop — customers who hand him a funnel to fill up their gas tanks, a method police say is a bigger problem as prices rise.

Forrin said the tank-puncturing method has replaced several tank punctured or drilled by thieves thirsting for the near-$4-a-gallon fuel made.

"That's the new way," he said. "I'd never seen it before. Gas got up this high."

While gas station drive-offs and siphoning are far more common methods of stealing gas, reports of tank and line puncturing are starting to trickle into police departments and repair shops across the country.

"It's something we've seen before, but it's a change," Troy Police Lt. Gerry Scherlinck said of the rash of cases his department has investigated in the past few years.

Gasoline prices surged just before the long Memorial Day holiday weekend and crept to a new record national average $3.737 for a gallon of gas, reports of tank and line puncturing are starting to trickle into police departments and repair shops across the country.

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"It's something we've see...
PTSD cases jump to 40,000 since 2003

Pauline Jelinek
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The number of troops diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder jumped by roughly 50 percent in 2007, the most violent year so far in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pentagon records show.

In the first time the Defense Department has disclosed a number for PTSD cases from the two wars, officials said nearly 40,000 troops have been diagnosed with the illness since 2003, though they believe many more are likely keeping their illness a secret.

"They're ill-effective. The drinking age should be lowered to 18 anyway."
— Kyle Dunkle, history freshman

"I don't really know because I don't hear much about them."
— Ginny Siverly, biology senior

"I honestly don't know. I don't drink and don't hang out with people who do."
— Hannah Peyken, biology senior

"Not at all effective. They haven't worked for me."
Jay Graviano, wine and viticulture freshman

More than 28,000 soldiers altogether were diagnosed with the disorder over the last five years.

The Marine Corps had more than 2,100 cases in 2007, compared to 1,366 in 2006. They have had more than 5,000 PTSD cases diagnosed since 2003.

Schoomaker attributed the big rise partly to the fact that officials started an electronic record system in 2004 that captures more information, and to the fact that as time goes on the people keeping records are more knowledgeable about the illness.

He also blamed increased exposure of troops to combat. Factors increasing combat exposure in 2007 included President Bush's troop buildup, increased violence in both wars and the fact that a number of troops are serving their second, third or fourth tours of duty — a factor mental health experts say dramatically increases stress.

In order to supply enough forces for the buildup, officials also extended tour lengths to 15 months from 12, another factor that caused extra emotional strain.

Schoomaker said he believes PTSD is widely misunderstood by the press and the public — and that what is often just normal post-traumatic anxiety and stress is mistaken for full-blown PTSD cases.

Experts say many troops have symptoms of stress that can be managed with treatment and should not be confused with cases that develop into a mental disorder.

"I don't think right now we...have good numbers."
Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker said Tuesday.

That's partly because officials have been encouraging troops to get help, even if it means they go to private civilian therapists and don't report it to the military. The 40,000 cases cover only those that the military has tracked.

Officials have estimated that roughly 50 percent of troops with mental health problems don't get treatment because they're embarrassed or fear they will hurt their careers.

An accounting of diagnosed cases released by Schoomaker to reporters Tuesday shows the hardest hit last year were Marines and Army soldiers, the two ground forces bearing the brunt of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army reported more than 10,000 new cases last year, compared to more than 6,800 the previous year.
Some U.S. farms outsourced to Mexico

Jessica Bernstein-Wax

Antonio Martinez used to pay smugglers thousands of dollars each year to sneak him into the United States to manage farm crews. Now the work comes to him.

Superior lettuce pickers in central Mexico, Martinez earns just half of the $1,100 a week he made in the U.S. But the job has its advantages, including working without fear of immigration raids.

Martinez, now a legal employee of U.S.-owned VegBacker de Mexico, is exactly the kind of worker more American farms are seeking. Many have moved their fields to Mexico, where they can find qualified people, often with U.S. experience, who can’t be deported.

"Because I never moved my family to the U.S., I was always alone there," said Martinez, 45, who could never get a work permit, even after 16 years in agriculture in California and Arizona.

"When I got the opportunity to be close to my family, doing similar work, I didn’t even have to think about it!"

American companies now farm more than 45,000 acres of land in three Mexican states, employing about 11,000 people, a 2007 survey by the U.S. farm group Western Growers shows.

There are no hard facts to document how much the acreage has grown. But U.S. direct investment in Mexican agriculture, which includes both American companies moving their operations to Mexico and setting up Mexican partnerships, has swelled sevenfold to $600 million since 2004, Mexico’s Economy Department told The Associated Press.

Major corporations such as Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Bunge have invested across Latin America for decades, particularly in countries like Brazil, where agribusiness is booming.

Some small farmers have cultivated parts of Mexico for much longer, seeking to secure year-round supplies of fruits and vegetables, while taking advantage of cheap labor and proximity to the U.S.

But the latest move south has been fueled by uncertainty, farmers say: a way to continue to deliver cheap, fresh farm goods amid the current U.S. political standoff over an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants, the majority from Mexico.

Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids have targeted major agricultural producers, including Del Monte Fresh Produce in Portland, Oregon, and several large packing plants across the nation, scaring away immigrants and persuading many agricultural employers to clean up their hiring practices.

"Employers can’t find legal workers to replace this huge number of illegal workers," said James Hoh, an agricultural labor economist and independend consultant based in Washington. "Their only option is to go where the workers are."

Many of the growers, once based in California’s Salinas Valley, are also heading south to escape high land prices and water shortages. Mexico is closer to eastern U.S. markets than California, they say. Shipping times to Atlanta are a day shorter from Mexico’s central Guanajuato state.

Not everyone in Mexico has welcomed U.S. companies. Mexican farmers complain that they have driven up land rental prices. Many local growers worry they can’t compete against big, foreign firms, said Felipe Sanchez, president of a farmers group in Guanajuato state.

"How can a ranch that farms 70 acres compete with a company that came to farm 10,000 acres?" Sanchez said. "We’ll become laborers on our own ranches."

Farm workers at U.S. companies in Mexico make two or three times Mexico’s minimum wage of $4.80 a day. But they still earn far less than the average $10.60 an hour that field workers in the United States made in January 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Juan Antonio Linares, 19, makes a tenth of his U.S. roofing income at Taylor Farms de Mexico’s vegetable-cooling plant in Guanajuato. But he has health insurance and can live nearby with his family — without the dangerous and expensive trek across the border.

Some experts argue that farmers simply need to raise U.S. wages to compete with other industries, something they say would help ease the labor crunch.

As the United States heads into a recession, more native-born workers might consider agricultural work if wages were high enough, said Harley Shaiken, director of the University of California at Berkeley’s Center for Labor American Studies.

"Labor shortage always is a question of at what pay rate," Shaiken said. "Very often, if the wages are artificially low, it will be very difficult to find a work force."

But Steve Scaroni said he did offer higher wages and still couldn’t find a steady work force in the U.S. Scaroni owns VegBacker, a California and Guanajuato-based company that grows lettuce, celery, cauliflower and other vegetables. VegBacker has struggled after forking out millions of dollars to launch its Mexico division two years ago.

The problem is that cheaper labor in Mexico often is offset by lower productivity and high training costs, especially when it comes to meeting U.S. food-safety standards.

"The only thing that's cheaper down here is diesel fuel and the labor per day," Scaroni said.

The Associated Press
China evacuates villagers after new flood threat

Andra Ang

About 80,000 people were evacuated Tuesday from downstream of an unstable earthquake-created dam that is threatening to collapse, and troops rushed to carve a trench to drain the water before it floods a village.

The threat of flooding from dozens of lakes swelling behind walls of mud and rubble that have plugged narrow valleys in parts of the disaster zone is worrying for millions of survivors.

Many of the people now released and the people were being sent to camps like the one outside Jiangyou, where an Associated Press reporter saw 12-15 people crammed into each of about 40 government-issued tents pitched on a hillside overlooking the river.

"We were told that so fast is the safest place for us to stay if the dam of the lake crashes," said a villager whose village of Huangshi was one of those emptied. "But we will have to move farther uphill if the situation turns out to be worse.

Troops on Tuesday used explosives to blow up tree stumps that were harpering heavy-duty excavators air-lifted by helicopter in recent days to the newly formed Tangjiashan lake near the town of Beichuan, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The magnitude-7.9 quake that struck Sichuan province May 12 sent a mass of dirt and rocks tumbling in the valley about two miles above the town in a spot not reached by roads, plugging a river that now forms the lake.

Elsewhere in the region, workers also used explosives to level some buildings that were left teetering by the quake — a further sign that officials have stopped rescue efforts in some places.

The number of deaths from the quake climbed toward 80,000 or more. China's Cabinet said Tuesday that 67,183 people were confirmed killed, with 20,790 still missing.

After shocks continued to rattle the region, causing more damage and injuries and jangling the already-frayed nerves of survivors. Two tremors Tuesday caused more than 420,000 houses to collapse in Qingxian county, Xinhua reported. Sixty-three people were killed, including six who were critically hurt.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured a magnitude-3.2 aftershock just after 4 p.m. (4 a.m. EDT) and one measuring 5.7 about a half-hour later.

In a live broadcast, state television showed heavy earth-moving equipment being used to carve a 200-yard channel to drain the water from the Tangjiashan lake.

"We are prepared to get rid of the trees by chopping and explosion. And after that, the second batch of equipment will be moved in," Lui Ning, chief engineer at the Ministry of Water Resources, was quoted saying on CCTV.

Downstream, officials rushed to evacuate people in the path of potential flooding. Xinhua said emergency workers loaded into the night to get 80,000 people out. Another group of about 80,000 have already been moved out of the valley, it said.

At Tangjiashan lake, hundreds of troops were working around the clock to dig a channel that would divert the rising waters before they breach the top of the rubble wall. Officials fear the loose soil and debris wall could crumble easily if the water starts cascading over the top, and send a torrent flowing down into the valley.

The lake now holds 34 billion gallons of water and was rising by more than 3 feet every 24 hours, Xinhua reported.

Tangjiashan is the largest of some 35 lakes created by rubble blocking rivers in the quake zone. Some rising floodwaters in the gap between now-holed walled valleys, though only Tangjiashan was posing a risk of another big catastrophe.

Adding to the urgency, thunderstorms were forecast for parts of Sichuan this week — a foretaste of the summer rainy season that accounts for more than 70 percent of the annual inches of rain that falls on the area each year.

Man-made dams in the mountainous region were also weakened by the quake, although official said there is no major threat.

At one dam site near the town of Mianyang, villagers would dig in nearby rice fields that had rains from the dam wall after the quake but that government workers had reinforced it with steel rods.

In the town of Yingxiu, explorers were used to demolish some damaged buildings, a new element to the massive cleanup operation. Teams have been pulling down crumbling buildings across Sichuan using mostly excavators, bulldozers and other heavy machinery.

Also Tuesday, health officials said higher-than-normal rates of stomach pains and fever had been reported among the millions of quake survivors, but that no major disease outbreaks had occurred.

About 5 million people were left homeless by the quake, and many are living in tents or makeshift camps clustered throughout the disaster zone.

Qi Xiaojun, the director of disease prevention at the Health Ministry, said the quake had knocked out much of the region's health infrastructure. He said 12 field hospitals had been erected and tens of thousands of health professionals sent into the zone.

"With the destruction by the quake, the living and sanitary conditions have worsened for the local population," Qi said in Beijing. "Their physical conditions are weakened; (they are) more vulnerable to disease."
Opposition supporters detained in Myanmar

**Associated Press**

YANGON, Myanmar — Already under fire for its record of human rights violations, Myanmar’s military regime detained about 20 members of a democracy activist’s opposition party Tuesday.

The security forces stepped up around Suu Kyi’s home, with about 20 plainclothes police officers standing guard while six trucks of riot police were on guard near her National League for Democracy headquarters.

Suu Kyi has been confined for 12 of the past 18 years to her home in Myanmar’s largest city, Yangon. She has long been the symbol of the regime’s brutal rule and the focus of a worldwide campaign that has lobbed for her release.

Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent efforts to overturn the regime led by Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

The junta has given some ground, promising to allow foreign observers into the most devastated areas.

Opposition supporters have expressed hope they will soon be able to help survivors — if the generals keep their word.

In its latest assessment report, the U.N. said the rate of 10-15 aid airlifts into Myanmar needed to be stepped up along with quick delivery to the hardest-hit areas.

"The critical danger remains of a potential second wave of deaths among those not so far reached or only reached with small amounts of assistance," the report said.

Her security has been reinforced.

The French aid agency Without Borders said its teams had entered remote villages around the Irrawaddy delta town of Bogalay where people had not eaten for two days.

The U.N. has estimated that less than half the 2.4 million people victimized by the storm have received emergency assistance.

Arthur H. Rotstein

Fresh images sent back by NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander during its first full day operating in the Martian north polar region showed most of its science instruments in good health, mission scientists said.

The one snag on the lander occurred when the protective shroud around the Phoenix' s robotic arm failed to unfurl all the way after touchdown, and now covers the arm.

Deputy project scientist Deborah Rass of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory said scientists still planned to start the process of unstowing the arm Tuesday, but it could take an extra day to fully stretch the arm.

"I would say this is an inconvenience," Bass said.

Since landing on Mars on Sunday, Phoenix has delighted scientists with the first-ever peek of the planet’s unexplored northern latitudes. The terrain where Phoenix sits its three legs is relatively flat with polygon-shaped slopes and the ground likely caused by the expansion and contraction of underground ice.

Phoenix is on a three-month mission to excavate the soil using an 8-foot-long robotic arm to reach the ice believed to be buried inches to a foot deep.

The lander will study whether the landing site could have supported primitive life. Among the things it will look for is whether the ice melted in Mars’ history and whether the soil samples contain traces of organic compounds, one of the building blocks of life.

On Monday, NASA released a black-and-white image captured during Phoenix’s descent by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which had a bird’s-eye view of the lander coming down on its parachute.

The image had been renewed annually.

Nyan Win, spokesman for her National League for Democracy, said her party’s opposition is believed to be expire at midnight Tuesday. The regime saying nothing, there has been uncertainty about the exact expiration.

Arthur H. Rotstein

Associated Press

**Boston Globe**

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Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc.
549-7750
U.N. peacekeepers, aid workers abusing kids

Edith Lederer

Associated Press

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed "deep concern" Tuesday after a leading children's charity said it uncovered evidence of widespread sexual abuse of children at the hands of U.N. peacekeepers and international aid workers.

The report by Save the Children UK, based on field research in southern Somalia, Ivory Coast and Haiti, described a flurry of sexual crimes against children as young as 6.

It said some children were denied food aid unless they granted sexual favors; others were forced to have sex or to take part in child pornography; many more were subjected to improper touching or kissing.

"The report shows sexual abuse has been widely underreported because children are afraid to come forward," Janeen Whitworth, chief executive of Save the Children UK, told Associated Press Television News.

"A tiny proportion of peacekeepers and aid workers are abusing the children they were sent to protect. It ranges from sex for food to coerced sex. It's despicable."

At the U.N. headquarters, spokeswoman Michele Montias said Ban is "deeply concerned" by the report.

"We welcome this report. It's fair, and I think it's essentially accurate," Montias said.

She noted the report states the United Nations has already undertaken steps designed to tackle the problem, from establishing conduct and discipline units in all U.N. missions to strengthening training for all categories of U.N. personnel. She said the United Nations also needs to strengthen its investigative capacity.

The study was based on research, confidential interviews and focus groups conducted last year. The charity emphasized it did not produce comprehensive statistics on the scale of abuse but did gather enough information to indicate the problem is severe.

The report said that more than half the children interviewed knew of cases of sexual abuse and that in many instances, children knew of 10 or more such incidents carried out by aid workers or peacekeepers.

Save the Children UK researchers, who met with 129 girls and 121 boys between the ages of 10 and 17, as well as a number of adults, found an "overwhelming" majority of the people interviewed would never report a case of abuse and had never heard of a case being reported.

The threat of retaliation, and the stigma attached to sex abuse, were powerful deterrents to coming forward, the report said.

Ann Buchanan, an Oxford University expert in statistical attempts to quantify rates of child abuse, said the topic is so taboo it is virtually impossible to come up with reliable numbers. But she said the new report provides a useful starting point.

"This will never be a statistical study," she said. "It's a pilot work exploring the start of an issue. All the research shows kids don't make it up."

Buchanan, who directs the Oxford Center for Research into Parenting and Children, said the biggest obstacle to accurate numerical studies of child sexual abuse is the reluctance of children to come forward and tell adults they have been taken advantage of.

Sexual abuse is a hugely difficult, sensitive area, and it's not something that you can usually do surveys about because kids feel terrible shame and are afraid to say what's happened to them," she said. "Given what we know about underreporting of sex abuse, I would say this report is probably true. They've gone about it as sensitively as you can."
On Thursday nights, country lovers flock to their Mecca: The Graduate

Breehan Yobe-Mellor

Alex Dunn was trying to teach members of the crowd how to wiggle their butts. She really was trying.

"Step, wiggle, wiggle. You can wiggle your butt or slide back if you’re a guy and you’re too cool to wiggle," she said. "I wiggle all the time, and that’s why I teach it."

For Dunn, a kinesiology sophomore and event coordinator for the Country Line Dancing Club (CLDC), it was all in a night’s work teaching line dancing.

"Teaching is the (most) fun and rewarding part of the club," said Dunn, who had never line danced until she came to Cal Poly. "I like getting feedback from people (and) hearing that they’re having fun."

The Graduate has been offering Country Night every Thursday for many years, but when Cal Poly’s Country Line Dancing Club formed four years ago, its members proposed teaching lessons at The Graduate.

see Yee-haw, page 10

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Scandinavian flick 'Reprise' brings back the bromance

Azure Gilman
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Nick Weldon
DAILY MUSTANG INFORMER
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On page 29 of Kanye West's recent venture into inspirational writing, "Thank You and You're Welcome," the intergalactic superstar boldly advises, "Believe in Yourself. You're Welcome," the intergalactic superstar and hunters, the message was already well-received. For the audience, ranging from the freshest Nikes and flashiest T-shirts in short of epic.

The mysterious voice sacrifices the unspoken words to the indie-est of backpacking experiences. Fearing that the bar had been set too high even for Mr. "Touch the Sky" himself, I went into the concert with a bit of skepticism. That didn't last long. Somewhere between Lupe Fiasco's 100-mile-per-hour opening and Rihanna's luminous foray into the mind of George Lucas, I realized I was witnessing something the world will be talking about for years to come.

But Friday's show at the United Center was more than just an indulgence in mind-blowing, mainstream entertainment. Kanye's vision, manifested in this masterpiece of artistic stimulation, is the new model for how a stadium should be properly rocked. Every minute detail, from the teaser lightshow before Kanye's lips to Rihanna's costume retouching mid-tour, has been closely scrutinized by Kanye to ensure that all four sets come together into one beautiful, cohesive experience.

The result is a five-hour marriage of the flashiest of Euro light shows with the bright of Fourth of July celebrations, emceed by "Glow in the Dark Tour," America does them best. Or they did, until the Norwegians took over.

"Reprise," director Joachim Trier's impressive feature film debut, explores the fictional writing of two aspiring young writers, Phillip (Anders Danielsen Lie) and Erik (Espen Klouman-Hoiner). A narrator weaves the film together, and the audience is never sure if the grand master author is telling a straight story or editing it as he goes along. The mysterious voice sacrifices the unspoken words to the indie-est of backpacking experiences. Fearing that the bar had been set too high even for Mr. "Touch the Sky" himself, I went into the concert with a bit of skepticism. That didn't last long. Somewhere between Lupe Fiasco's 100-mile-per-hour opening and Rihanna's luminous foray into the mind of George Lucas, I realized I was witnessing something the world will be talking about for years to come.

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Thank you, and you're welcome.
Endless possibilities for summer reading

Emily Bishop
DIANA STATE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Summer is the ideal time to visit the library or a book store to catch up on reading. Whether you’re a mystery lover or prefer nonfiction, you’re bound to find something you can’t put down till you’ve reached the last page. Here are some suggestions:

**Classics**
Cathy Van Brocklin, youth services librarian at the Ames Public Library in Ames, Iowa, suggests returning to literature classics.

“I think sometimes young adults get turned off the idea of reading the classics because we had to read them in school,” Van Brocklin said.

- **‘A Tale of Five Cities’** by Charles Dickens
  Indulge in this epic novel that takes place during the French Revolution.

- **‘20,000 Leagues Under the Sea’** by Jules Verne
  If you’re a fan of science fiction, "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” is the perfect deep sea quest to get lost in.

- **‘The Catcher in the Rye’** by JD Salinger
  Even though the book was written in 1945, you can probably relate to this tale about a teenage boy.

**Series**
The Harry Potter series may be over, but there are plenty of other series to get addicted to.

- **‘Group Gaff’** by Cecil von Ziegen
  The popular television show “Gossip Girl” is based on this series Van Brocklin said. The books about teenage girls who attend private school in Manhattan is perfect “beach reading” material.

- **‘The Notebooks of a Young Friendship’** by Ann Beattie
  Refresh your memory and read the series about four friends and the pair of jeans that strengthens their friendship before the second movie based on the series, “Notebook of a Young Friendship,” hits theaters Aug. 8.

- **‘The Ides Trilogy’** by Scott Westerfeld
  Lora Van Marel, library assistant in the youth area at the Ames Public Library said this series is addicting. It’s about a society in which you have plastic surgery to fix your flaws when you turn 16. However, a group of teenagers rebel, not wanting to change themselves, and become fugitives for their decision.

- **‘The Twilight Series’** by Stephenie Meyer
  Vampires are the subject of this suspenseful series. The fourth book in the series comes out Aug. 4.

**Fiction**

- **‘An Abundance of Katherines’** by John Green
  The novel’s name stems from the fact that the main character, Colin, has had 19 previous girlfriends all named Katherine. Find out more about Colin’s relationships with the Katherines as he and friends go on a road trip before college.

  “It’s a coming-of-age story,” Van Marel said.

- **‘The Book Thief’** by Markus Zusak
  The time period in this is the Holocaust, and a German girl’s family hides a Jewish person.
  The girl offers her insight as to what is going on around her.


- **‘What Happened to Cass McBride?’** by Gail Giles
  This novel is about a discouraged teenage boy who goes to extremes when he believes a popular girl caused his younger brother’s suicide — he decides to bury her alive.

  “I really like the two voices and just the circumstances of getting buried — you never want that to happen,” Van Marel said.

- **‘The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian’** by Sherman Alexie
  After a high school boy living on an Indian reservation leaves the reservation for public school, he is viewed negatively by the reservation for leaving for education. Cartoons drawn by the teenager add a twist to the novel.

- **‘Big Trouble’** by Dave Barry
  Van Marel recommends “Big Trouble” by humor columnist Dave Barry. The novel takes place in Florida and involves hit men and water guns, and includes 18 plus occurring simultaneously — you will surely not be bored.

**Mysteries**
If you’re looking for a page-gripping thriller and nail-biting suspense, look no further than author James Patterson who has written the popular “Maximum Ride,” “Alex Cross,” and “The Women’s Murder Club” series. According to Patterson’s Web site, two books are due out this summer: “Sail” by Patterson and Howard Roughan on June 9 and “The Dangerous Days of Daniel X” due out on July 22.

**Recently Released Fiction**

- **‘Bright Star Morning’ by Janet Foy**
  The controversial author who got caught for stretching the truth in his memoir “A Million Little Pieces” a few years ago is now receiving good reviews for his new fiction novel about Los Angeles.

- **‘Change of Heart’ by Josh Pencilm**
  Pencilm weaves a tale involving religious, the death penalty, and a person in need of a heart transplant.

**Autobiography**

- **‘Audition’ by Barbara Walters**
  Here’s your chance to read the real story about Barbara Walters written by Walters herself.

- **‘American (The Books)’ by Jon Stewart and the writers of ‘The Daily Show’**
  “America” provides the popular “Daily Show”’s take on history, complete with their dose of political humor.

  “It reads like a social studies textbook but it’s all completely fake,” Van Marel said.

  The book follows through in its textbook format, containing quizzes at the end of each chapter.

- **‘You Can Never Find a Riddle When It Matters: The World on One Cartoon a Day’** by Bill Watterson
  After college, Watterson traveled around the world with just a backpack. Van Marel said the cartoons he draws on each day of his trip about his daily experiences “at times are funny but moving.”

- **‘Amplifying’ by Chris Coucher**
  While technically nonfiction, Van Marel suggests any book by Chris Coucher and said his books on his experiences as a high school guidance counselor are very popular.

- **‘Marley & Me’ by John Grogan**
  The story of Grogan’s yellow lab retriever provides an intimate look at his family’s life, beginning when he and his wife first get Marley, and continuing as they have children.

  “It’s very heartwarming and he writes in a way you feel a part of his family,” Van Marel said. “It’s a really intimate look at their life.”

Even if you’re not a dog lover, Van Marel said the book is still an enjoyable read.

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**Little Grad Notes**

Your message will run in the classified section of the Mustang Daily on Monday, June 6th.

**Deadline** for submissions: Mon., May 19, 2014.

Bring this ad to the Mustang Daily Office. Building 25 room 225 with $2.00.

Check or Exact Change Required.

Restrictions: One copy.

The Mustang Daily reserves the right to decline publication of advertising materials.
When Super Tuesday rolled around, Republicans and Democrats alike supported different candidates. No candidate seemed to have that unity edge—until the results came in for Republicans. John McCain had all but officially become the presidential nominee of the Republican party.

On that day, I voted for Mitt Romney. One major reason I did this was because of his strong focus on the economy. His strong fiscal conservatism made me confident that he would be able to stimulate our economy. Likewise, I know that many other Republicans voted for Rudy Giuliani due to his firm leadership principles in New York City and his strong stance against terrorists.

As McCain himself, the 2008 election became clear, those who didn’t vote for him in the primary asked themselves, "What is it about him that would make me want to vote for him now?"

Here’s the short list. His father and grandfather were distinguished military admirals, and their strength of character was instilled in him. McCain himself then became a POW and war hero, persevering through multiple near-death experiences and still continuing his service. Besides strengthening our nation’s armed forces and continually respecting veterans and the Second Amendment, his main goal throughout his entire career of public service has been to actually reduce and eliminate wasteful spending—a task that truly affects citizens through the economy.

By reducing unnecessary spending, tax can become a legitimate act rather than just the creation of a sense of false economic security. McCain was elected to his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives and has not backed down since. He also applies to our crucial health care needs—getting control over health care costs is the only way to keep a competitive system, and simply pouring more money into it is not the answer.

He refuses to constantly toe his party line, and he does what he believes to be correct for our nation’s wellbeing. And he is honest about mistakes. He has actively disagreed with President Bush on many points, which is absolutely necessary quality for the leader of our nation. No one should always agree with his or her leadership simply because he or she belongs to the same party. McCampaign gives and takes criticism and has shown that he is one of few politicians in Washington, D.C., who is willing to fully work with both sides of the aisle addressing climate change and education are key, and McCampaign is outspoken in these regards. He has a pro-jobs economic agenda, with legitimate plans to address the housing crisis and high gas prices.

He does not only go by the philosophy of government being “for the people.” He remembers that government is also “of the people” and “by the people” and makes it a platform goal to nominate judges who understand that their role is to apply the law as written, not impose their opinions.

Essentially, along with his own unique experiences, he has many qualities that embody the appeal of all the other candidates combined.

John McCain is the only uniting candidate in this election, the only one who would even think about gaining some sort of consensus to solve problems. A Gallup poll in March showed that many Democrats would vote for McCain if their respective candidates didn’t get the nomination. In fact, 28 percent of Clinton supporters said they would vote for McCain over Barack Obama, and 19 percent of Obama supporters said they would vote for McCain over Hillary Clinton.

Even more revealing, according to a recent poll by Quinnipiac University, 57 percent of voters declared that the campaign is reaching male and female voters from all walks of life. And 56 percent of voters declared that the campaign is reaching male and female voters from all walks of life. In those states, about half of all surveyed Republicans would rather see Clinton win the nomination, versus 37 percent for Obama. Democrats who back Clinton say they would vote for her 95-4 over McCain, while only half would vote for Obama (including the presumptive nominee) over McCain.

So what is this McCain appeal for Democrats? A senior McCampaign advisor, who spoke to the Politico on the condition of anonymity, stated that the campaign is reaching male and female voters from all walks of life. And 56 percent of voters declared that the campaign is reaching male and female voters from all walks of life. They already sense that [Obama] may be too liberal,” the advisor said. “They tend to also agree with McCain on the war and on social issues.”

What we have in McCain is a unparalleled experience and universal appeal. This historic election is inspiring more people than ever to vote and get involved with the election process. Educate yourself and have a say in your future; don’t forget to vote June 3 and Nov. 4.

Christina Chiappe is a social sciences senior and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.
It's time to let go, Clinton

With the general election only six months away and just a handful of primaries left, the Democratic party is stronger than ever. Record numbers of voters have shown their support and the race couldn't be closer.

It's becoming more and more evident that the Democrats have this election in the bag, but one thing still stands in our way — Hillary Clinton.

Yes, Clinton has had a good run, and she's managed to tear down barricades of chauvinism in places where it was once thought to be impossible. But the truth remains that we need a president who can unite this country, and Clinton seems to evoke controversy from her husband's infidelity years ago to her recent remarks on staying in the race just in case her opponent is assassinated, her popularity seems misplaced.

There's no doubt that she is well-qualified, and her experience in government is well beyond that of Barack Obama. But as we've seen in the last eight years, a lifetime in politics in no way guarantees one's ability to run a country.

I like the idea of a woman president; I think women have unique leadership characteristics that are often preferable to those of men.

Furthermore, the success that Clinton has had thus far opens the door for female politicians further down the road. But that's all the more reason to wait.

This election will be historic no matter what, but let's not too far too close to the real issues at hand.

It's too easy to get carried away with the pseudo-politics that the media tends to perpetuate, things like Clinton's bad hair days or Obama's fanatical pastor. It's as if no one knows how to react to such a monumental change in politics, so we immediately resort to superficialities.

Given that this election would end the quagmire that is the Bush administration, the Democratic party is perfectly situated to make waves of change come next year. But attaining this change first means uniting the American people by offering a new kind of government.

Yes, electing the first woman president would be remarkable, but not if she represents business as usual in Washington.

The difference between Clinton and Obama is that Clinton represents nothing more than elitist politics shrouded in a woman's body. Obama truly is grassroots politics; it's the reason his support has risen exponentially while Clinton's is in steady decline.

By continuing to campaign, Clinton is doing more harm than good. The writing is on the wall and she's tripping her own opposition. Being a leader is about knowing when to do things.

She has already said she would support Obama if he wins the nomination, but her efforts would be better spent campaigning for the party rather than dividing it.

Please, Clinton, for the sake of Democrats everywhere, face the facts and drop out.

Erica Janoff is an industrial engineering senior and a liberal columnist for The Mustang Daily.

 Where did I go wrong?

Girls, alcohol, Craigslist, and more

Ever since I broke up with my previous girlfriend (a horrid bitch, for all you fans out there), my life isn't much different than when I was bound by the chains of monogamy, but now (as if you didn't already know) it is upon myself to utilize methods I found in various commentaries into my new "gaming" style.

I decided to make my own Craigslist personal ad and see what developed. This was not a missed connection, mind you, but a 4-wall encounter ad. I shot you not, my local readers, this posting was flagged and removed not more than 31 minutes after initial posting. Read it for yourself and maybe you can help me understand what went wrong: "Single white male...

(with moderate drinking problem) spends most of his days stuck in the asylum that is Cal Poly. I am seeking an adventurous, beautiful, shapetongued girl with daddy issues and possible misplaced sense of self-worth to revel in the joys of pornography. Tattoos, piercings, and love for intravenous drugs is OK. Just please be disease-free, as I am.

"My idea of a daring night will start with us eating a delicious meal (preferably under $20) followed by us getting blacked-out drunk at one of the fine alcohol establishments downtown. NOT Downtown Brew, though, that is straight-up a phallus palace, for I need to make passes at other women to make you jealous. I will allow you to flirt mildly with fat boys, bastards and other patrons as well, just so much that as activity lies in between sessions of slamming Long Island Iced Teas and arguing with each other.

"Making a scene is half the fun. After hitting the bars, we will book it back to my house to engage ourselves in a sex marathon lasting until the early hours of the morning (no position is taboo)."

"Please do not reply if you're looking for a friend. Would consider sexing you up if you were older and would agree to be my sugar momma, but you will be buying the booze. Wake up the next morning with no regrets. Pic 4 pie."

My guess is as good as yours as to why this post was removed so quickly. Therefore, I'm going back to my old methods. And if I decide not to go out on any particular night, I plan on dusting a 12-pack and a couple of Valiums and going back to my old methods. And if I decide not to go out on any particular night, I plan on dusting a 12-pack and a couple of Valiums and engaging in a sex marathon lasting until the early hours of the morning (no position is taboo)."

To the pro-choice people: If the fetus is not a human being, then why does every pro-choice always talk about trying to make abortion rare? Doesn't that contradict the whole pro-choice thing? Does anyone feel bad over making hait-cut rates? Clipping nails rare? Or to be crude, taking a dump? Either the fetus is a human being deserving full protection or a clamp of cells. If the latter, then why try to make it rare?

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How to play the Daily Dots

1. Find a playing partner.
2. Each person takes a turn drawing one line connecting two dots. Only horizontal and vertical lines can be drawn.
3. The first person to close a square, wins that square. To keep track, place winners initials in the box.
4. Once one square is closed, that player gets to go again. They continue until no more squares can be closed.
5. Player with the most squares win.

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Girls & Sports

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0416

Across
1. Movement branded as "anti-
   art"... (5)
5. Causing ruin...
10. In a frenzy...
15. Vacuous... (6)
19. Teatime biscuit...
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18. Euphony's Satell...
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200. "Well done!"

For answers, call 1-800-395-5554. $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-841-5554.

The gang had often laughed at Fat Albert, but they now understand there is nothing funny about childhood obesity.

Daily Dots

Basketcase by Kelly Ferguson

I decided to compromise, and rented a 'chick flick' for our movie night.

Uh, honey, girl-on-girl porn doesn't count.
Bryant leads Lakers to Game 4 win

Elizabeth White

SAN ANTONIO — Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are one win away from returning to the NBA finals. Bryant had 25 points and 10 rebounds as Los Angeles defeated San Antonio 103-91 on Tuesday in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinals.

With the Lakers up 93-86 and 50 seconds to play, Lamar Odom missed a 3-pointer from beyond the 3-point arc. Odom was called for goaltending, bringing the Spurs within seven with 4.7 seconds to play.

After a miss by Bryant, Tony Parker scored on a break when the Lakers were fouled, bringing the Spurs within five with 1.2 seconds to play.

When Barry's 3 missed, Bryant pumped his fists in celebration. He was called for a technical following the celebration and went to the locker room.

The Lakers have a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

The Spurs got within 93-91 with 28 seconds to play. Odom was called for goaltending, bringing the Spurs within four. After a miss by Bryant, Tony Parker scored on a break when the Lakers were fouled, bringing the Spurs within seven with 4.7 seconds to play.

Bryant missed a jumper and the Spurs had 2.1 seconds left on the shot clock. They missed the shot and the Lakers were headed home with a 2-1 series lead.

The Lakers leading scorer in the series was Bryant at 24 points per game. Odom, who has played through a thumb injury, had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Game 4 is played in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Finals: Lakers lead Spurs

Associated Press

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NEW YORK DREAMING
TAU SUDLOW FOLLOWED HIS ASPIRATIONS
ALL THE WAY TO CALIFORNIA

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

TAU SUDLOW FOLLOWED HIS ASPIRATIONS ALL THE WAY TO CALIFORNIA

Morel, Schafer among five Mustangs earning All-Big West team honors

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly juniors Brent Morel and Logan Schafer were named Tuesday to the All-Big West Conference First Team.

Morel, a third baseman, led the Mustangs with a batting average of .368 while pacing the conference in both RBIs (65) and total bases (140).

His eighth home run of the season was a 10th-inning grand slam that capped Cal Poly’s season-ending, 12-7 win Sunday at UC Riverside.

Schafer, a center fielder, hit .365 with 49 RBIs and was one of only two Big West players to not commit an error in at least 140 chances.

Mustangs named to the second team include first baseman Wes Dorrell and designated hitter Luke Yoder, both sophomores.

Morel and Schafer are expected to be lost to the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft held June 5-6.

Cal Poly, which finished 24-32 overall and 8-16 in conference play, had junior right fielder Ryan Lee earn play. What made him special was that effort level, that tenacity. He was a special kid — he wasn’t afraid of anything.”

Tennessee State, a Football Championship Subdivision program in Nashville, Tenn., seems to have also been won over by Sudlow’s mindset.

“If was a great young man,” says Charles Huff Jr., an offensive line coach in charge of the Tigers’ centers and guards. “When he was here on his visit, he was really humble, a mild- mannered kid. We thought he would’ve been tremendous here — would’ve blossomed.”

For Sudlow, transferring to Tennessee State (which produced Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, a first-round pick by the Arizona Cardinals in the NFL draft April 26, and former NFL greats such as Richard Dent and Ed “Too Tall” Jones) represented not only a chance to keep playing but also to no longer be so far away from his family.

“He did want to move closer to home,” Huff says. “He really liked a good family atmosphere and saw that our players were really close to one another. Nashville’s a pretty good-sized city, and our players keep an eye on each other.”

Relocating to Tennesseewouldn’t seem to have been much of an obstacle for Sudlow after already having fol­lowed his dream from the Empire State to the California city of just more than 90,000.

“In order to play, he had to move,” Zakia Sudlow explains of his brother, who in 2005 was a team captain and see Sudlow, page 15

Cal Poly football named ‘team most on rise’ by fan poll

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly football team was voted the “team most on the rise” throughout the Football Championship Subdivision and ranked 13th nationally in the Any Given Saturday preseason poll released Monday.

AGS takes into account votes from FCS fans frequenting the 38th season’s message board of the same name.

As of Tuesday night, the message board had more than 5,300 members who’d posted nearly 950,000 times altogether.

In order to vote, members must have already posted at least 100 times before May 1, agree to vote objectively, vote for all 25 places each week and not miss voting more than two weeks the entire regular season.

To safeguard against bias, the AGS Poll Committee employs a “honor rule,” which discounts ballots submitted by voters who ranked their “supported” teams No. 1 when no one else did.

Defending national champ­ion Appalachian State received all but six of 82 first-place votes. Cal Poly, which in 2007 amassed 487.1 yards per game to finish second in the country in total offense (trailing only Appalachian State’s 498.3) received one first-place vote.

James Madison, Rich­mond, North Dakota State and Northern Iowa rounded out the top five.

Also ranked were three of the Mustangs’ 2008 foes — Montana (at No. 7), McNeese State (No. 8) and South Dakota State (No. 18).

The other, primary pre­season polls — the coaches’ and The Sports Network’s — are yet to be released.

Cal Poly, which finished last season 7-4 and dented No. 24 in both the AGS and Sports Net­work polls, returned 10 offen­sive starters and opens its season by visiting San Diego State at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 30.

see Baseball, page 15

May 13 loss to Pepperdine at Baggett Stadium, hit .365 with 49 RBI this season.

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

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