Compassionate Caregivers guilty on all federal counts

BY THE NUMBERS:

College of Agriculture: $49,000
Highest: M.S. Agriculture at $58,000
Lowest: Nutrition

College of Architecture and Environmental Design:
Highest: Construction Management
Lowest: Architecture

College of Business:
Highest: Information Systems
Lowest: Marketing Management

College of Education:
$48,000
M.A. in Education: $48,000 (picky information available)

College of Engineering:
$74,000
Highest: M.S. in Aerospace Engineering
Lowest: Civil Engineering at $50,000

College of Liberal Arts:
$38,000
Highest: Liberal Studies at $42,880
Lowest: Journalism at $30,000

College of Science and Mathematics:
$38,500
Highest: Mathematics
Lowest: Kinesiology and biological science at $30,000

SLO job growth quickens with high-tech companies

Breehan Yohe-Mellor
METXON DAILY

Morro Bay medical marijuana dispenser Charles Lynch was found guilty by a Los An­geles Federal Court jury Aug. 5 for five counts of violating federal drug laws in a trial that stirred controversy.

Lynch, 46, who will be sentenced Oct. 20, could face a mandatory minimum of five years or up to a maximum of 20 years in federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute, criminal conspiracy, maintaining a drug house and two counts of selling to people younger than 21, considered minors under federal law, an offense that carries a sentencing enhance­ment.

Although growing and selling marijuana for medical reasons is allowed in some cases under California law, it is illegal to possess or sell any marijuana under federal law, which overrules state laws.

The federal government has sent letters to property owners explaining that if their property is being used as a medical marijuana dispensary, it can be seized under federal laws.

Morro Bay City Attorney Rob Schultz said, “There are hundreds of them in San Fran­cisco and in Oakland and why they picked on Morro Bay is anybody’s guess. There’s the theory that Sheriff Pat Hedges is completely against them and did what he could to...pur­suit of this one down and prosecuting (Lynch).”

“It has nothing to do with whether I like it or not, they’re still illegal,” Hedges said in response.

He said it is illegal under federal law to have a retail store selling marijuana, and Lynch “would have had to create a co-op type of situation where there are members and they covered costs and expenses” to avoid prosecu­tion. “You cannot do it for a profit and he was doing it for a profit,” he said.

Those who are sick and get a recommendation from a doctor can grow and/or pos­sess marijuana but stores can’t sell it for retail, Hedges said.

Lynch, who was a member of Morro Bay’s Chamber of Commerce, opened Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers with the blessing of Schultz and Morro Bay Mayor Janice Peters in 2006, both of whom were subpoenaed to testify at Lynch’s trial.

“It’s just unfortunate that we have this discrep­ancy between the state and federal laws,” Peters said. “Unfortunately, Charlie is kind of the victim of that discrepancy...If the federal courts are going to give the states the right to make their own decisions on these issues, then they have to give us that right to continue with that.”

In March 2007, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which had been monitoring the dispensary for the 11 months it was open, arrested Lynch and raided his home, finding records of the dis­care Caregivers, page 2

Compassionate Caregivers guilty on all federal counts

Morro Bay resident Charlie Lynch was found guilty on all federal counts for his medical marijuana dispensary in the town.

Marc 29, 2007
The DEA and sheriff’s department raid the dispensary and Lynch’s home.

April 2006
Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers open in Morro Bay.

July 17, 2008
Lynch is arrested and charged under federal statute.

July 23, 2008
Lynch’s federal trial begins at the Los Angeles Federal Court.

Aug. 5, 2008
Trial concludes, finding Lynch guilty on all charges.

Oct. 20, 2008
Sentencing phase to take place.

Sept. 12, 2007
Charles Lynch calls the DEA four times, he says.

Mar. 16, 2007
Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers close.

July 30, 2008
Lynch takes the stand in his own defense.

Aug. 5, 2008
Trail concludes, finding Lynch guilty on all charges.

Oct. 20, 2008
Sentencing phase to take place.
Economy

with Cal Poly comes in that there is very high quality labor being created over the life of the project. Dr. Dunning estimates up to 300 San Luis Obispo jobs being created directly providing private sector jobs. Dr. Dunning said.

The opening of the technology park capitalizes on Cal Poly to provide new technology jobs to spur growth, there are resources available on campus to students in any field who have an objective in mind. "It has been hard to do since the '70s but it’s not impossible to stay in the area after school if that’s your goal. I’m one who did it. The key is to strategize to find the right fit," Carole Moore, Career Services Program Coordinator said.

“We'll help you do a customized job search for whatever it is you are looking for," she continued. "The right strategy is to look for specific fits with a tailored CV in your resume and cover letter to the industry and the potential employers." Even though private sector employers in the county, such as Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the largest in the area have engaged in layoffs and attrition in the last year, smaller companies continue to provide opportunities for students as part their business model. "Networking gives you a solid basis," Moore said. "There are a lot of kinds of ways to get involved, even if you’re already graduated, an internship is a good idea. Volunteer in the field you’re interested in and in the community overall. Even if you have to support yourself in another way temporarily, look for the career," Moore advised.

Caregiver

continued from page 1

pensary’s profit and a backpack with $27,000.

"The sheriff’s department basically paid money to people who are criminals to get in and pretend they had an illness and buy marijuana," said John Littrell, one of Lynch’s attorneys.

Lynch’s Executive Secretary Gina Armstrong was working the day authorities came on the scene. "They couldn’t really get anything on us until they decided to take the sheriff and get a fake ID and after that we were raided," Armstrong said. "They just came in like robbers and told us to get on the ground with their guns on us and all the San Luis Obispo County sheriffs had masks on just like it was a robbery."

Armstrong claimed that one of the narcotics officers harassed the store employees the day after Lynch was arrested. "He left a note on my desk that said ‘All hippies die,’" Armstrong alleged. "He came in his plain clothes the next day driving around in a position to be prosecuted."

"He couldn’t really get anything on us because) he relied on information supplied by Lynch for not presenting names and titles of the DEA officials he said were involved. Lynch also struck 17-year old witness Owen Beck’s testimony from the record. Beck, a high school football and soccer player who lost his leg to bone cancer, went to Lynch’s dispensary for medical marijuana when a Stanford oncologist recommended he try medical marijuana to lessen his pain after other medications affected him poorly.

"The government actually made a motion to impeach us from bringing witnesses to court that looked ill," Littrell said. "Their theory was the essence of Lynch’s defense was entrapment because federal law does not accept the term. We also struck both witnesses from the record, Beck, a high school football and soccer player who lost his leg to bone cancer, went to Lynch’s dispensary for medical marijuana when a Stanford oncologist recommended he try medical marijuana to lessen his pain after other medications affected him poorly.

"The government actually made a motion to impeach us from bringing witnesses to court that looked ill," Littrell said. "Their theory was that Lynch had permission from the city and the fact that he was helping sick people, that was all irrelevant.

The essence of Lynch’s defense was entrapment by entrapment, an affirmative defense that can be utilized when a government official has misled the defendant into thinking that his or her actions are legal when in fact they can be considered illegal, thus putting him or her in a position to be prosecuted.

"Charles contacted...the DEA and they told him they were going to leave it up to the city and state to decide this issue," Schreiber said. "So his theory is that it was entrapment (because) he relied on information supplied by government agents and that’s why he opened the dispensary."

The prosecuting attorneys rejected the defense, criticizing Lynch for not presenting names and titles of the DEA officials he said he spoke with. According to the Los Angeles Times, Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Kowski told jurors that records found in Lynch’s home showed he had distributed more than 101 kilos of marijuana worth about $2.1 million and had sold marijuana to more than 2,000 people. Two hundred and fifty of them were under 21.

"We are pleased with the jury’s verdict," said Thomas Mescone, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney’s office in Los Angeles. "We believe that they followed the law as instructed by the judge in the case."

Lynch is currently out on bail but remains under house arrest until his sentencing. His attorneys have said they will seek an appeal once he is sentenced.

Mount Speaker

News designer: Whitney Tuttle
mustangdailynews@gmail.com

Thursday, August 14, 2008

News

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$1 Pint Night

WEDNESDAY

25¢ Hot Wing Night

THURSDAY

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Arkansas Dem. party chair killed by shooter

Andrew Demillo  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man recently fired from a Target store barged into the Arkansas Democratic headquarters Wednesday and fatally shot the state party chairman before speeding off in his pickup.

Police later shot and killed the suspect after a 30-mile chase.

Police identified the suspect as 50-year-old Timothy Dale Johnson of Little Rock. They said that moments after the shooting, Johnson pointed a handgun at a worker at the nearby Arkansas Baptist headquarters.

An official there said he told the worker, "I lost my job."

Chairman Bill Gwatney died four hours after the shooting. The 48-year-old former state senator had been planning to travel to the Democratic National Convention later this month as a superdelegate. He had backed Hillary Clinton but endorsed President and former Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, issued a statement saying Gwatney was "not only a strong chairman of Arkansas Democratic Party, but ... also a cherished friend and confidant."

Conway police said a Target store worker north of Little Rock had found Johnson earlier Wednesday because he had written graffiti on a store wall. The age and address provided by Conway officers matched those provided by Little Rock police for its suspect.

Witnesses said the gunman entered the party offices shortly before noon and said he wanted to see Gwatney.

"He said he was interested in vol-

suspect.

A 19-year-old Cal Poly student was recently scammed out of $2,375 when a Craigslist Web site exchange went bad, and that's not the only one. Many people are duped by online con artists, but there are warning signs to prevent it from happening. One of the biggest red flags of a scam is the request for a wire payment, such was the case for the Cal Poly student.

The duped 19-year-old was advertising an apartment for summer sublet and thought the supposed interested party was legitimate. The suspect identified himself as a resident of the United Kingdom and sent her a wire transfer because he had written graffiti on a wall. A Target manager had called the store's headquarters to report the incident but the badge. A Target manager had called the store's headquarters to report the incident but the

"He said he was interested in vol-

unerring, but that was obviously a lie," said 17-year-old party volunteer Sam Higginbotham. He said that when the suspect was refused a meeting with Gwatney, he pushed past employees to reach the chairman's office.

Little Rock police spokesman Lt. Terry Hastings said the suspect and Gwatney introduced themselves to one another, at which time the suspect "pulled out a handgun and shot Gwatney several times." Hastings didn't say what the two discussed, but said their discussion was not a heated one.

Police said after leaving the office, the suspect pointed a gun at a worker at the Baptist headquarters seven blocks away. When asked what was wrong, the man said, "I lost my job." said Dan Jordan, the group's business manager.

After the suspect avoided spike strips and a roadblock along U.S. 167 near Sheridan, police rammed his car, spinning it, said Grant County Sheriff Lance Huey. He got out of his truck and began shooting, and state police and sheriff's deputies fired back, striking him several times, he said.

Hastings said investigators found at least two handguns in the suspect's truck.

"There was a busy signal" Wednesday night at a phone number listed under Johnson's name. Little Rock police said they could find no criminal record for him.

According to Conway police spokesman Shane Carter, Target fired Johnson before 8 a.m. Wednesday because he had written on a wall. Other store employees said Johnson's body shook as he turned in his ID badge. A Target manager had called police because of the incident but the wall had already been cleaned.
Released documents detail high-profile spies

Brett J. Blunkledge and Randy Herschaft

Associated Press

Famed chef Julia Child shared a secret with Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and Chicago White Sox catcher Moe Berg at a time when the Nazis threatened the world.

They served in an international spy ring managed by the Office of Strategic Services, an early version of the CIA created in World War II by President Franklin Roosevelt.

The secret comes out Thursday, all of the names and previously classified files identifying nearly 24,000 spies who formed the first centralized intelligence effort by the United States. The National Archives, which this week released a list of the names found in the records, will make available for the first time all 780,000 pages identifying the vast spy network of military and civilian operators.

They were soldiers, actors, historians, lawyers, athletes, professors, reporters, but for several years during World War II, they were known simply as the OSS. They studied military plans, created propaganda, infiltrated enemy ranks and stirred resistance among foreign troops.

Among the more than 35,000 OSS personnel files are applications, commendations and handwritten notes identifying young recruits who, like Child, Goldberg and Berg, earned greater acclaim in other fields — Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a historian and special assistant to President Kennedy; Sterling Hayden, a film and television actor whose work included a role in "The Godfather"; and Thomas Braden, an author whose "Eight Is Enough" book inspired the 1977 television series.

Other notables identified in the files include John Hemingway, son of author Ernest Hemingway; Quentin Roosevelt, sons of President Theodore Roosevelt; and Miles Copeland, father of Stewart Copeland, drummer for the band The Police.

The release of the OSS personnel files unlocks one of the last secrets from the short-lived wartime intelligence agency, which for the most part later was folded into the CIA after President Truman disbanded it in 1945.

Paul Newberry

Associated Press

Michael Phelps finally seems to be grasping what it all means.

Maybe it started to sink in when the president showed up at the Water Cube and came back for an encore. Maybe he got a better idea when all those NBA superstars — Kobe Bryant and LeBron James among them — actually led the cheers for him. Maybe it was those endless text messages from friends back home.

Maybe he actually listened when the race announcer at the pool said in a deep, authoritative voice:

"Michael Phelps, greatest Olympic ever!"

The head dipped. The shoulders twitched. The slightest of smiles creased his lips.

"Growing up, I always wanted to be an Olympian," Phelps said later. "I just kept thinking, 'Wow, greatest Olympian of all time.' It's a pretty cool title!"

After winning five gold medals and setting five world records over the course of four days, Phelps actually got a bit of a respite Thursday at the Beijing Games, maybe he'll even take a minute or two to reflect. He merely had the semifinals of the 200-meter individual medley in the morning, followed by the preliminaries of the 100 butterfly in the evening.

By Phelps' standards, a rather light day.

Just look what he did Wednesday. In the span of an hour, he set a world record in the 200-meter butterfly — even though a faulty pair of goggles filled with water during the race — and then came back to lead the first 200 individual medley in the morning, virtually lapping the rest of the field.

Those were the 10th and 11th gold medals of Phelps' career, leaving Mark Spitz, Carl Lewis & Co. in the dust. And he's still aiming to win three more before he leaves (Tina, which would take down the record he really wants: Spitz's seven-gold performance from 1972).

Of course, he also said after his races Wednesday that he might come back for a fifth Olympics in 2012.

"Absolutely," he said.

"I want to do it all again."
Russia defies cease fire with Georgia

Christopher Torchia and Marti Freidman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Russian military convoy defied a cease-fire agreement Wednesday and rolled through a strategically important city in the former Soviet republic of South Ossetia, an area which claimed freedom from and bombing by the Russians and their allies.

President Bush said a massive U.S. package was on the way for tens of thousands uprooted in the conflict and demanded Russia "keep its word and act to end this crisis."

"This generation's war stands with the democratically-elected government of Georgia and insists that the separatists and tyranny of Ossetia are unacceptable," Bush said in a statement in Washington.

One day after the Kremlin and its smaller neighbor agreed to a French-brokered cease-fire to end the dispute over two pro-Russian breakaway territories, the pact appeared fragile at best.

"We want people to be safe. We want normalcy in the streets," said Bush.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that a cease-fire appeared lopsided becauseBush had announced the terms.

"It's a cease-fire for us, but not for them," said a Georgian military official.

A woman who grew to be 7 feet, 6 inches tall and was recognized as the world's tallest female died Wednesday, a friend said. She was 53.

Sandy Allen, who used her height to inspire schoolchildren to accept those who are different, died at a nursing home in her hometown of Shelbyville, family friend Rita Rose said.

New Orleans (AP) — A judge threw out murder and attempted murder charges Wednesday against seven New Orleans police officers.

They were accused of gunning down two men on a bridge in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Fraud

"B.iyl'al was sending me emails, I kird tth beliew perhaps, but these experiences she was not aware of these kind of scams existed. She didn't do anything, she was not aware of these kind of scams existed. Having had a close call, she does things differently now. "I would rather do something where I could see the person," Garsh.isbi said. "I would need to be able to meet the person firsthand to verify the payment."

Banks are accustomed to giving their customers full victim to such scams, but not willing to take the loss if it was solely the victim's fault.

Sandra Rice first to

Shelley Mailil, 43, remained in the ICU Tuesday after being shot in the abdomen, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said.

- State

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Assembly has approved a bill increasing financial accountability in the high-speed rail measure that is on California's November ballot.

Lawmakers will not send the bill immediately to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger because he has pledged to veto every bill until legislation pases a budget.

The measure, AB 3664, requires the High-Speed Rail Authority to do a financial impact analysis of the project.

- National

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A woman who grew to be 7 feet, 6 inches tall and was recognized as the world's tallest female died Wednesday, a friend said. She was 53.

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Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are trying to help the world's tillest female die of cancer.

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- International

BEIJING (AP) — Perhaps Roger Federer's not washed up yet. Signaling his recent tumult may be over, Federer averaged a defeat four years ago at the Olympics by beating Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-3, 7-6 (1) Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals. It was Federer's biggest victory since he lost to Rafael Nadal in an epic Wimbledon final last month.

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria and Lebanon agreed Wednesday to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time, taking a step toward healing tensions that have fueled decades of turmoil in Lebanon.
The slow bleed

Lauren Rabaino  Mustang Daily

When Morning Glory Music, a record store downtown Santa Barbara, recently closed in doors for good, owner Sam Bernstein attributed the decision to the growing number of people who download music illegally online.

But in San Luis Obispo, independent record stores see another problem: commercial retailers.

"Downloading that happened quite a while back and it's a certainty, but the biggest thing that hurts independent record stores is Best Buy," said Richard Ferris, owner of Cheap Thrills record store, which has operated in San Luis Obispo since 1971.

Best Buy's tactic is to cut back the price of a new release to $9.98, even though it's costing them and independent record stores up to $12.08 to buy, Ferris said.

Thrills record store, which has operated in San Luis Obispo downtown since 1984, echoed that sentiment.

"It's the devaluing of the perceived value of a CD by these companies like Best Buy, Walmart, Circuit City, that are using our industry, the music industry, as their loss leader," White said. He said the price cut can customers in the door for a cheap CD and out the door with an overpriced item.

"If you've got a new CD, you're going to Best Buy for $9.98, then stores like us aren't going to be around anymore," White said.

One-long-time independent record store supporter in San Luis Obispo County said he values the one-on-one interaction that you can't get from commercial retailers.

"You're more likely to get good advice about new music to listen to from your local record store," said Chuck Cozema from Los Osos, who has been a Boo Boo and Cheap Thrills customer since 1984. "You can develop a relationship with the clerks—they know you, they know you." The commercial retailer problem combines with the iTunes revolution to further hurt local record stores, owners said.

"Downloading is part of it," Ferris said. "It isn't for downloading, the stores would have been able to survive better.

Ferris said when the downloading wave first hit San Luis Obispo five years ago, Cheap Thrills lost 75 percent of its Cal Poly customers. Boo Boo has also experienced a decline.

"Overall, our sales remain steady, although our new CD sales are falling," said John Huffman, also a co-owner of Boo Boo Records.

In recent years, the floor space allotted to new CDs at Boo Boo has been reduced and replaced with more used CDs, DVDs, clothes and other accessories.

"It's a pais" said is foa'shailowing for the independent record stores, they know you, you know them."

"It's short-sighted if that's where you're doing all your shopping, because if you're doing it all there and you're buying it cheap, then stores like us aren't going to be around anymore," White said.

In recent years, record labels have found ways to add value to the physical product by including a discounted iPod bonus or offering free MP3 downloads with the purchase of the CD.

Huffman said the value that comes with owning an album is what keeps customers coming back.

"There's still a lot of people out there that like physical product," he said. "They want the booklet. They want to put it in their living room.

Furthermore, the sound quality of a CD's audio file is far better than that of an MP3, which is compressed to one-tenth the size of a CD file.

"Most of us can live with that when we're going for a jog with our iPod," Huffman said. "But when you're listening to it in your house, you can tell the difference significantly.

Despite the decline, Boo Boo has seen in CD sales, they have also seen an uptick in other products like turntables, head phones, clothing, vinyl and t-shirts, which has kept them thriving.

Cheap Thrills also offers more than just music by combining the record store with a comic book store.

"If you look at Cheap Thrills today, it's definitely a different store than it was five years ago and 10 years ago," Ferris said. "I and I imagine five years from now we'll be different yet again as we try to figure out how to make it all work."
Traveling music
Round Mountain blows through town
Chelsea Bieker

Brothers Char and Robby Rothschild of Round Mountain filled Lin- nesca’s Café last Thursday night—not only a plethora of musical sounds, but a spew of harmony and oneness with nature. The small venue provided the perfect backdrop for what was truly a di- verse and spectacular display of musical ability, meaningful lyrics, and catchy beats from their newest album, “Truth and Darkness,” as well as music from their first album “Round Mountain.”

Positioned under the picturesque backdrop of a window looking out to the lush greenery of the garden patio, Round Mountain was poised perfectly to convey its lyrics to the intimate audience looking on.

The Rothschilds have been playing music together for most of their lives, and it is evident when they are on stage. Each movement and sound was perfectly balanced between the brothers, radiating a feeling of complete ef- ffortlessness and creating a seamless performance throughout.

The name “Round Mountain” pays homage to a place the brothers explored as children in their hometown of Santa Fe, New Mexico, as well as their belief that mountains are sacred.

To put Round Mountain in one musical category is impossible. The brothers switched instruments constantly and at times would play two at once. Char seemed to have two minds, one for focusing on the trumpet he was expertly playing, and one for the accordion that his fingers moved over with ease.

The sounds could be labeled as Balkan and West African mixed with traditional Appalachian music. The brothers collected many techniques and ideas while traveling the world, and have formed a patchwork quilt of melodies, vocals, and rhythms together. If you ask the brothers how they would de- scribe it, they might have to ponder for a moment.

“We are the worst people to ask about that,” Char said with a grin.

“We call it traveling music,” Robby offered.

“Because music has always traveled,” Char added. “The way that light travels from the stars to the earth, it takes a long time for the light to ar- rive, and it takes all of us a long time to arrive here on earth. We like to think that it would be good to hear in the car, because the beauty is in the transition.”

We were young folk band to all of the songs, it was at times not far off to compare the two to Simon and Garfinkel. That is, if Simon and Garfinkel incorporated international derivations and an Irish bouzouki into their music.

The brothers attribute their love for music to listening to their mother playing records of traditional Appalachian music. The brothers attribute their love for music to listening to their mother playing records of traditional Appalachian music. The brothers attribute their love for music to listening to their mother playing records of traditional Appalachian music. The brothers attribute their love for music to listening to their mother playing records of traditional Appalachian music. They attribute their love for music to listening to their mother playing records of traditional Appalachian music.

The opening song of the night was titled “Venus in the Tower,” and displayed quickly that the show would not be typical. The opening notes were reminiscent of something that would be in the background of a Span­ ish bullfight, and quickly transitioned into an uplifting beat pouring from Robby’s fast hands on the drums.

With a story to tell about the meaning of each song, the audience quickly connected with the music, nodding in tandem to the band’s explanations. Soon the coffee house was brimming with curious onlookers, those sip­ ping coffee on the patio swayed to the enticing rhythms.

The third song of the night, “Burn it Down,” was dedicated to Robby’s daughter because he said it was her favorite. It was easy to see why this song could become anyone’s favorite as the song seemed to fade away and only the intense and meaningful lyrics and graceful guitar picks remained.

The brothers paint a unique quality to the music that transforms it into more than a song, but rather a communication and dance with nature. The brothers write the words themselves, and find their inspirations in their sur­ roundings, as well as dreams and mythology, with Char applying pieces that will connect to people’s circumstances, and Robby focusing more on nature and the transitions.

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“I tend to write things deringing as much as possible to talk to people with what I’m saying, almost to try to take a conversational tone, but then I like for that to slip into poetry, to go deeper—to evoke an essence,” Char said.

“Our favorite kinds of musical genres are when we can all meet, and re­ ally communicate to the audience and share something.”

We feel like we and the audience are all sort of assembled around this fire that was the music. That’s the best kind of feeling.”

Join us in the Plaza
August 19, 2008
Cal Poly faculty, staff, and campus community are invited to the Grand Opening of Poly Canyon Village
Inaugural Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
10:00 am to 10:30 am
Preview Tours, Food & Prizes, Live Music
10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Getting there:
If driving follow North Perimeter Road, turn on Village Drive and follow to the Plaza. If walking, take the Paseo Bristedana footpath which veers down to the right near the Poly Canyon Village parking area. From campus Market/Via Carta to the Plaza
Both parks are paved and accessible for wheelchair and strollers

Mustang Daily
Don’t sweat the Immortal Technique

Carnas Frank
ARTS • JUNE 2008

The appearance of hip-hop MC Immortal Technique, best known for his revolutionary spirit and lyrics dealing with politics, poverty, religion, and racism, was part of Summer Skool Fest at Downtown Brewing Co last weekend.

The event featured performances by Public Defender, Venomous Voices, The Circle, 40 oz. Freaks, Cosmic City Rockers, Diabolic, and Rakim.

On tour to promote the release of his mixtape-album “Jed World,” Immortal Technique continued the evening’s revelry by galvanizing the crowd before the last performer, Rakim, took the stage.

While Technique is provocative and bombastic on stage, he can be soft-spoken and contemplative before the show. During an interview, he followed his tradition of drinking tea with honey and explained hisimersanan terminology about it, but they could stand to talk about the socioeconom ic matrix. They don’t have to speak in such concrete terms about where they represent. They never talk about why they have these concerns.

“Some of these things we don’t even realize,” he said. “For example, there’s a food crisis in the world and people don’t connect that a lot of times with the fact that 20 percent of the world’s wheat is going to bio-diesel. So I think that, as nice as we like to believe the world is turning, I generally provide examples of the work that we need to do.”

From the stage Technique addressed the audience with an attitude of scorns. He said that it takes more than coming to attendance be a revolutionary; one also has to take action and stay informed.

His closing message was that while hip-hop is a powerful tool, it does not replace direct intervention.

“We don’t fulfill your revolutionary responsibilities by showing up to a fucking performance circuit,” he said.

The audience clearly enjoyed his performance, participating in the clambor of call and response, rhythmically unison to the world, with fists in the air. “We are the rebel army!”

As it was unclear, however, it anyone took the evening’s message to heart. His positive and proactive attitude does win on Monday to meet fans and promote “3rd World” at Boss Box Records on Monterey Street. The store estimated that between 50 and 75 people turned out to have posters, albums and paraphernalia signed by the artist.

Immortal Technique has gathered a widespread and loyal fan base due to his socio-politically charged lyrics.

Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study evaluating the efficacy of investigational medicated patches for the treatment of pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle. To be eligible for this study, you must:

• Be 18 years of age or older
• Have had a recent ankle sprain that occurred within the past 48 hours
• Not have taken any pain medication or used compression to treat your ankle sprain.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and study patches at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may also be provided.

To learn more about this local study, please contact: Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc. 549-7570

Music

Robby said, “Everything I write has nature references in it. I seem to feel so much inspiration from where we live in New Mexico, we both have a huge connection to it.”

The brothers said they enjoyed playing at Luminaria because it provided the mellow atmosphere of a coffeehouse, with the attentiveness of a theater.

As the songs continued to pour into the small room, the paintings on the walls seemed more alive than when they were hung in the random chat-chat of an hour prior. The music was danceable, delicious. Melody after melody, the vibrancy of the sounds stayed true, never becoming predictable.

Two separate times, Round Mountain requested the participation of the audience with clapping out a beat, and then by singing a chorus. The crowd complied and in a moment everyone in the room was connected.

A long-time fan of the band, Cape Codder of Los Do, said that what she loves most is its heart. “I’m always blown away by their music,” she said. “They are probably one of my favorite people and musicians.”

At the end of the band’s two-hour set, Christine and Robby lingered in the coffee house chatting with fans, and thanking people for attending. They were off to another show in Los Angeles in the morning, the third-to-last stop on their tour.

You can check this band out on myspace.com and prepare to see the world in a different light. Sometimes art is the sometimes soothing, always enlighteningly beautiful. Round Mountain is proof that you don’t have to be mainstream famous to produce a musical tour de force.
Last dance with Mary Jane, no more time to kill the pain...

In a time when the “war on drugs” can be considered a huge waste of time and resources and smoking pot is considered mainstream, how does the owner of a community-welcome marijuana dispensary get arrested and convicted of multiple felonies? As the Mustang Daily reports on the front page today, Central Coast resident Charles Lynch was found guilty last week on all federal counts for selling medical marijuana from his dispensary in Morro Bay.

This case could prove to be the precedent case when it comes to medical marijuana laws in California.售价的maryan

And is illegal in any way, shape, or form. Under state law, selling it for medical purposes is a legal act, of course, federal law trumpets.

Yet, we believe that the issue at stake in the Lynch case is not federal law versus state law, but personal liberty versus government regulation. This case is about so much more than the legalization of medical marijuana. It’s about legalization of whatever substances people freely choose to consume and for whatever reasons they choose to do so.

In criminalizing the use and sale of marijuana, the government has assumed the role of an overbearing parent, telling consenting adults exactly what they’re allowed to do with their own bodies.

In a free society an adult should have the right to make his own decisions about his personal health and happiness. He may choose to drink alcohol or not. He may choose to smoke cigarettes or not. Some people choose to consume vast amounts of caffeine (aspiring young journalists who work all hours of the night to put out newspapers like this come to mind), drinking coffee a personal choice?Yes. A health hazard? Perhaps. Illegal, or infringing on anybody else’s rights? Certainly not.

So who is marijuana any different? The federal government has apparently decided that it knows better than individuals as to how to treat their bodies, and it invests billions of dollars annually in that belief. According to the FBI’s Web site, a record 829,625 people were arrested for marijuana violations in 2006; of those, 89 percent were arrested for possession only. Just this year, the United States has spent over $31 billion in taxpayer money fighting this victimless “war on drugs.”

While there are only a handful of dispensaries in the tri-county area, mostly in Santa Barbara according to www.medicalmarijuana.com, their existence is protected under state law. In fact, Lynch and fellow dispensers were welcomed into the Morro Bay community with open arms and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Not quite the behavior of a sneaky drug trafficker.

Despite Prop 215, the Drug Enforcement Agency, a federal agency, still Investigates and makes raids and dopes, and how do they treat the question: what’s the point of a state law if it doesn’t protect anyone? If dispensaries are technically legal, why are they facing such harsh consequences? Criminalizing the use and sale of marijuana, the government has passed a city ordinance to allow them, but the dispensaries face being shut down because of their locations. With the closing of the Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers, there are no available medical marijuana facilities in SLO County now. It’s more like a delivery service.

At Lynch’s trial, the prosecution did in fact paint him as a seedy, hardened drug dealer, selling his crime-producing substance to derelict addicts. Yet, the San Luis Obispo New Times reported the former software engineer as “generally unimposing, and soft-spoken, even in a suit,” and someone who “doesn’t seem like the kind of man who will do well in prison.” The Morro Bay mayor and city attorney have both testified to his upstanding character.

One of Lynch’s clients was a young man recovering from cancer who finally turned to marijuana to relieve his pain, after numerous other medications did nothing. He visited Lynch’s facility with his parents, after a Stanford oncologist prescribed cannabis for pain relief. Instead of helping Lynch’s case, the 19-year-old witness’ experience only helped land him a charge of trafficking drugs to minors.

The young witness was kicked from the stand and his testimony struck from the record after he used the words “medical marijuana”; a phrase not recognized by the federal court. This is despite California’s well-known Proposition 215 the Compassionate Use Act which legalized medical marijuana. There are dozens of dispensaries all over the state serving those whom physicians have decided would benefit from marijuana, including cancer patients and chronic pain patients, without any legal repercussions. Lynch faces sentencing that could result in up to 85 years behind bars, and for what? Who has Lynch wronged? Not the patients, who report a better quality of life by getting access to medicinal marijuana; not the general public or his community, which welcomed him and never complained during his two years of operation.

There have been no reports of an army of pot-addled crooks roaming the Central Coast or an outbreak of drug wars or gang violence since Compassionate Caregivers opened its doors. It comes down to harm, and smoking marijuana is a victimless crime. Time and resources would be much better spent attempting to put real criminals behind bars, such as drunk drivers and child molesters.

We have never smoked pot and have yet to find a compelling reason to do so. But we respect the fact that any other person’s decision to light up is exactly that — a personal decision, and one that in no way infringes on our lives or causes harm to any other.

Charles Lynch attempted to operate his business as a legal and licensed business, providing his product to the customers who sought it. Whether or not those customers all enjoyed marijuana for purely medicinal purposes is beyond our speculation, and not relevant to the issue at stake.

What is relevant and important is that legalizing marijuana is about granting people the right to make their own decisions regarding the substances they use in their own bodies.

Every free nation is always in a constant battle to preserve freedom, from oppressors both near and far. In this case, the story of a Morro Bay man convicted for selling a drug that shouldn’t be illegal in the first place is awfully close to home.

Marlite van Rombough is the editor in chief and Giana Magnoli is the managing editor of the Mustang Daily.
into those kinds of decisions," Come said. "We would certainly need the support of the fan base and the boosters. People have to think it's a great idea."

One issue that Cal Poly has had to deal with is finding FCS teams in the geographic vicinity to play, which is a challenge because the Mustangs will play at Wisconsin to close out the year instead of facing another non-conference opponent from the FCS ranks.

There are only three other FCS teams in California (UC Davis, San Francisco State and San Diego), and one of them won't play us," Come said, alluding to San Francisco State, which played Cal Poly 24 years in a row beginning in 1983 but stopped in 2007.

There are numerous teams at the FBS level in California and the surrounding area that might find Cal Poly more appealing if they were to make the transition from the FCS.

Cal Poly, which is a member of the Big West Conference in 17 of its 20 sports, currently is one of few teams playing football as the Great West Conference. The Big West dropped football in 2010.

"We're in a very good conference at the Big West in all of our sports," Come said. "The conference is great for us. It services everybody, but it leaves football hanging out there. Our football program has been extremely strong, and we have such a rich history. We'd like to have a more stable situation for our football program."

Whether that situation is with the WAC or anywhere else in the FBS remains to be seen.

"We're just trying to make sure we're not moving backwards as we change from a Division I, NCAA football," Come said.

Chelsea Bicker  Mustang Daily

The Cal Poly men's and women's cross country teams have been eagerly preparing this summer in anticipation of their first race this season.

The men's side figures to come brand strong, having lost only two seniors from last season's squad that finished 11th at the NCAA Championships (out of 35, national ranking of 22 entering the race).

One of them who will not be returning is two-time All-American Philip Reid, who finished 33rd overall last year.

Senior Troy Swier has been training hard throughout the summer and has faith that the Mustangs will be able to fill the void left by Reid's departure.

"We lost our best guy," Swier said. "Phillip is a really good guy. Having a runner like that helps, but the team is still really deep, and we are still going to be really good. Maybe someone will be able to step up and replace what Phillip did for us the last couple years."

Swier said the Mustangs have been preparing for the season by running about 90 to 100 miles per week, and because official practice did not start until recently, the squad has been working together over the summer to maintain its focus.

"We all live within a block of each other — we all run together," he said. "We pretty much have to motivate ourselves to do it!"

Swier said one of his individual goals is attaining an All-American spot, but "it won't be easy."

Cal Poly head coach Mark Conover said that even without Reid, the men's team has a lot of depth, with many key runners returning.

"Three of the guys are regional runners coming back," Conover said. "And the best transfer junior college runner in the entire state and one of the best in the country (Daniel Gonza) is coming in and he will be able to step right in, hopefully and be part of our main group."

Last spring with San Diego Mesa College, Gonza ran the 10K in 31 minutes, 2.61 seconds and the 5K in 14:56.38 in claim both California Community College titles. Even so, Conover said the men's squad is comprised of a group whose strength will likely remain in running as a pack.

"Part of our M.O. in the past has been solid group running," Conover said. "We certainly have that potential this year with who we have coming back, and then adding our top recruit into the mix, too."

The women's squad is young, but Conover said its training has progressed well over the summer.

"The goal for the women is certainly to make improvements and work our way up the conference ladder," he said.

Junior Kimberly Donatelli said the team decided before the summer to put in a lot of mileage over the break.

"Our team is very young, but I think we can still be good," she said. "Our girls' team is known for their depth, but I think the women's team can be just as good. We have the talent, so it's just coming together, and I think that's a huge goal for all of us."

Both the men's and women's teams will begin their seasons at the UC Santa Barbara Lagoon Open at 9 a.m. Aug. 30.

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MUSTANGS look to fresh faces to climb ladder in Big West

Chelsea Bierker
MUSTANG DAILY

Although the Cal Poly women's soccer team will have to make up for the losses of several departed stars from last year, those absences haven't dimmed the Mustangs' hopes heading into this season.

"Of course losing seniors is always hard, but we had a strong team in the past, and we have integrated a lot of people," senior defender Cara O'Hagan said. "There will be a lot of new changes, but we're all determined and driven."

Cal Poly, tabbed to finish third in the Big West Conference in its preseason coaches poll released Tuesday, lost five seniors from last year's 8-9-3 squad, including two all-conference second team selections (goalkeeper Alii Tramel and forward Sharon Day) and one all-conference honorable mention (midfielder Erica Zaubahlen).

"I don't see it as a void," senior forward Ashley Vallis said. "We're not going to focus on what we did back then. We want to come together as a unit. We want to win conference and we want to go to the (national) tournament."

Last season, the Mustangs came up just short of that, falling 4-3 on penalty kicks to Cal State Fullerton in the Big West Tournament championship.

The conclusion halted a late-season surge in which the Mustangs went 5-2-1 in Big West play and went 7-1-2 in their final 10 outings.

Vallis suggested this year's leaders have something of a chip on their shoulders.

"There is an urgency for the older players to prove that we're better than what has been said," she said.

Atop the preseason poll was UC Santa Barbara, which received four first-place votes and finished with 74 points. Long Beach State garnered three No. 1 ballots and tallied 73 points ahead of Cal Poly's two first-place votes and 62 points.

O'Hagan stressed the importance of setting the tone early in the season games before falling in the Big West Conference Tournament final.

There is an urgency for the older players to prove that we're better than what has been said.

— Ashley Vallis
Cal Poly senior forward

There are potential roadblocks for Cal Poly's advancement to the FBS level, she sees several possibilities for the future growth of the football program, perhaps culminating in a move up to the FBS.

"I think there are a lot of different scenarios and Division I-A would be one of them," Cone added.

There are potential roadblocks for a move up. But don't expect the Mustangs to move up anytime soon.

Mustangs head coach Alex Crozier, who said his team is focusing on igniting an attacking rhythm with its defense, echoed the confidence of Vallis and O'Hagan.

"They have this great chemistry together — I think it is going to take us very far," he said of the team as a whole. "We want to win the conference, and get into the NCAA Tournament, and get as deep into there as we can."

Cal Poly opens its season by hosting BYU at 7 p.m. Aug. 22.

Cal Poly graduate Gina Miles rides McKINLAIGH for the U.S. during the show jumping portion of the equestrian eventing competition during the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Hong Kong on Tuesday. She won a silver medal individually.

Other Cal Poly alumni in the Olympics are Stephanie Brown Travers (in the women's discus), Sharon Day (women's high jump) and Jimmy Van Ostrand (baseball). Current Mustang Mark Barr will swim at the Paralympic Games.

Miles wins silver medal in eventing

Cal Poly weighs move to FBS

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly Mustangs will hold a step up in competition this year when it plays two Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) teams. But don't expect the Mustangs, who said the move permanently — at least not yet.

Responding to a recent comment from Fresno State head coach Pat Hill made to the Fresno Bee suggesting Cal Poly would eventually belong to the Western Athletic Conference, Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone said such a move is unlikely to take place in the near future.

"We have no immediate plans other than to continue to upgrade our football situation," Cone said.

She said Cal Poly and Fresno State have been in contact about playing a game at Bulldog Stadium in 2010, but the arrangement has not been finalized.

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