Bikers invade SLO

Beer sales contract not renewed

Camas Frank

Fans of the Mustangs will no longer be able to get a Budweiser at home games come the 2009 baseball season.

The removal of one of the few exceptions to Cal Poly's "Dry Campus" policy comes as the result of a 2005 CSU executive order banning alcohol service at athletic events. Until now, Cal Poly's beer sales contract had been grandfathered in, but with the multi-year term expired there can be no renewal.

The move may appear to eliminate policy inconsistency, since student drinking has been a community health issue for some time, but some aren't sure that it has much bearing on the larger problems facing the dry campus.

"There has been not one problem that I'm aware of at the baseball games, not one," University Police Chief Bill Watton said. "It's a more controlled environment. People have to show ID and there are officers on duty."

Watton said the real problem has been drinking off-campus parties and the public intoxication that results.

Other campus officials who deal with the fallout of student drinking tend to agree.

Stephan Lamb is the advisor to the fraternity council on campus.

"Once you leave campus, university policies do not govern. Just because we're a dry campus doesn't mean there's no alcohol available," he said.

"It's unrealistic to think that college students aren't going to party, they are," Lamb added.

For those living on campus, strict enforcement by campus police and by staff in the residence halls make violations a risky business, driving students to les controlled venues.

Indeed, self-reported data from surveys of 1,000 randomly selected Cal Poly students taken every fall for the last five years has shown an unusually high usage rate compared to other CSU campuses.

"We may be among the highest (in terms of use), certainly above average in the CSU system," said Dr. Martin Bragg, Director of Health and Counseling Services.

According to the statistics there appear to be several reasons for the disparity.

"Number one, there are a lot more men than women on campus," Bragg said. "It's almost always the other way around. Men statistically drink more than women do. Also as a residential campus (unusual in the CSU system) there's a large population of freshmen away from home for the first time."

This under-21 crowd is perhaps surprisingly the heaviest drinking group around.

"For many, this is their first access to alcohol, and they lack the experience to use it wisely. In some cases though, they have a continuing pattern of use from high school and they drink as a stress reduction tool," said Rejzan Dominguez, a Cal Poly health educator.

"A lot of outside things affect what we see here," Watton said. "Variance in high school classes for example. Sometimes the local high school will have a problem with a specific class and that causes a spike in statistics when they pass through here."

However, by the time a rumbling freshman becomes a more seasoned junior, incidence rates are lowered and compliance with student conduct policies are less challenging.

"In terms of proceedings related to intoxication, fall and spring are my busiest times. New people lime to pass through here."

In terms of proceedings related to intoxication, fall and spring are my busiest times. New people lime to pass through here.

In June,Yildiz and his partners were one of 13 winners out of hundreds of applicants in the USDA's Grand Challenge competition, which awarded innovative ideas to make the U.S. self-sustainable in energy without impacting food production.

Yildiz says there are no catches or hidden downsides to his plan that could potentially end the nation's energy crisis through what he calls "our little green friends" — algae.

"It's here. It's our natural friend. So modest. So simple," Yildiz says of the algae. "We've just discovering it again. (It) has been there, who knows, for how many millions of years."

The process uses a device called a photobioreactor to grow algae. The algae, being a plant, uses photosynthesis to take carbon dioxide out of the air.

By-products of the process include algae cake, which can either be burned (without releasing carbon dioxide into the air) or fed to livestock.

Another by-product that results from certain strains of algae is an oil component which can be used as biodiesel.

Because it's a natural substance, there are virtually no negative impacts of using it as an energy source, Yildiz says. The only struggle is finding a working strain.

With the limited help of two undergrad students this summer, the team is looking into the many different strains of algae find what's most effective.

Among factors being tested are the effects of light, temperature, and artificial or supplementary lighting on algae growth.

General engineering senior Bryan Brooker is one student working free of pay and free of class credit on the project this summer.

"In order for this to actually work, we need to have a lot of algae," Brooker says. "In terms of strain-dependent, different strains yield different biofuels."

Brooker has worked tirelessly this summer to try to find the exact combination.

"This can't be everyday algae you get from your fish tanks, it has to be pure . . . it has to be perfect," he says.

"We never expected things to fall into place so fast," he says. So far, the results of experimentation haven't yielded anything particularly life-changing.

"Every day is a little breakthrough," Brooker says. "But in the big scheme of things, we haven't had a big breakthrough."

"It's still unknown how much biodiesel can be created from the process."

"That is part of the research we are going to be doing," Yildiz says. "We are going to be researching, analyzing all of these different aspects."

Although the current photobioreactor being developed is structured as horizontal, self-contained tubes that house the algae,Yildiz says that eventually, he could develop the same device to replace rooftops and walls.

As far as expenses go,Yildiz says there will be no additional costs. The photobioreactors would be made out of the same material that walls are already made from.

Check out the Mustang Daily Web site for an audio slideshow on the SLO Criterium bike race downtown on Sunday.
Re usable Plastic Bottles: Harmful or just hype?

Chelsea Bieker
March 2009

Reusable plastic water bottles, such as Nalgene brand bottles, have been getting a bad rep lately. With many Web sites and so-called experts claiming that harmful chemicals in the plastic leach into drinking water, there is concern among consumers whether going green is worth the risk. The chemical in question, Bisphenol A (BPA), has been linked to breast cancer and the early onset of puberty. Nalgene, a company that makes popular reusable plastic bottles, recently recalled bottles containing BPA, and replaced them with ones that are BPA-free. Nalgene claims that the levels of BPA present in the plastic are not enough to cause harm to humans, and that it's time to replace the bottles.

Some, however, are not convinced. Joe Smith, a manager at Sports Authority in downtown San Luis Obispo, says many customers are concerned.

"Every person that comes in asks about it," he said. "There is a lot of concern among the older generation." Smith said the same had to recall all of the Nalgene bottles containing BPA. It has since replaced them with BPA-free bottles.

Web sites such as treehugger.com and greenamerica.org have articles claiming that these bottles are unsafe, and alternative plastic bottles are available for use.

What began as a method to save resources by eliminating the waste of disposable plastic water bottles has erupted into a major issue of safety. But just how accurate are these warnings?

Cal Poly Plastics Program Coordinator Keith Vorst says that, based on his research, he has not seen significant levels of BPA to be remotely concerned about the issue. He said that most problems occur when the plastic is being misused.

Although it's something many people have likely heard little about, plastics, and his students said that increas­ ingly, it's a process that is becoming more popular.

"It's coming," he says, and he ex­ pects it will be the future of Amer­ ica's energy.

"I want it to go large-scale," Bookser says. "Algae has such a po­ tential to replace America's depen­ dence on foreign oil. You know, it has a very applicable sort of being in America.

Although Cal Poly currently only has a small, yet functional, version of a photobioreactor, the university is developing a commercial product.

"This is all new stuff and — at this large-scale specially, very new," Vorst says. "And we are not talking about a very small lab, you know, in the two square feet that is a large-scale operation. Produc­ tion scale.

Cal Poly also recently won the school in the Grand Challenge competition that is not a land-grant school, meaning the institution does not financially support research-based projects in agriculture.

"And nuts businesses, even farms, compete with the Iowa state university," Vorst says.

As far as goals, Vorst says it's hard to tell.

"There is so much. But of course, there will be an end for my profes­ sional life," he says. "My goal — also to say competitive energy-consuming communities into locally sustainable, energy-cre­ ative communities."

To get to this goal, it'll take life­ times of professional work — and that kind of dedication is not easy to come by.

"It's hard to find, not only on this campus but also," Vorst says. "And for the institution here, Cal Poly, the administration basically is saying that we need to support the institution needs to be dedicated.

Minimum wage increases nationally

Christopher S. Rugaber
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Above 2 million Americans will get a raise Thursday as the federal minimum wage rises 70 cents. The new higher wages and food prices are swelling up its promise that the bottles will be good for the environment. It is time to replace them with ones that are BPA-free.

Workers like Walter Jasper, who earns minimum wage at a car wash in Nashville, Tenn., are happy to take the raise, but will struggle with the higher gas and food prices hammering Americans.

"It will help out a little," said Jasper, who with his fiancee sup­ ports a family of seven, and who earns the minimum plus com­ mission when customers order premium car-wash services.

"I don't think the raise is going to work as well as it was expected," he said. Vorst says that the BPA scare in water bottles is a lot of hype.

The problem with people using BPA is that people think it is trendy to ex­ ecise their paranoia, especially with the global "go green" way of thinking.

There is no grand conspiracy to make people sick," Vorst said. "People get bored and look for a cause." Vorst said that he does not hesitate to allow his children to drink from the bottles, because he believes they are truly safe. The problem arises when people use common sense.

"When the plast­ ic becomes hazy, scratched, and it's wear­ ing, it is time to replace it," he said. "Don't put any plastic into the microwave.

It is only when the plastics are put to the extreme (heat, cold, etc.) that any real risk of chemicals migrat­ ing into your food or drink arises.

Some alternatives would be to purchase bottles that are BPA-free, or simply to replace a bottle when it begins to show signs of wear and tear.

As for Nalgene bottles, Vorst recommends to continue use instead of littering the earth with countless dispos­ ible bottles.

I don't have a problem with Nalgene bottles," he said. "I use them."
Democratic presidential contender Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, stands with the director of Yad Vashem, Avner Shalev, right, in the Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, on July 23, 2008.

Obama told Israel he's committed to its future security

David Espo

Associated Press

From the solemnity of a Holocaust museum to a dusty village battered by Hamas rockets, Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama on Wednesday professed "an unshakable commitment to the security" of Israel, whether the threat comes from terrorism, Iran or elsewhere.

"The way you know where somebody's going is where have they been. And I've been with Israel for many, many years now," he said on a day that bore striking similarities to campaigning in the United States.

In his public remarks, Obama sidestepped a question of whether he would condone an Israeli attack to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. But he said he was confident that in several private meetings he had not left Israeli politicians with the impression that, if elected president, he would be "pressuring them to accept any kinds of concessions that would put their security at stake."

Obama packed more than a half-dozen meetings, a stop at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, a helicopter tour of the country and a visit to a house hit by Hamas rockets into his only full day in Israel during his trip to the Middle East and Europe.

He also rode past an Israeli checkpoint into Ramallah on the West Bank, where he assured Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of his support for a two-state resolution of the region's long antagonists. Later, entering a session with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Obama said his talks with Abbas indicated "there's a strong sense of progress being made" toward peace. Olmert nodded and said, "Indeed."

Obama's major focus was clearly reassuring Israelis — and by extension millions of Jewish voters in the United States — of his commitment to the survival of the Jewish state. He leads his Republican rival, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, among Jewish voters, but his support falls short of what Democrat John Kerry drew four years ago.

Obama said Israelis could be certain of his "commitment to Israel's security by looking at "my deeds."

"Just this past week, we passed out of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, which is my committee, a bill to call for divestment from Iran, as a sign of ratcheting up the pressure to ensure that they don't obtain a nuclear weapon," he said.

However, Obama does not serve on the banking committee, and McCain's campaign seized on the mistake.

"Not only is it not his committee, but he's not even on the committee, he didn't vote on the bill, and he had nothing to do with its passage," McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds said in a statement issued Wednesday.

State Briefs

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is threatening to defer wages for 200,000 state employees — paying them minimum wage until lawmakers reach a budget deal.

A spokesman for the governor, Aaron McLear, says it's one of several options Schwarzenegger is considering as California faces a cash shortfall.

The governor is contemplating signing an executive order next week that would pay state workers the federal minimum of $6.55 an hour. That amount is $1.45 an hour less than California's minimum wage.

Employees would receive their full salary retroactively once a budget is signed.

FRESNO (AP) — The company that hired a pregnant teenager who died of heat stroke this spring after laboring in a Central Valley vineyard was hit Wednesday with the highest fine ever issued to a California farming operation.

The state Division of Occupational Safety and Health fined Atwater-based Merced Farm Labor a record $262,706 for violating right workplace safety requirements. The agency said in some cases the violations were intentional.

Authorities believe 17-year-old Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez died on May 14 because her supervisors denied her access to shade and water as she pruned white wine grapes for more than nine hours in nearly triple-digit heat.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Nokia Corp. and Qualcomm Inc. said Wednesday they agreed to settle a high-stakes licensing dispute and end a bitter legal battle that has lasted nearly three years and spawned three continents.

The wireless industry heavyweights said the 13-year licensing deal gives Nokia rights to a wide portfolio of Qualcomm's patents. Nokia will pay Qualcomm an upfront sum and ongoing royalties, but the companies did not elaborate on the terms.

Nokia, the world's largest handset maker, said it will withdraw its anti-trust complaint against Qualcomm at the European Commission.

The two sides will drop all legal complaints against each other in the U.S., Europe and Asia, said Rick Simonson, Nokia's chief financial officer.

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State Briefs
Matthew Lee

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pushed North Korea on Wednesday to accept terms to verify the dismantling of its nuclear weapons program, as the two countries held cabinet-level talks for the first time in four years.

Rice told Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun that his nation must move quickly to prove it has told the truth about its past atomic activities if it wants to improve ties with the United States and North Korea’s immediate neighbors and end its international isolation.

“We didn’t get into specific timetables, but we have made progress,” she told reporters after the meeting on the sidelines of an Asian security forum in Singapore.

“There is also a sense of urgency about moving forward and a sense that we can’t afford to have another hiatus,” Rice said of her talks with Pak and the foreign ministers of the other four nations involved in the effort — China, Japan, Russia and South Korea.

Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill said Washington wants the verification plan put in place around Aug. 10. The actual process will take months to complete.

In a brief, one-on-one exchange, Rice reminded Pak of the importance the United States places on verification and also on North Korea resolving the issue of Japanese citizens it abducted in the 1960s, Hill told reporters after the 89-minute meeting.

Diplomats had expected Pak to present at least an initial response to the four-page proposed “verification protocol” that was given to North Korea this month after it delivered a declaration containing details of its nuclear program in June.

Rice said there had been a lot of discussion about the verification proposal, which calls for intrusive inspections, interviews with scientists and a role for the U.N. nuclear watchdog, but would not say if the North had moved beyond preliminary objections to some of its elements.

The meeting “was actually very good,” she said. “It wasn’t a standoff with people just staring at each other. It was interactive.”

Yet just hours before the talks began, North Korea said it had met its commitments and said Washington must completely abandon its “hostile policies” toward the regime if the denuclearization process is to succeed.

Still, the spokesman for the North Korean delegation, Ri Yong Il, told reporters that Pyongyang hoped the meeting would build momentum toward ending the declaration and verification stage and move toward a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War.

After the talks, Ri said Pak had told his fellow foreign ministers that North Korea is willing “to implement its own obligations,” including verification, “closely following the implementation by other parties on the principle of action-for-action.”

Rice said there had been “no surprises” at the gathering and that all six parties had reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of denuclearizing North Korea.

“I think this is quite significant,” said Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. “It shows the six parties have the political will to move forward with the ... process.”

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**National**

**JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)** — The fate of a multibillion dollar pipeline that could unlock 4.5 billion cubic feet of North Slope gas reserves daily and power North American homes and businesses for decades now rests in the hands of 20 Alaska state senators.

On Wednesday, the Alaska House of Representatives reaffirmed its Tuesday night vote to award an exclusive license to TransCanada Corp., which must move forward on federal permitting applications for the 1,715-mile pipeline estimated to cost between $26 billion and $30 billion.

**HONOLULU (AP)** — All six crew members aboard a B-52 bomber that crashed off Guam were killed, the Air Force said Wednesday, as the search effort shifted focus from rescue to recovery of the crew and pieces of the wreckage.

Two bodies have been found, the Air Force, without elaborating, said in a news release that forensic specialists were trying to identify. Additional remains recovered.

“Loosing this bomber crew has been a tragedy felt by everyone here and across the Air Force,” said Brig. Gen. Donn Owens, commander of the 36th Wing.

**BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)** — Hurrican Dolly buried into South Texas on Wednesday, lashing the coast with winds up to 100 mph and dumping heavy rain that flooded some low-lying areas and caused widespread fires along the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley.

Authorities had feared the first hurricane to hit the U.S. since last September could produce up to 20 inches of rain in some areas, possibly breaching levees in the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley. But shortly before its center came ashore, the Category 2 storm weakened and moved north of the border, veering away from the flood walls.

**International**

**TOYKO (AP)** — A powerful earthquake struck off the northern Japanese coast early Thursday, injuring nearly 100 people, triggering tsunami warnings affecting thousands of people, officials said.

Japan’s Meteorological Agency said there was a danger of a tsunami from the temblor, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8. It struck shortly after midnight about 65 miles underground and centered just off the coast of Ibaraki, 280 miles northeast of Tokyo.

At least 99 people were injured, mainly cuts and bruises from broken glasses and falling objects, said Japan’s National Police Agency official on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. No one had life threatening injuries.

**BEIJING (AP)** — China will allow a mob of dissent at the Olympics, setting up a protest zone far from the main sports venues, in a shift that supporters who say it was an attempt to hit the U.S. since last September could produce up to 20 inches of rain in some areas, possibly breaching levees in the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley. Authorities had feared the first hurricane to hit the U.S. since last September could produce up to 20 inches of rain in some areas, possibly breaching levees in the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley. But shortly before its center came ashore, the Category 2 storm weakened and moved north of the border, veering away from the flood walls.

The designated protest areas will be in parts of three public parks, some of them closer than several miles from the main Olympic stadium. One zone is in a park that features large-scale mock-ups of the White House and other world monuments, raising the prospect that protesters will appear to be elsewhere in televised images and news photos.

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraq’s presidential council on Wednesday rejected a draft parliamentary elections law and sent it back to parliament for rewriting — a major blow to U.S. hopes that the vote can be held this year.

The decision was likely to delay the elections until next year because there would not be sufficient time to make the necessary preparations. U.S. officials have pushed hard for the polls, which would be a key step toward repairing Iraq’s sectarian divisions.
McCa in denies mistating the timing of recent Iraq surge

Tom Raum
STAFF PHOTO

Republican John McCain pushed back on Wednesday against Democrat criticism that he mistated when the troop buildup ordered by President Bush began, saying elements were put in place before Bush announced the strategy in early 2007.

He told reporters during an unscheduled stop in a super market that what the Bush administration called "the surge" was actually "made up of a number of components," some of which began before the president's order for more troops.

"It’s all a matter of semantics," he suggested.

McCain said army Col. Sean MacFarland started carrying out elements of a new counterinsurgency strategy as early as December 2006.

At issue are McCain’s comments in a Tuesday interview with CBS. The Arizona senator disputed Democrat Barack Obama’s contention that a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida, combined with the dispatch of thousands more U.S. combat troops to Iraq to improve the improved security situation there, McCain called that a "false depiction."

Democrats jumped on his comments. They said McCain’s remarks showed he was out of touch, because the rebellion of U.S.-backed Sunni sheikhs against al-Qaida terrorists in Iraq’s Anbar province was under way well before Bush announced in January 2007 his decision to send 30,000 additional U.S. troops to Iraq.

McCain asserted he knew that and didn’t commit a gate. "The surge was really a counterinsurgency made up of a number of components. I’m not sure people understand that surge is part of a counterinsurgency."

Speaking on CBS Tuesday of a Sunni sheik who approached McCain, McCain said: "Because of the surge, we were able to go out and protect that sheik and others. And it began the Anbar awakening."

On Wednesday, McCain continued to try to portray his opponent as naive about Iraq while Obama is visiting the war zone, the Middle East and Europe.

"I am again deeply disappointed that Sen. Obama will not recognize that the surge has succeeded," McCain said.

He said that "no rational person" could think otherwise.

McCain said he had been briefed by Col. MacFarland, commander of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in December 2006 to discuss the strategy that remains in force today.

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Christopher Nolan's new Batman movie, "The Dark Knight," has had more than just a veil of buzz surrounding it, and for good reason. This movie is amazing. It touches base with so many different emotions that to place it in just one genre would be a crime.

That's right, this film may be an interpretation of an action-packed comic book, but matching pace with all of the explosions and shootings is a deeper plot and one hell of a cast.

We find ourselves amid the grime, on the streets of Gotham City where organized crime sets the tone. Stealing and killing monopolize the calm of the atmosphere, and no one is safe from harm, perhaps not even Gotham's celebrated hero, Batman (Christian Bale) himself.

The Joker, played by Heath Ledger, is truly a performance you must see on the big screen. He is electrifying, terrifying, horribly twisted, darkly humorous, psychotic and mesmerizing. Everything about him, from his menacing cackle to the pancake makeup grin covering his mangy face, will make you squirm. As horrible as the Joker is, he is not without his charms. He is at times truly comical. He incorporates sarcastic wit and remarkable nonchalance to his wreckage which partners beautifully with his physical creep factor. He is alone in the world, and at times, it is regretfully easy to feel compassion for him.

Somewhere in the middle of him lighting things on fire and killing countless people, it becomes clear that the Joker is a multidimensional madman, and his motives are not rooted in money, wealth or prestige. He simply wants to disrupt order, in no particular way. He cannot be swayed, bribed or bargained with, and that is what makes him such a powerful villain. He struggles become visible as the movie progresses.

This film challenges the limits of human nature, and will force you to ask yourself the question, "Hmm ... what would I do?" It is almost a classic battle between good and evil taken on an emotional roller coaster ride. Get ready to be scared, excited and enamored by the hopping two-and-a-half-hour action extravaganza.

Don't be diverted by the lengthy runtime; it's worth every minute. As the Joker says, "What doesn't kill you ... makes you stronger."
Stoneman rocks Sweet Springs

The melodic interpretations of local artist and singer-songwriter Shane Stoneman could be heard while passing by the Sweet Springs Saloon in Los Osos Friday night. It was my first time inside the local haunt, better known for its pool tables than the musicians employed to keep its dance floor packed. While the stage looked more like something a garage band would use for practice than a serious venue, the informal atmosphere was perfect for the night's exhibition.

Throughout the night, Stoneman displayed an easygoing attitude, evidenced by the T-shirt and jeans garb of the band and the bottle of Corona at his feet. The overall impression was less of an artist giving a performance than of a man having a good time with old friends. Offstage, he said that he recognized half of the audience, and a significant portion of the crowd stood ready to glad-hand him and offer liquid refreshments during breaks.

Stoneman arranged the performance to promote the release of his new album, "Days Gone By." A few of the CDs were available by the stage, offered by Stoneman for the modest price of "$10 or three Euros... or take my car and fill it up with gas. That'll get you four or five of them.”

Most of the songs featured in the evening's two sets were included on the CD in some form, including Stoneman's first duet, "Won't Get Too Cold," sung with San Francisco vocalist Amy Ouz. Other offerings were diverse in topic and inspiration, ranging from UFO visitation to the Los Osos sewer controversy, to a father's love and, of course, the classic inspiration of lost lovers.

Stoneman was backed by a quartet of musicians each with their own following on the Central Coast, Zaki Correa, of the band Crucifix, propelled the night forward, compelling an initially reluctant crowd to the dance floor with solid rhythms alternating between rock and jazz beats. Dylan Johnson of Eastern is accompanied Stoneman and Cruz, adding his voice to the significant contributions of his bass guitar which could be heard prominently throughout the night's long instrumental riffs.

Pianist/keyboardist Thomas Caffee, of Restimation, was introduced only as "Tony," an appreciation of origins unknown origin. He complimented Stoneman's harmonica and vocals with smooth background finger work and a more noticeable presence when called upon. His use of the organ allowed the evening to shift modes from a hard inde-rock edge to slower jazz elements as the set neared closure.

Of the 21 songs featured during the performance, there was enough variety in stylistic inspiration to keep things interesting. Throughout the show, a combination of voice and harmonica backed up by almost "soft pop" bass, the occasional and fleeting country-western sound in some lyrics, or the straight-out-of-the-'60s poetic styling of Cruz, something for all tastes could be found and always a sense of fun shared between audience and performers.
Welcome to chictopia.com, where Facebook experiences a head-on collision with Vogue. On this site you can upload pictures of yourself in your favorite outfits and view other users' photos.

The site is geared primarily toward college-aged individuals looking to find deals on fashionable clothing, and see the way their favorite styles will actually look on their bodies.

Chictopia launched in April and already clocks in about 5,500 daily visits, and has more than 5,000 registered users. With features such as blogs, ratings, photo galleries and reviews, the site is comparable to MySpace, but concentrated on fashion.

Chictopia CEO Helen Zhu created the site after being inspired by a 2001 Time magazine article that named "you" as the person of the year. After taking note of the growing trend of individualism in fashion and the need for an alternative to the model-dominated world of magazines, she decided there was a demand for something fresh.

"I've always been interested in dressing well, but I don't think I am any more fashionable than the next person," Zhu said. "I'm not sure that fashion magazines help; they are not a relevant source."

There is no platform for people to display their own ideas for fashion as there is for musicians and other artists, Zhu added.

"I was thinking, what about fashion?" she said. "We need a launching pad."

The site has done more than raise a few eyebrows among the public, as well as catch the eye of fashion's elite.

Zhu said that some of the users of chictopia.com have been featured individually in Teen Vogue after being noticed on the site.

They ask us for the email addresses of the users to get into contact with them," she said. "We're making an influence in the fashion world.

Zhu said the easiest way to use the site is to sign up for a free account. Upon signing up, the site will inquire about your personal measurements and body type, including hair and eye color as well as skin tone. After making an account you will be able to browse tons of pictures of other individuals possessing similar physical qualities as yourself.

The point of this feature, Zhu said, is to take the guesswork out of fashion. By seeing the clothes on people with similar shapes as you, it will give you a real idea about how trends will appear. Along with visuals, they also tag where the clothing was purchased and the price.

"You aren't just looking at girls," she said. "You are looking at girls like you.

Zhu said she has a long torso, and it helps to look at others with the same shape to see what trends work well, and what jeans fit their body the best.

CSU Poly social sciences sophomore and chictopia.com intern Linda Qui said she has always been interested in fashion, but since she has started using the site, her sense of style has improved.

Qui said the site is original because it allows you to share your ideas while getting feedback from real people your age.

"You get to search for your body shape, and narrow down the choices," she said. "Chictopia is a great outlet for creativity, and to see what other people are doing.

Qui hopes more college-age people in San Luis Obispo will use the site.

"We are sort of in a bubble with no big cities around us," she said. "I really want everyone to check it out!"
Should read fine print when signing with the Saudis

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” While many Cal Poly faculty members’ views resonate with that ethos, there are few that can openly oppose the Saudi Arabia deal; most of the faculty refrain because there is a perception of possible retribution or retaliation by the university.

During the past year, we have all seen the morally shaky stance taken by Cal Poly administration to afford the pursuit of a highly questionable partnership with Jabil University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia. The administration has answered questions from our over-whelming majority of Cal Poly stakeholders, faculty, staff, donors, alumni, the media, and students in an apologetic manner.

Let’s start by reminding ourselves who we are and who we are not. Cal Poly is a state-funded university whose authoritative obligations are to the citizens of California. We are a secular entity, we are a private philanthropic endeavor with the goal of sending missionaries to change the deplorable human rights violations and corrupt values exist in this nation.

We do not also have a surplus of idle faculty or staff that need to be given external funding to keep them occupied; ironically, our current reality is quite the opposite.

It is reasonable to pose the following unanswered question to frame the Saudi misadventure from the viewpoint of who continue to oppose the deal or at the very least raise the moral and ethical arguments we have heard from the administration to date seem to lack credibility.

1) Why should Cal Poly help set up a university program in Saudi Arabia if there is no payoffable benefit for Cal Poly students? That is the common question asked by Stanford and Berkeley and Stanford when King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia approached them with a similar request resultant in a $10 million compensation in addition to full reimbursement of all incurred costs. Cal Poly’s proposed deal with JUC only reimburses our costs but gives us no outright monetary reward.

2) Can we defend the Edwards-Berkeley and Stanford and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia approach them with a similar request resultant in a $10 million compensation in addition to full reimbursement of all incurred costs. Cal Poly’s proposed deal with JUC only reimburses our costs but gives us no outright monetary reward.

3) Why would the engagement of faculty and efforts at high risk in the land of barbaric justice? We all remember the harsh sentence of 200 lives stipulated by the Saudi court on an innocent Saudi woman who was gang raped, but happened to be in a car with a non-related male. The King — only in response to global condemnation finally issued a pardon to prevent the public lashing of the innocent rape victim. That is the nature of the Saudi judiciary we are dealing with.

4) Why is the Cal Poly administration so enthralled in sticking with this highly controversial endeavor when it continues to be the most damaging PR disaster to date for Cal Poly? The wide-ranging media reports of this debacle are consistently critical on the lack of wisdom by Cal Poly in this venture.

5) Why is College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noor — the leading proponent of this endeavor — always “not-available” to the media for interviews? Provost Bill Durgin has fielded all media questions and has been bruised by the criticism.

6) Why does the administration justify the deal with the argument of so-called “academic freedom” for the faculty who choose to participate while denying others the right to openly debate the issue? The Senate Executive Committee member cared in to intimidating pressure from the administration to prevent open debate by the Senate. The senator cares nothing for academic freedom.

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We should all learn lessons from the heart-warming transformation into a technologically dependent world that we are forgetting how to live in the real world.

The one time. I went downtown this year with a few girls from class, we found ourselves at one point standing at a Higuer Sttreet intersection, each having a separate conversation on our phones. It’s a sad reality.

The release of WALL-E and the iPhone 3G was so perfectly synchronized that it was almost as though the movie was intended to show us the inevitable outcome of the product release. As the download speeds of these phones continues to increase, the less we have to do... well, anything. You can do your work, rent movies, get directions... order food! Right, that transformation into a technologically dependent world only happening on a corporate level. An advertisement conveniently placed at the left-hand navigation of your iTunes' page this week introduced me to something I’d never seen before: ordering food from your cell phone. A small, privately-owned restaurant in the downtown San Luis Obispo now allows customers to order food through their mobile service by directing a phone’s web browser to the online menu. Although I understand the convenience factor involved, what’s the rush?

Are lunch breaks universally getting shorter, or are we just wanting to spend more time sitting at a table with our phones, and less time having to stand in line and possibly be fitted into human interaction?

I’m really more and more that all this innovation is less about necessity and more about taking advantage of the ability. I don’t need to order my food online, but if I can, sure why not?

That must have been how it started in WALL-E. Humans said, “Sure, why not?” to technology, and didn’t know where to draw the line. But by the end of WALL-E’s opening, the question of whether there is a new appreciation for life, love and friendship.

We should all learn lessons from the heart-warming animation (I know I need to rest). Every once in a while, take out those ear buds and listen to the world. Turn off your texting, messaging, fingernail raps and take a minute to shake someone’s hand. Watch a movie on a real TV, not a 3-inch iPhone screen. Laugh with someone in person instead of LOing.

Laurie Rabino is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily reporter.
The New York Times Crossword

Across
1 Prominent feature of Dracula
6 Reunion group
11 Showman
14 Let's Make
15 Search engine name
16 Designer
17 It may end up in the gutter
19 In the style of
20 ___acid (protein component)
21 Schindler of "Schindler's List"
23 Spy's device
26 Sweater style
29 Runs out
32 Slave girl of opera
33 Exploding stars
34 Fuel economy org
35 City in Italy
36 Astronaut's org
38 Fred Astaire's sister
40 Bow-toting god
41 Certain plea, for short
42 Of one's
43 Pageant accessory
44 Tony Soprano and cohorts, with "the"
45 Cheese hunk
46 One on a pedestal
47 Nostalgic tune
48 Old timer?
50 Classic breakfast fare
52 Of wisdom
55 Reporting to
56 How-to presentations
59 Glance
60 Item on a set
64 ___y Plata
65 Milk purchase
68 Sees red
69 Internal top
70 Center of power
71 Some retired racchines

Down
1 Wonderful, slangily
2 Fork
3 Partner of improved
4 Bag o' cash
5 To none (long odds)
6 Stellar swan
7 Part of a repair estimate
8 "Got It!"
9 Showman Hurk
10 Went at it alone
11 Cereal morsel
12 Purple hue
13 Country/rock's ___Mountain Daredevils
14 Nick at...
16 "Semper Fi" org.
18 Fred Astaire's sister
22 Tangled as hair
23 Big tops
24 Lei Day greeting
25 Blacktops, say
27 Surveillance evidence
28 Fact fudger
30 Common union demand
31 Part of a min
32 Slave girl of opera
33 Exploding stars
67 Disney mermaid
69 Internal top
70 Center of power
71 Some retired racchines

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Richie Rich's Cousin, Pooric Poor

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Richie Rich's Cousin, Pooric Poor

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not going to pursue them anymore, no way," Olson said. Olson later told more of the same to Sports.com.

"We're going to change our outlook and if we think someone we're recruiting has that kind of thought about going to Europe, we're going to stop trying to recruit those type of guys," Olson said. "We're coaches warned the NCAA about this when it first was put in place. It's going to turn into a bigger mess." More than 2,600 miles away, Olson's comments intrigued coaches and players at the birthplace of basketball, Springfield, Mass., at an AAU tournament that featured Olson's new breed of diamond-in-the-rough AAU play-
er.

The HoopHall Summer Showcase attracted the northeast's top AAU programs to Washington, D.C., last weekend. While the ink of Olson's comments was still dry, coaches and players became intrigued, too. "You might see some of the bigger schools start to trickle into these smaller tournaments," said tournament director Colin Tabb. "Part of it, is a lot of the high-level programs still have those lower-level Division I players on their team. They're going to probably target kids that they feel are going to be program kids now versus kids that are going to be one-and-done," Tabb added. "I think you'll see kids that they can build a team around for four years." While this year's HoopHall Summer Showcase only attracted local scouts — the best program in attendance was Massachusetts-Amherst — the future might be different at these types of smaller tournaments.

Mike Menenga coaches the M33M AAU team based out of Buffalo, N.Y., which mainly consists of unscreened players heading to private academies, rather than college, in an effort to boost their national recognition.

"It's a tough one," Menenga said. "Their dream is to get to the NBA. I think you should reward the best players regardless of whether you think they're one and done. It's really tough, you don't know the situation of the kid. It's like being punished for being good," he added.

Said M33M 16-year-old guard Tabb, who coached for three seasons. 

"Some of these kids, they have so much baggage with them," Menenga said. "(Schools are) looking for decent kids that are going to be in class. Character goes into it a lot. I think a lot of programs are going to start looking at that even more." Tabb, who coached for three years at Bradford (Mass.), also put a great amount of stock into his recruiting efforts.

"I think it's all about building a team for four years," Tabb said. "Chemistry, cohesiveness — guys you want to build your program around. Kids are so talented, but you also got to judge their attitude, character, how they represent themselves off the court — those are all things you factor in."
Mustangs likely to feel effects of Fresno State’s run

Lauren Rabaino

While about a month has passed since the Fresno State baseball team won the College World Series championship, effects of the nationally celebrated run could just be beginning to be felt on the West Coast — including at Cal Poly.

Indeed, even Congressman Devin Nunes, a Fresno Republican who on July 15 announced the passage of a House resolution he introduced to honor the freshly crowned Bulldogs — is a Cal Poly graduate.

Outside of the legislature, though, the sentiment is that Cal Poly could suffer from the historic Cinderella story capped June 25 could be more direct.

The most immediate of them could be absorbed in the San Joaquin Valley recruiting battle, which will likely be more difficult. Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said.

“We’ve been able — over the last few years — to get some of the better (Central Valley) players, but now it’s a feather in (Fresno State’s) hat for them to stay local,” he said.

Several key contributors to last year’s Mustangs-built squad from the area, including sophomore catcher Wes Darrell (from Clovis), sophomore shortstop Kyle Smith (Visalia), and sophomore left fielder Luke Yoder and junior pitcher Jared Eakens (both from Bakersfield).

Fresno State’s senior relief pitcher during the run, Jason Breckley, also predicts the Bulldogs will see an influx of talent from their home base.

“With that Cal Poly recruiting tremendously,” he said.

Of course, not everything about Fresno State’s taste of the championship may be so grim for Cal Poly.

In spite of possible recruiting drawbacks it may yield, Lee takes solace in what he says Fresno State’s success demonstrated about West Coast baseball.

“The games I saw just go to show you how strong the West is in baseball,” Lee said.

Fresno State advanced to the national field after winning the Western Athletic Conference tournament. “What really helps (Fresno State) is that they’re in postseason play every year, so their team gets accustomed to playing in a regional tournament,” Lee said.

The Big West Conference diversification factors into the Mustangs’ program.

With this year’s recruiting class, Lee said, “I feel that it’ll help recruiting tremendously. It was also a concern among some of our coaches that it wasn’t solving anything.”

Fresno State’s Ryan Stanger, who just completed his junior year for the Bulldogs, was a member of the top 10 of the Big West Conference standings.

His stacks were ranked 24th, followed by UC Riverside (94), UC Davis (95), Long Beach State (96), UCSB State Fullerton (111) and Cal State Northridge (165).

The Mustangs, who finished third in the conference, have qualified for the NCAA Regional for the third time in four years.

“We asked (the Day family) if they would have trouble financially in getting over to Beijing and they said, ‘Yes,’ ” said Iike Decker, who is spearheading the fundraising effort for Sharon Day.

Although the Mustangs are yet to make the postseason since moving to the Division I ranks in 1995, they went 3-2 in a dispersed non-conference series against Fresno State last season, and were able to stake a claim in the Big West at the NCAA Tournament the past two years.

“The argument could be made that we deserved even more than that in both of those years,” Farrell said.

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