Hill, Mecham ahead in supervisor races

Rachel Glas

Tuesday night’s election went smoothly as voters in San Luis Obispo county elected many new faces to public office.

Cal Poly English professor Adam Hill is not the only one who is happy to have the election over with.

Hill—who's platform stressed smart growth, public safety and increasing alternate forms of transportation—thinks that voters were ready for a change.

“I tried to knock on doors and meet as many people as possible. I’ve listened to what my voters are concerned about and it seems that they are looking for new leadership,” he said.

Hill, who must resign as a Cal Poly professor when he takes office in January, said his first priority will be to work on budgetary matters.

“Leaving Cal Poly was the toughest part of my decision to run. I’m nothing but proud to be part of the school.”

The 3rd District county supervisor race, however, was too close to call at press time as incumbent Jim Patterson was beating challenger Debbie Arnold by 51 percent to 48 percent. Arnold, former aide to both Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and former 3rd District Supervisor Mike Ryan, mounted a strong campaign with a considerable amount of donations from the community.

The challenger for the 1st District county supervisor seat, current Paso Robles Mayor Frank Mecham, beat seven-time incumbent Harry Ovitt in a landslide victory, 64 percent to 35 percent.

San Luis Obispo County also voted to approve Measure Z, the sales tax increase.

see Results, page 2

Obama projected to win Democratic nomination

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves to supporters before speaking at a primary rally Tuesday in St. Paul, Minn.

Tom Raunt and Nedra Pickler

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois sealed the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, a historic step toward his once-improbable goal of becoming the nation’s first black president.

A vanquished Hillary Rodham Clinton maneuvered for the vice presidential spot on his fall ticket.

Obama’s victory set up a five-month campaign with Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a race between a 46-year-old opponent of the Iraq war and a 71-year-old former Vietnam prisoner of war and staunch supporter of the current U.S. military mission.

Both men promptly exchanged criticism over the war in Iraq and sought to claim the mantle of change in a country plainly tired of the status quo.

“It’s not change when John McCain decided to start a war with a 90 percent approval rating,” Obama said in remarks prepared for delivery in St. Paul, Minn.

“Nor is it change when he offers four more years of Bush economic policies that have failed to create well-paying jobs.... And it’s not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave young men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians.” In a symbolic move, he spoke in the same hall where McCain will accept the Republican nomination at his party’s convention in September.

McCain spoke first, in New Orleans, and he accused his younger rival of voting “to deny funds to the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job” in Iraq. It was a reference to 2007 legislation to pay the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job in Iraq. It was a reference to 2007 legislation to pay the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job.

McCain agreed with Obama that the presidential race would focus on change. “But the choice is between the right change and the wrong change, between going forward and going backward,” he added.

Obama sealed his nomination, according to The Associated Press tally, based on primary elections, state Democratic caucuses and delegates’ public declarations as well as support from 19 delegates and “superdelegates” who privately confirmed their intentions to the AP. It takes 2,118 delegates to clinch the nomination at the convention in Denver this summer, and Obama had 2,129 by the AP count.

see Democrats, page 2

Sales tax increase passes in Pismo

Hayley Bramble

The votes are in, but the debate over the controversial Measure C, also known as the Pismo Beach Vital Public Service Protection Measure, is not likely to cease.

The sales tax in the city of Pismo Beach will increase from 7.25 percent to 7.75 percent. The increased tax will provide the city with $1 million per year, which city officials said is desperately needed to maintain infrastructure and keep the city in good working condition.

The measure passed with 53.79 percent of 2,332 voters in favor of the increase.

City officials stated that budget cuts have left little money to spend on street and sidewalk maintenance, pier repairs and storm drain replacement, and that the tax increase was necessary to accommodate for cuts, raise funds and maintain the quality and beauty of the city through maintenance and repairs.

Prior to the election, Pismo Beach Mayor Mary Ann Reiss, said her first priority would be funding the repair and resurfacing of the neighborhood streets if the measure passed.

“They’ve been long neglected. We’ve been able to do some of the major arteries like Price Street and James Way, but not the neighborhood streets,” she said.

The Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Pismo Beach City Council both supported the measure.

The funds from the increased local tax will be used locally as the city sees fit.

For that reason, some oppose the measure, stating that there is no specific plan for the funds raised, so the council may allocate the funds to any cause they choose.

“They’re against an increase in sales tax, period,” Reiss speculated. Reiss said a sunset clause included in the measure keeps the tax in place for six and a half years, after which residents have the opportunity to vote on the measure again. Reiss also said the city would be sending out biannual reports to show how the council has used the money raised by the tax increase.

Benito “Joe” Crescione, former mayor and two-time city councilman of Pismo Beach, said, “The problem is the things they said this
Democrats

continued from page 1

Obama, a first-term senator who was virtually unknown on the national stage four years ago, defeated Clinton, the former first lady and one-time campaign frontrunner, in a 17-month marathon for the Democratic nomination.

His victory had been widely assumed for weeks. But Clinton’s declaration of interest in becoming his vice president was wholly unexpected.

She expressed it in a conference call with her state’s congressional delegation after Rep. Nydia Velazquez, predicted Obama would have great difficulty winning the support of Hispanics and other voters blocs unless the former first lady was on the ticket.

“I am open to it” if it would help the party’s prospects in November, Clinton replied, according to a participant who spoke on condition of anonymity because the call was private.

Clinton’s comments raised anew the prospect of what many Democrats have called “a Dream Ticket” that would put a black man and a woman on the same ballot, but Obama’s aides were noncommittal: “We’re not in the presidential phase here. We’re going to close out the nominating fight and then we’ll consider that,” David Axelrod, Obama’s top strategist, told reporters about the candidate’s plans en route to Minnesota.

McCain’s critics of Obama referred to a vote last year in which the Illinois senator came out against legislation paying for the Iraq war because it did not include a time-table for withdrawing troops. At the time, Obama said the funding would give President Bush “a blank check to continue down this same, dangerous path.”

Obama previously had opposed a deadline for troop withdrawal, but shifted position under pressure from the Democratic Party’s liberal wing as he maneuvered for support in advance of the primaries.

Bill Burton, a spokesman for Obama, responded tartly. “While John McCain has a record of occasional independence from his party in the past, last year he chose to embrace 95 percent of George Bush’s agenda, including his failed economic policies and his failed policy in Iraq. No matter how hard he tries to spin it otherwise, that kind of record is simply not the change the American people are looking for or deserve.”

Tuesday’s fast-paced developments unfolded as the long Democratic nominating struggle ended with primaries in Montana and South Dakota.

Only 31 delegates were at stake, the final few among the thousands that once drew Obama, Clinton and six other Democrats, candidates into the campaign to replace Bush and become the nation’s 44th president.

Clinton was in New York for an appearance before home-state supporters. Officials said she would concede Obama had the delegates to secure the Democratic nomination, effectively ending her bid to be the nation’s first female president.

The young Illinois senator’s success amounted to a victory of hope over experience, earned across an uncertain 56 primaries and caucuses that tested the political skills and human endurance of all involved.

Obama stood for hope and change. Clinton was the candidate of experience, ready, she said, to serve in the Oval Office from Day One.

Together, they drew record turnouts in primary after primary after primary — more than 34 million voters in all, independents and Republicans as well as Democrats.

Yet the race between a black man and a woman exposed deep racial and gender divisions within the party.

Obama drew strength from blacks and from the younger, more liberal and wealthier voters in many states. Clinton was preferred by older, more upscale writers and women.

Measure

continued from page 1

money could be used for are items that are already necessary for the city. In an interview prior to the election, Crecione said the problem is with the word “could,” because the money collected from the increased sales tax will go into the general fund, which means the money is not designated for a specific purpose.

Crecione said supporters of the measure argue tourists will be paying the sales tax as well, but he disagrees with that point. Visitors to the city, he said, only have to experience that tax for a couple of days or a weekend.

“I live here all the time, which means I pay the tax all the time,” he said. Crecione mentioned residents of the mobile home parks who operate on a fixed income, and said it is unfair to them to be burdened with an extra tax.

Crecione also said that Pismo Beach is the sixth wealthiest city per capita in the state of California, and that the reasons for asking for the increase in tax are unexplained and unjustified.

“They want more money — tell me what for,” he said.

Results

continued from page 1

ed no on Proposition 98 and yes on Proposition 99, both dealing with eminent domain. As of press time, only half of California precincts had reported results, but Proposition 98 — aimed to phase out rent control — was not expected to pass. Proposition 99, which would prohibit the ability of the government to seize homes for development, was winning with more than 60 percent of the vote.

Overall, officials said it was a quiet election in San Luis Obispo County with a low voter turnout.

“A lot of the ballots had very few choices,” county employee Lynn Johnson said might be a reason Wednesday, June 4, 2008
Polygamous sect children reunited with happy parents

Michelle Roberts

Parents awaiting the release of children taken into custody during a raid of a polygamous group's ranch may need to wait a few days because so many parents are showing up at foster homes simultaneously, a sector leader said Tuesday.

Parents took 229 of the roughly 430 children in foster care on Monday after a judge signed an order clearing the church to keep them with their parents, bowing to a state Supreme Court ruling that the seizure was unjustified.

"Everybody is trying really hard to be patient and considerate," Willie Jessop, an elder with the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, "We know more and more are leaving every hour."

Child welfare officials expected many of the remaining children to go home Tuesday as parents traveled across the sprawling state to foster facilities where the children were scattered.

Jennetta Jessop fought back tears when she was reunited with her 5-year-old son.

"I just love my children so much," said Jessop, who picked up her son Monday at a Fort Worth shelter and had four other children to collect. "This is the happiest day of my life!"

Amid the parents' joy, a church elder announced what he called a clarification in sect policy aimed at keeping such a seizure from ever happening again: Future marriages will only involve sect members who are of legal age.

"The church will counsel families that they neither request nor consent to any underage marriages," Willie Jessop said late Monday, reading from a statement at the ranch in Eldorado. Many sect members have the same last name but may or may not be related.

Willie Jessop said the church has been widely misun-derstood and wanted marriages within the church have always been consensual.

He would not say whether marriages of underage ni-neors had taken place in the past but said the sect as a whole should not be punished for the misconduct of a few.

Judge Barbara Walther's order requires the parents to stay in Texas, to attend parenting classes and to allow the

children to be examined as part of any abuse investigation.

But it does not put restrictions on the children's parents, require the parents to renounce polygamy or force them to leave the Warning For Zion Ranch run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a breakaway sect of the Mormon church.

Child Protective Services removed all the children from the ranch after an April 3 raid prompted by calls to a domestic abuse hotline that purportedly came from a 16-year-old mother who was being abused by her middle-age husband. The calls are now being investigated as a hoax, but authorities contended all the children were at risk because church teachings pushed underage girls into marriage and sex.

A woman from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with her child.

A woman from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with her child.

State Briefs

MODESTO (AP) — A wrongful death lawsuit against convicted killer Scott Peterson could go to trial starting next month.

The parents of Laci Peterson, whose husband was convicted of killing her and the fetus she was carrying, filed the civil suit against him in 2003.

The lawsuit is intended to keep him from profiting from the murders by telling his story.

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San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller said 19-year-old William Joseph Bastian and 26-year-old John Michael Ennis were booked Monday for investigation of vandalism. Bail is set at $25,000 each.

Low to no cost

STATEMENTS

State Briefs

Twentynine Palms (AP) — Two men are in jail for allegedly vandalizing the Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery, where stat­ues, crosses, altars and decorations were destroyed at some 75 graves.

San Bernardino County sheriff's spokesman Steve Brandel described the vandalism as a "hate crime." The cemetery has a special meaning to military veterans.

Dead Week? Come take a rest, at Pizzal Solo - forget about that test!

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POLICE BLOTTER

June 2, 15:45 - Several bicycles were found in the creekbed and recovered by the University Police. A bicycle previously reported stolen appeared to be included.

June 1, 01:07 - One subject arrested for a DUI off campus at Fredericks and Ken­ucky.


May 31, 00:47 - Officers assist San Luis Obispo Police Department to search for an armed subject near Stenner Glen.

May 30, 13:31 - Officers respond to a report of a narcotics violation in the residence halls, arresting one subject for the possession of unauthorized weapons.

May 29, 12:12 - Officers respond to a medical aid call where an individual was hav­ing a seizure.

May 28, 15:01 - UPD received a report of a student defrauding the state.

May 28, 14:19 - Officers respond to a medical aid call where a subject had burned his/hers finger. The subject was not transferred to a medical facility.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“How useful do you think Safe Ride really is?”
Compiled and photographed by Shannon Boren

“It’s probably very useful, but I’ve never used it myself.”
— John Macaluso, business senior

“I don’t know; I don’t even know what that program is.”
— Emmi Id, civil engineering junior

“I’ve never used it, so I don’t know.”
— Kelsey Haberer, agricultural business freshman

“I guess it’s useful, but I wouldn’t know for sure.”
— Rob Dahl, civil engineering senior
Chinese police drag grieving parents from protest

Cara Anna
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese police forcefully pulled away more than 300 parents protesting the deaths of their children in a poorly constructed school that collapsed in last month's earthquake.

Police grabbed the parents, many holding pictures of their children, by the arms and lifted restive off the ground on Tuesday outside the courthouse in Dujiangyan, a resort town northwest of the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu.

"Why?" some parents yelled. "Tell us something," they said as black-suited police wearing riot helmets yanked at them, pulling them down the street to the side of the courthouse.

The action was authorities' harshest response yet to angry parents and represented a hardened of official attitudes toward protests that police have closely watched over the past two weeks without intervening.

The parents had been kneeling in front of the courthouse yelling, "We want to sue!" Their children attended a high school in Juquan, near Dujiangyan, where 270 students died.

The Southern Metropolis News quoted a rescuer as saying that rubble from the school happened to local police were not answered Tues­day.

The government says the May 12 earthquake was China's worst disaster in three decades. The confirmed death toll for China's worst disaster to three decades was raised Tuesday to 69,307, an increase of about 900 people from a day earlier, and 18,230 people are still missing, the State Council said.

The quake struck the western province of Sichuan on May 12, sending a 10-kilometer-wide zone, though "they are not trying to block any news or to make difficulties for the reporters."

The protest happened while Chinese leader Li Changchun, the country's fifth-ranked ruler, was touring other parts of the city. The official Xinhua News Agency said Li was checking heritage sites damaged in the earthquake.

The confirmed death toll for China's worst disaster to three decades was raised Tuesday to 69,307, an increase of about 900 people from a day earlier, and 18,230 people are still missing, the State Council said.

The quake also left 1 1 million people homeless. Meanwhile, the official Xinhua News Agency said that authorities have delayed for two days an attempt to divert water from a huge lake formed when the quake sent landslides tumbling into a river in Beichuan in northern Sichuan.

Water levels in the lake had been rising steadily and threatened to flood surrounding areas, prompting authorities to evacuate nearly 200,000 people already uprooted by the quake.

But Xinhua said with little rain forecast for the next several days, rescue workers were not likely to start draining off the water until Thursday. The work had been expected to begin Tuesday.

Workers have already used heavy equipment to dig a runoff channel to remove the water. The government is worried the newly formed lake could burst, sending a wall of water through a valley.

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• on all seasonal gifts •
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General Motors is dosing tour

correctums tifficer who

called chili, authorities said.

C'añada and Mexico, atTexas

truik and SUV plants in the U.S.,

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h. 7 1-year-old Korean

War veteran, whose friend was in

The young woman probably

thought the 7 1-year-old Korean

in northeastern Pennsylvania. Then,

with help from his wheelchair-

bound friend, he held her until

police arrived. "Maybe she thought I  was easy

prey. She didn't think I  was going
to get her. Well, senior citizens aren't easy prey," Kopenis said.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A bank robber got as far

as a nearby pawn shop before, a
dye pack, inserted in his wad of

stolen cash, exploded in his pants,

authorities said.

The man then fled the store,

leaving behind the money that

contained the theft-detection de­

vice.

Fort Lauderdale Police Depart­

ment spokeswoman Kathy Caillms

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vice.
Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe defended land policies blamed for devaluing the country's agricultural sector, saying at a U.N. food summit in Rome that the West was trying to cripple the nation's economy and thereby effect illegal regime change in our country.

"The United Kingdom has mobilized her friends and allies in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand to impose illegal economic sanctions against Zimbabwe," he said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Tom Casey criticized Mugabe's attendance at the summit, saying his "presence at the summit also came under protest, denounced by the U.S. and its allies in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand to impose illegal economic sanctions against Zimbabwe," he said.

U.S. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "hunger and malnutrition are unacceptable in a world which, in reality, has sufficient production levels, the resources, and the know-how to put an end to these tragedies and their consequences."

The United Nations is encouraging summit participants to start unloading a decades-long legacy of agricultural and trade policies that many blame for the failure of small farmers in poor countries to feed their own people.

Wealthy nations' subsidizing their own farmers makes it harder for small farmers in poor countries to compete in global markets, critics of such subsidies say. Jim Hutler, the FAO's deputy director-general, said in an interview that "almost all American subsidies were countered by different European policies, and the sanctions aim to "cripple Zimbabwe's economy and thereby effect illegal regime change in our country."

Frances D'Emilio and Ariel David

Baghdad (AP) — Lawyers allied with Prime Min­
er Nouri al-Maliki said Tuesday that negotiations over a U.S.-Iraqi security pact and the future status of American troops in Iraq were stumbling, with "almost all paws under dispute."

Down party lawmaker Haider al-Abadi told reporters in Bagh­
dad's U.S.-guarded Green Zone that "almost all American sugges­
tions were countered by different Iraqi ones."

"The negotiations are at a standstill, and the Iraqi side is studying its options," al-Abadi said, reading a statement from his party.

Islamabad, Pakistan (AP) — Beijing's airport is de­
claring war on Denmark's intel­
lgence service and cast blame on al-Qaeda for an attack near its embassy in Pakistan that investi­
gators said Tuesday was carried out by a suicide bomber.

Mugabe blames West for Zimbabwe's economic problems

International Briefs
Scarlett: You, my dear, are no singer

Zachary Herrmann

Tom Waits' music has never really been about the brighter side of this life. He champions the sort of people who (no paraphrase: one time New York Gov. Mario Cuomo) live in the gutter where the glitter don't shine. They are beaten, wrecked and miserable.

But most importantly, the characters are alive. In braving the dreaded crossover, Scarlett Johansson has dulled Waits' vivid portraits to death on "Anywhere I Lay My Head." Her debut album features 10 Waits compositions and one original, all delivered in the same hazy sleepwalk tone.

Beyond the single songwriting credit and vocals, Johansson's participation in the project appears to have been pretty minimal. The weight of the album falls squarely on the shoulders of producer and arranger David Sitek (TV on the Radio). Although Sitek's work on "Anywhere" varies greatly in imagination and success, it IS conceivable he could have pulled it all off with the right voice.

The entire packaging of the album raises the question: Where was Scarlett laying her head while Sitek cooked up the entire album? Johansson's half-dead, brooding monotone loses out every time to Waits' monster-in-the-closet whiskey growl. She never owns a second of a single track, faintly singing along to Sitek's haunted, 80s-noir bedtime stories rather than delving into the material.

And Sitek, whether knowingly or not, returns the favor by completely burying Johansson's lead vocals in the depths of his heavily-layered tracks. Her performances — think Sinéad O'Connor on sleeping beauty Scarlett's attempt to crossover into the musical world with her recently released "Anywhere I Lay My Head," which was produced by TV on the Radio's David Sitek, proves to be a complete flop.
not your typical basketcase

Cal Poly grad and new Daily cartoonist Kelly Ferguson is following his passion: comics

Raiza Canelón

Being an artist runs in Kelly Ferguson's family. His grandfather and great-grandfather were painters, and Ferguson, 32, also paints, but what really makes his face light up is ear-toms.

"Growing up, I loved going straight to the comic section in the newspaper, and my dad used to cut out cartoons and put them on the fridge, which I really loved," Ferguson said.

Even a permanent disability and limited dexterity won't stop Ferguson from providing comics to the world. At the age of 17, a work accident left Ferguson in a wheelchair with limited motor skills.

"I used to work construction to help pay for tuition and books, and during the winter in between freshman and sophomore year, while on the job, a board was wind-blown and struck me in the C5 vertebrae and here I am. I had to relearn everything from eating to drawing," Ferguson said.

The accident left him with limited use of his arms. Ferguson can control his wrist for his arms. Ferguson can control his wrist for his arms. Ferguson can control his wrist for his arms.

"It's like using a Ouija board to draw with," Ferguson laughs.

Ferguson grew up in Bakersfield, attending high school and taking art classes through the local community college. What really propelled his desire to draw was taking an English class in high school where the students had to sketch out a cartoon of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

"Funny ideas just pop into my head, and I sketch as much as I can right away because I know I will kick myself if I forget it," Ferguson said.

After his accident, Ferguson started sophomore year late, but he was determined to get back to school.

"My biggest motivation was I didn't want to get left behind," Ferguson said. "I was in rehab for five months, and it still takes me awhile to do what I want, but I just keep going."

He graduated in 2000 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

After moving to the San Diego area to be a consultant, Ferguson ultimately decided that being an artist is what he was supposed to do. He draws at home in his office by first drawing on 8.5 by 11 inch paper in pencil, then going over the work with a permanent marker. He then scans the comic into his computer before shrinking it down.

"I am completely devoted to becoming syndicated. So far I only have my work in the Mustang Daily, but I hope to be in a national newspaper one day," Ferguson said.

On top of having a humor column, Ferguson also has a political column on his Web site www.langston.com.

"I separated my two columns about a year ago because I didn't want to alienate anyone who looked at either of my strips," Ferguson said.

Ferguson lives in Los Osos with his wife Karen, who is an interior designer. You can see his entire comic every day in the Mustang Daily or just visit his Web site, www.basketcasecomics.com, to see more of his work.

Aside from the wholly forgettable nature of the album, "Anywhere" could have been far worse. Sitek remodels "I Don't Wanna Grow Up" as a poorly conceived semi-techno facen. The song is tasteless where so many of the other tracks are simply bland or overblown.

As the album opener, "Fawn" (from the fantastic Album) loses all the quiet mourning contained in the original, expressed by the scented, pained notes barely escaping from an injured violin. There is more sadness and longing in that 1-minute, 44-second track than anything presented on Johansson and Sitek's lifeless homage.

In Sitek's hands, "Fawn" has been multiplied by 1,000 as an army of horns storms in over the solemn organ, stamping out any opportunity for the listener to connect to any real emotion. It is an impressive arrangement, but especially when viewed in the context of the entire album, the epic treatment is at once empty and unwarranted.

Johansson's absence from the track is not entirely noticeable, either. In terms of impact, she is absent from the rest of her debut as well.

When viewed as a Sitek album, "Anywhere" is troubled, with a few brighter moments. As a tribute to the work of one of America's greatest writers, it does no unwarranted.

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When viewed as a Sitek album, "Anywhere" is troubled, with a few brighter moments. As a tribute to the work of one of America's greatest writers, it does no
How some prowling cougars seduced a self-professed Ladytron fanboy

Stop what you’re doing — Ladytron has a new record out. It’s called “Velocifero” and honestly you should probably just skip the rest of this and go buy it right now. I’ll save you time in the long run.

Of course, you might want to take everything in this article with a shaker of salt, considering its presentation is composed by an intrepid Ladytron fanboy who followed them down the coast on the “Witching Hour” tour two years ago, seeing them twice in as many days. (There’s a fine line between shame and pride.)

This record is the logical extension of “Witching Hour” in that it moves even farther away from the limits of the pristine electro-pop template that once made up the confines of the band’s musical rut. Whereas early 2000’s Ladytron was sparse, atemporal and circular, the tracks of “Velocifero” are dense with instrumentation that might shock you. Besides the “Hour of the dog” arrangement (horns, abrasive electronics), be on the lookout for acoustic guitar, brass horns and male vocals (obviously these things are only shocking in the context of Ladytron). To get the full experience and pick everything out, you’ll need to listen at volume levels that are somewhat likely to damage your hearing on speakers that are at least reasonably non-crap (alleged “hipster bullshit” readers should know this by now).

The ambassador of the album (the first single and by far the poppiest song) is “Ghost,” which is hooky as all hell and features a chorus reminiscent of the before and after puzzles to “Wheel of Fortune.” “There’s a ghost inside me / who wants to say ‘I’m sorry’ / doesn’t mean I’m sorry,” Helen Marnie’s vocals are prominent and easily discernable on the mix, which is the exception to the rule on “Velocifero.” Whereas vocals on the single sit firmly on top of the mix (like a Fine-Sol-scented church bench), most of the album allows the vox to sink in and meld with the dingy chaos below it (like that filthy bean bag chair on your patio). Listen to “Klety” to see how great this can sound. Mary Anne’s voice is incredible even though I understand not a single word over the panoramic noise (the fact that she sings in Bulgarian might have something to do with this as well). I did track “Black Cat” as also in Mary Anne’s native tongue and also a standout.

Really most of the songs on “Velocifero” deserve to be talked about in depth, but I’ll sum this up by saying that a solid record like this should be no surprise at this point. Ladytron is a band we can safely classify as established and mature. Perhaps it bears mentioning that, as of this year, female vocalists Mar­nie and Anne find themselves in their thirties (and thus their sexual prime). It should then only be expected that the band can solid reem like this in the prime. I think this is est.ablished and mature.

Joseph Bialomirk is an architectural engineering senior and a business director for KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3

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Considering the amount of scary movies we are forced to sit through in an average year, it's amazing to think that more don't try to use realistic situations. We've all seen supernatural thrillers that have spooked us, but let's face it, most are pretty damn unrealistic. What seems to be used an utter minimum of time is howls that could have us screaming from on high, while the viewers are trying to make to provoke terror in concept alone. The problem, however, is that just after the movie has started out so well, playing cards the right way each and every time, it starts to get content with its methods and ceases to unveil any new terror. The slow, methodic haunting of the start never goes away, and no matter how scared you want to be, it's hard to get fooled by the same trick twice (or six or seven times). The disturbing quiet of watching the hunters stand or walk rather than run, so unsettling at first, quickly becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over. From there, it's a slow and steady descent into boredom, and even the eventual climax earns only a ho-hum reaction.

"The Strangers" isn't a completely bad movie, and it's certainly more bad than it is good. After a promising start, the movie slowly declines into complete worthless-ness, the maddening horror-movie logic of its protagonists proving almost unbear-able at points. The fact that the film may as well take place at your own home means that it has some real staying power afterward, something that could cause the easily frightened a few sleepless nights. But such terror is a product of the film's premise, and what it ends up doing with that premise is thoroughly unimpressive.

"The Strangers" is the ultimate shark of a movie; once it stops moving, which it does well within the first hour, there's no debating that the movie you're watching just died.

Collin Eblyn

"Strangers" one shark of a movie

And a mess is exactly what the viewer becomes, with the music spiking, and things popping out almost exactly where you expect them to, yet still provoking a gap almost every time. Tyler has a shriek for the ages; it sends chills down your spine every time you hear it (and you hear it a lot), setting the tone for the movie's paranoid feel. For the first bit of the strangers' attack, it's all cat-and-mouse; no action ever really happens, just one scare per three minutes or so. It's enough to make you a wreck with anxious anticipation.

The problem, however, is that just after the movie has started out so well, playing cards the right way each and every time, it starts to get content with its methods and ceases to unveil any new terror. The slow, methodic haunting of the start never goes away, and no matter how scared you want to be, it's hard to get fooled by the same trick twice (or six or seven times). The disturbing quiet of watching the hunters stand or walk rather than run, so unsettling at first, quickly becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over. From there, it's a slow and steady descent into boredom, and even the eventual climax earns only a ho-hum reaction.

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'SUPPORT OUR TROOPS'

Merely a slogan to the Bush administration

Although I am against the current war in Iraq, I have the highest level of respect and admiration for our men and women in uniform. Hearing their stories of commitment, courage and sacrifice for this country is always a humbling experience, and it makes our debt to them real and unavowable. Unfortunately, our nation's debt to our brave soldiers is long overdue, and I fear that under this pathetic excuse for a president, the debt will continue to go unpaid.

Just last week during his weekly radio address to the nation, President Bush threatened to veto the tremendously popular and bipartisan bill funding our troops through Congress. This bill, sponsored by Sens. Jim Webb (Democrat) and Chuck Hagel (Republican) — both Vietnam veterans — would guarantee soldiers who serve at least three years in the Army four years of tuition to the best public university their state has to offer. The bill would also provide soldiers with a monthly stipend for housing and food costs. The old GI bill, enacted after World War II to aid soldiers returning from combat, had not been properly updated to account for the rising costs of tuition and housing.

Thankfully, it appears there is enough bipartisan support in Congress to ride any presidential veto (hence Bush will likely acquiesce and begrudgingly sign it). Nevertheless, this president's stinginess toward funding our soldiers' education is just another example of his administration's longstanding disregard for the well-being of our troops.

I am sure we all remember when Bush's former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld was asked by a concerned soldier in 2004, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compensate ballistic glass to armor our vehicles?" Shamefully, Mr. Rumsfeld replied, "As you know, you have to go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you want." Translation: You soldiers want armor hampered for protection ... too bad. This same callous disregard for our soldiers' safety also occurred with inadequate body armor provisions. According to an internal Pentagon study conducted from 2003 to 2006, nearly 80 percent of Marines killed in Iraq from upper body wounds could have survived if they had been given proper body armor. Such armor had been available since 2003, but the Pentagon and the Bush administration basically declined to supply it to troops until after the study was released.

Sadly, unarmed vehicles and inadequate body armor reveal only half of this administration's failings; we must also look at the inexcusable aftercare our troops receive when they return home from combat. Last week, the Pentagon announced the number of troops with new cases of post-traumatic stress disorder jumped by roughly 50 percent in 2007. The increase now brings the total number of U.S. troops diagnosed with PTSD to more than 40,000 since 2003; shockingly, the current average wait time for veterans to be seen for mental health problems is more than 100 days, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Most mental health experts agree that the frightening rise in mental trauma is largely the result of our soldiers being sent on their third, fourth and even fifth tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also, because of the surge in mental health problems is more than 100 days, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Clearly, our soldiers deserve better. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are more than five years old, yet we still continue to hear stories of troops being let down by their commander in chief and his cronies. Our brave troops have served this country well, showing us the true meaning of the military motto "Semper Fi" (Always Faithful). I continue to pray this administration will adopt the same motto and meet all of our troops' needs, but given their track record so far, I am not optimistic.

Patrick Motlar is a business junior and a liberal columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Why environmentalists hurt the environment

As I drove to my parents' house in the Bay Area last weekend, I couldn't help but notice huge amounts of smoke billowing in the sky. It was a bit hazy and the air smelled of smoke for the entire weekend. The Santa Cruz Mountains were engulfed in flames.

By now, the fire has been completely contained (though there is still no estimate as to when it will be extinguished) after being out of control for almost a week. It's still burning; and a "let it burn" policy has been adopted until the fire puts itself out. The blaze consumed about 4,200 acres and burned down more than 30 homes and 63 other buildings. Also, don't forget about the animals now threatened because their habitats were destroyed. Animal shelters in the Bay Area are currently overrun with animals saved from the fires.

As horrible as this is, it's all relatively small compared to the massive fires that scorched 246,000 acres in Southern California last year. Something must be done to prevent these fires from causing so much damage.

If you ask any typical environmentalist about these wildfires, they'll congratulate what they've been hearing from the liberal media. "Oh look," they'll say, "another example of global warming!" The logic of these environmentalists is that the higher temperatures make drier forests, which are more susceptible to fire. They've so far blamed global warming (and its average annual global temperature increase of 1°F) that they don't realize their lobbying against logging and forest-thinning is much more to blame for this devastation.

In order to protect our forests from these fires, a few actions must be taken. First, the forest overstory (the uppermost part) must be thinned out, and the underbrush must be cleared out to decrease surface fuels. Both of these actions dramatically reduce the forest fuels that can lead to an out-of-control fire. What also helps is a little bit of logging since forests are actually showing an increase in trees per square mile. This increase in density makes forest thinnings more and more necessary.

These fire prevention tactics were credited in saving the town of Lake Arrowhead from destruction last October as wildfires destroyed the neighboring towns. The U.S. Forest Service had been at work in the area to decrease forest fuels and create fuel breaks. The only damage to Lake Arrowhead was to private properties not covered by the Forest Service. The hardest hit towns by that fire didn't have fuel breaks, and hundreds of homes burned to the ground.

Every year, the Forest Service submits hundreds of proposals for forest thinning and fuel breaks to the General Accounting Office for review. About half of these are subject to appeal, and of those, 53 percent are appealed by special interest groups like the Sierra Club and the Alliance for Wild Rockies. These appeals succeed in delaying the thinning of 980,000 acres of forests, all of which are then at risk of becoming more Santa Cruz or Southern California catastrophes.

Officials for the Forest Service say they spend half their time dealing with these appeals and $250 million a year fighting the litigation launched by delusional environmentalists.

Last year, all this into global warming, a fire the size of those in Southern California emits more than 38 million tons of greenhouse gases. To put that in perspective, that's the amount 7 million cars emit over the course of a year. Yes. Perhaps the environmentalists should decide which they really care about: more of our forests or their own selfish special interests.

Jennifer Gómez is a microbiology senior and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Obsessing over how to dress

They say dress to impress, and that your outward appearance is a reflection of your inward self. They also say it's what's on the inside that counts, and you can't judge a book by its cover. But if you like your fuzzy, blue cow-print pajamas and your baggy, comfortable jeans, shouldn't you be able to wear them if you want to? After all, the clothing conundrum has been created, filled with grey areas and iffy standards. If there's a uniform, it saves you the trouble of choosing what to wear. It's hard to get around, but there are pros and cons. If there's a uniform, it saves you the trouble of choosing altogether. If there isn't, just to look at the attire of those worn around you and emulate. You can add individuality with accessories and shoes. You don't have to conform and become a corporate tool, but you do have to meet certain expectations.

Though some may be reluctant to conform with the rules of attire, there are definitely times when they will get you ahead, keep you from causing unwanted waves, and prevent you from being forcefully removed out of places.

It's great to be an individual and wear what you please, but there are times when dressing to please the crowd around you helps.

Should we care what other people think? No. Should we dress to meet other's expectations? No. Should your outfit be an indicator of your quality and character? Absolutely not! Unfortunately for the pajama-loving, thrift store-wearing masses (myself included), it is.

Dr. Sears said, "Be who you are and say what you feel because those who don't matter and those who don't mind." Though you should dress to please yourself (and for those who are pleased by societal clothing standards, you've read too far), there are times when it pays to dress to the satisfaction of others, despite Dr. Sears' best advice.

Shannon Brown is a journalism junior and a reporter for the Mustang Daily.

Hello! I really enjoyed this article. As a former Mustang cheerleader, this just happens to be the "unbiased" wife of Danny, thank you for recognizing the accomplishments of a man who gets so few moments in the spotlight. I was disappointed they didn't mention more than just the one word partner of the above mentioned. Peace...

— Tori Leney

Response to "Louie living the life of a lineman"

Good job on this one. I shared it with my girlfriend and we both agree that it was a funny take on the struggles that a relationship deals with today.

— Joe Rocha

Response to "The perfect girlfriend? Begfired"

Be our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries. Send your commentaries of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to jmmie@mustangdaily.net or submit your submission online. Please include phone number, email address, number of words, and a copy of your ID. Send your commentaries to the Mustang Daily by May 25.

The Daily Mountain Eagle is the student newspaper of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. This newspaper adheres to the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Principles of the Ethical Press.

— Stephen

Response to "LAES departments get international"

Send your commentaries of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Include your ID number, phone number, email address, number of words, and a copy of your ID. Send your commentaries to the Mustang Daily by May 25.
Football
continued from page 16
practiced at their workout facility in El Segundo Calif. on Monday. "It's good for both of us to be here. He's a great guy," Pierce had his own problems. The Celtics had been accumulating young talent like Al Jefferson, Delonte West, Ray Allen, Rajon Rondo and Kendrick Perkins, but they had few wins — 24, to be exact — to show for it. When the draft lottery didn't yield a potential star like Greg Oden or Kevin Durant, the team's next move seemed far in the future. "We were at it like we were frustrated with the moves. The most obvious thing to do was trade your star player for some young pieces and rebuild from there," said Pierce, the longest-tenured Celtics player since the original Big Three. "I pretty much thought it was over. I can't even explain it. I thought I was going to be a Los Angeles Clipper. I thought I was going to do anything but stay with the Celtics," he said. "All I know is if I wasn't a Celtic right now I'd be home." Instead, Pierce felt built around Pierce, adding Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett as one of the most dramatic overhauls in league history. The team that went 24-58 with a bunch of young players won 66 games this year and put the Celtics in the finals for the first time since 1987. "I get the pleasure of seeing him play every night, but they could have won a different way," Garnett said. "I'm glad we see the organization stand behind a guy who has been able to give his all for them, for them to step up and actually give him some players and some help, so that he can reach his goals as a basketball player. "When you're a competitor, man, the thing one wants is a chance. They obviously went out and made the right deals. So my hat goes off to them." The Lakers made a deal of their own, acquiring Pao Gasol from the Grizzlies on Feb. 1 to help turn around a team that had shown promise before losing five of seven. After Gasol joined them, the Lakers won 12 of their next 13 games and went 26-9 of the rest of the way before going 12-3 against Denver, Utah and San Antonio in the playoffs. That led them back to Boston, where they would face off twice a year. Rivers said. "But I'm happy he stayed out West" where he would only face Boston twice a year, Rivers said. "But I'm glad it worked out the way it worked out. Just like Paul Pierce is a Celtic, Kobe is a Laker." Finals
continued from page 16
It brings everyone together and it's always a physical game." Andrew Gardner, Cal Poly's junior-to-be kicker and a Davis native, agreed about the rivalry's place. "Whenever you play a team also on your level, another CSU school, a lot of guys here were also recruited by Sac State," he says. "So there's going to be a lot of competition there. I think both teams would want to play each other because travel costs can be so much more than just driving up the I-5 to get to the game." Come says based on conversations with the Horners' administration and coaching staff, in the long term, Sacramento State "absolutely" is interested in playing Cal Poly. "I think it should be soon," Come says. "I anticipate it'll be a year or two and they'll play us again. There are so few of us in West, we really need to play each other."

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CLASSIFIEDS
Bertoni shoots a 134, qualifies for U.S. Open

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Former Cal Poly golfer Travis Bertoni qualified Monday for the U.S. Open by carding back-to-back rounds of 67 in the Tennessee Sectional at the Cordova Country Club in Cordova, Tenn.

The Paso Robles High alumnus shot a 10-under-par 134 total on the 6,305-yard, par-72 layout to finish in a sixth-place tie. His back-to-back rounds of 67 were good enough to punch his ticket into the 115-player field at the 111th U.S. Open that begins Monday at The Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Bertoni, twice bestowed PINC All-Pac-12 honors, was the only local golfer to make the cut at Cordova. While he had to account for eight conference games this season, despite the conference championship Subdivision (formerly Division II) — Cal Poly will be visiting FCS McNeese State, a conference champion in 2007 that went 5-4 last season.

On the national list of collegiate wins, Bertoni, twice bestowed PINC All-Pac-12 honors, has a 10-1 record at 6,305 yards, par-72. Bertoni is the second of a three-part series about Cal Poly's 2008 football schedule, the school's on-hiatus rivalry with Sacramento State and the dwindling landscape of college football within California.