Controversial Measure Y program on hold

Lack of city finances delays expansion of neighborhood patrol

Breehan Yolfe-Mellor

The controversial neighborhood policing program that would put more police officers on patrol in San Luis Obispo neighborhoods, particularly ones where long-term residents and rowdy students clash, has been put on hold due to a $4.8 million gap in the city’s finances.

During a special city council meeting to address short-term actions for rebalancing the 2008-2009 budget Tuesday night, the council voted unanimously to put a freeze on the hiring of two new officers for the program.

The program was part of Measure Y, a half-cent sales tax measure that passed in 2006 to fund street improvements, neighborhood safety, fire and paramedic services, traffic congestion relief and flood and creek protection.

Some aspects of the measure, including the neighborhood wellness program, were temporarily put on hold in June due to student protests.

The neighborhood policing program, which would include a graffiti abatement program, has been deferred mainly due to a controversial Binding Arbitration Award which bestowed the Police Officers Association with $5.8 million — well over the $1.8 million the city wanted to give them.

This is all about the difference between our final offer and what the arbitrator agreed on," Financial Director Bill Statler said.

Residents and council members alike decried the binding arbitration, which allows police and firefighters to strike during labor negotiations.

“Every single council person in the past has been opposed to binding arbitration because it takes away judicia­ rye responsibility, the main responsibility of the city council,” said Councilwoman Christine Mulholland. “Due to the award, at least half of that income has been wiped out just like that and we’re going to have to cut the services that we had budgeted for.”

The award, combined with what the council called state budget “take-aways” and downward trends in property, sales and transit occupancy taxes, will also eat away at other Measure Y programs, the largest being a 46 percent cut for flood control and street and sidewalk repair funds.

The council also voted to rescind a raise of $60 a month for themselves in what they called a symbolic gesture, due to the small impact it will have on the overall budget.

Although the future looks grim for the many Measure Y supporters, Statler remained optimistic.

“We may be doing less than we hoped but we are certainly doing more than we were before Measure Y,” Statler said. “We are certainly fortunate to have the Measure Y revenues.”

Statler was confident that programs like the neighborhood policing program would find a way to get off the ground.

“We just needed to evaluate them in the context of our new fiscal situation and maybe this will emerge as a high priority,” Statler said. “Even if they don’t fill the two (new officer) positions, they will still be able to do more in the way of neighborhood policing than we would have oth­ erwise.”

Mulholland was especially disappointed that the neighborhood policing program had to be put on hold. She said it was needed because there are currently not enough officers able to respond to the calls for neighborhood policing.

“We have had ongoing problems in neighbor­ hoods for years and we have been unable to re­ spond in a timely matter to a lot of the calls we get,” Mulholland said. “People who make calls in measure Y, page 2

Poly grads start online campaign for Obama

Alisha Assom

Two former Cal Poly students are attempting to influence the upcoming presidential election in a whole new way. Cliff Branch and David Kriordan started TwoVoters.com to help elect presidential candidate Barack Obama by creating videos that can easily be shared on the Web.

“We wanted to remind people what had happened in the last eight years,” Branch said. “We felt we could provide information and if it resonated with people, they could share (the videos with others).”

TwoVoters.com features videos people can download and share for free, directed and produced by Russian. This has created an exponential effect, evi­ dence when “TwoVoters” is searched on Google; over 2,000 hits pop up. The videos they create are viewed more on other Web sites than on their own, Branch said.

One video compares John McCain to President Bush, while another features a soldier talking about see Voters, page 3

Palm, Biden debate gives her chance to come back

Beth Fouhy

NEW YORK — Sarah Palin is heading into her debate with Joe Biden, easily the most-an­ ticipated vice presidential faceoff ever, weighed down by fresh evidence that voters are develop­ ing serious doubts about her readiness for the job.

A new AP-GfK poll released Wednesday found that just 25 percent of likely voters believe Palin has the right experience to be president. That’s down from 41 percent just after the GOP con­ vention, when the Alaska governor made her well-received debut on the national stage.

There’s a potential bright side: Thursday night’s debate in St. Louis gives her a chance to overcome the doubts in a 90-minute showcase, the first time most Americans outside Alaska will see her in a lengthy give-and-take session.

The downside: A poor performance debating Biden, the Delaware senator, former presidential
An article in yesterday's edition incorrectly reported that Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, began on Tuesday night. Rosh Hashanah began this year on Monday night.

Candidate and longtime foreign policy expert could cement a negative image for the rest of the campaign.

Palin has been preparing at Republican presidential candidate John Mccain's retreat in Sedona, Ariz.

Biden was doing his own intensive preparation near his home in Wilmington, Del., though he was going to Washington for Wednesday night's vote on the economic rescue package.

As for Palin's prospects, "she expects are set so low for her, she could take everyone out," said Scott Reed, who managed the presidential campaign of Republican Bob Dole in 1996.

"Palin needs to clear the bar and reframe the debate around Barack Obama and his tax and spend record," he said. "She's got to show a grasp on the issues and she's got to talk about Obama. Most importantly, she's a reformer. She's got to get back to that!"

Democrats, meanwhile, were doing what they could to dispel the notion that Palin is a sub-par debater. The Democratic National Committee e-mailed news stories to reporters describing her able performances in debates in 2006 when she was running for Alaska governor.

And Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, one of Obama's most prominent surrogates, tried to lower expectations for Biden on a conference call with reporters.

"My friend Joe Biden has a tendency to talk forever and sometimes say stuff that's kind of stupid," McCaskill said.

Asked to clarify her remarks, McCaskill said she meant them "affectionately."

In an emotional twist, Biden's son Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, was to deploy this week for Iraq, where he'll serve a year as a member of the state's Army National Guard.

In the new poll, the declining sentiment for Palin was noticeable even among Republican likely voters. Just 47 percent now believe she has the right experience to be president, down from 75 percent in the previous survey. Initially, Palin's selection was widely praised by Republicans and especially conservative voters who have been wary of McCain.

The poll of 808 likely voters was conducted Saturday through Tuesday and had a sampling error of 3.4 percentage points.

A series of interviews with CBS News anchor Katie Couric recently raised questions about how well-informed she is on a range of issues the next president will face.

In恐怕 that aired Tuesday, Biden declined to cite a newspaper or magazine when asked what she had read regularly before McCain picked her as his running mate, saying only that she had read "most of them."

PRESSED for an example, Palin told Couric: "I have a vast variety of sources where we get our news, too. Alaska isn't a foreign country, where it's kind of suggested, 'Wow, how could you keep in touch with what the rest of Washington, D.C., may be thinking when you live up there in Alaska? Believe me, Alaska is like a microcosm of America.'"

In an interview Wednesday with NPR, McCain said he had turned to his running mate for advice many times. And in a testy exchange with the Des Moines Register editorial board Tuesday, amid questions about Palin's credentials, McCain replied, "If there's a Georgetown cocktail party person who quote, calls himself a conservative who doesn't like her, good luck. "Palin has echoed the anti-Washington sentiment, telling Couric the tough coverage she's received is attributable to "media elite, the Washington elite" not knowing who she is, rather than her gender.

The 90-minute televised debate was to take place at Washington University in St. Louis, with PBS anchor Gwen Ifill serving as moderator.

 Paladin herself has come under criticism as the moderator from some conservatives because she is writing a book on blacks and politics, with a chapter on Obama.

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Voters
continued from page 1

how fighting in the Iraq war convinced him to vote for Obama.

"I believe Barack Obama is the leader who offers us the best chance of restoring America to the beacon of hope we once were," Riordan said in his statement posted on TwoVoters.com.

"We don't think Obama has all the answers, but we do want to push back to the center," Branch said.

The organization has run national advertisements in print publications including USA Today and Rolling Stone. The
advertisements were personally funded by Branch, who said that most students' concerns about the program have turned out to be unfounded.

"As far as cracking down on parties, that wasn't what it was designed to do," Grant said of the program.

"They were developing neighborhood
type of information on the facebook site was wrong," said

"This frustrates me because I don't think students will be aware of the fact that a certain weekend is a no warning weekend and will have people over and be subject to a ticket," said

Get a leg up on the competition
with a Gold Medal Resume

Gold Medal Resumes
Date: Thursday, October 9th
Time: 10:30 am - noon
Location: Career Services patio (Bldg. 124)

Bring your resume for employers to review and get ready for the Fall Job Fair, to be held on October 16. Receive job fair tips, enjoy "blue ribbon" cookies, and win prizes by answering Olympics trivia!

Participating employers:

Cliff Branch and David Riordan, founders of TwoVoters.com, have placed advertisements in national magazines including Rolling Stone in addition to offering free campaign videos for download on their website.

Measure Y continued from page 1

other parts of the city...don't get response at all because the cops are so tied up... in neighborhoods
and the cops can't even deal with it because they are out at big parties," said Branch.

"We wanted to get students interested in their community," Branch said. "It is your duty to vote and your duty to be involved in your democracy.

Branch conducted 70 focus groups involving young people, mostly from Cuesta College and Cal Poly, and said he was stunned to learn how many of them weren't interested in voting. Nor was there was a stigma attached to not voting.

Students who said they planned on voting were asked why they chose their reason, or used comedy shows such as "The Daily Show," hosted by Jon Stewart, as a basis. Branch said. "That isn't what it was designed for. Half of the videos are aimed at people between the ages of 18 and 28 and stress how important it is for the young generation to vote.

"The basis of democracy is the participation of the citizens," Branch said. "If citizens stop participating, then we have a democracy that no longer works.

Branch and Riordan are not the only Cal Poly graduates involved in this campaign. Kate Younglove, who graduated from Cal Poly last June, is now the national director of college programs for TwoVoters.com.

Younglove organized the San Luis Obispo "Rock the Vote" campaign that took place this spring, and said that it was her first time planning a political event, which is her planned career path.

"The chiefs at Cal Poly, especially the political science club, were a great experience and helped me step forward," Younglove said.

Younglove had moved back to her hometown in Orange County to work on the Obama campaign when Branch contacted her about working for TwoVoters.com

Younglove was offered the job immediately after interviewing for it. It happened so fast that Younglove slept on a friend's couch while she looked for a place to live, she said.

Younglove's job is to find student liaisons for the campaign and help them coordinate events at their schools or in their towns.

"Our generation doesn't see the force we can be (in the election)," Younglove said. "It's not up to our parents anymore. We can deter-

Johnson, who graduated from Cal Poly last June, is now the national director of college programs for TwoVoters.com and student volunteers are needed, Younglove said.

"Instead of complaining, get involved," she said.

To address their concerns.

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zens," Branch said. "If citizens stop participating, then we have a democracy that no longer works.
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Southern California transit officials say a commuter train engineer has been suspended for sending a text message around the time of a deadly collision involving another train. Metrolink board member Richard Katz said Wednesday that officials don’t know whom the engineer was texting. The engineer has not been identified.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of five men accused of starting last year’s wildfire in Malibu’s Corral Caruso has admitted that he and his friends accidentally ignited the blaze that burned 53 homes. Brian Frank changed his plea to no contest Wednesday, after pleading not guilty in December to a felony charge of recklessly causing the fire.

LOS OSOS, Calif. (AP) — Surfers at Montaña de Oro State Park are being warned that ocean waters have high bacteria levels that could make them sick. San Luis Obispo County health officials posted warning signs Tuesday at the popular surfer spot after weekly water sampling showed high bacteria levels.

The warnings will be taken down when bacteria counts return to safe levels.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“Does anything turn you off about politics?”

“There’s a bureaucracy about it. Parties can’t work together, even within their own party. Too many times we have to choose between a Democrat and Republican. There needs to be more options.”

-Chase Aguino, mechanical engineering junior

“Politicians! We think one person can solve all our problems when we can solve them on our own.”

-Matt Weiss, biology senior

“When one of the candidate talks (negatively) about the other one. Instead of stating their own beliefs they try to cut down the competition. So instead of building themselves up they cut everyone else down.”

-Eve Ewers, parks and recreation junior

Compiled and Photographed by Jennifer Titcomb
Questions raised about moderator's bias

David Bander
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PBS journalist Gwen Ifill, moderator of the upcoming vice presidential debate, dismissed conservative questions about her impartiality because she is writing a book that includes material on Barack Obama.

Ifill said Wednesday that she hasn't even written her chapter on Obama for the book "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama," which is to be published by Doubleday on Jan. 20, 2009, the day a new president is inaugurated.

"I've got a pretty long track record covering politics, and I'm not particularly worried that one-day blog chatter is going to destroy my reputation," Ifill said. "They can watch the debate tomorrow night and make their own decisions about whether or not I've done my job."

Possible Fossett ID, other items found in Calif.

A hiker in rugged eastern California found an ID and other items possibly belonging to Steve Fossett, the adventurer missing more than a year since going on a pleasure flight in a borrowed plane, authorities said Wednesday.

The items were found in the area of the town of Mammoth Lakes, Inyo National Forest spokeswoman Nancy Upham said.

"We have some ID that has the name Steve Fossett," Mammoth Lakes police Investigator Crystal Schafer said. "They were turned in to us and are in our possession."

A hiker who found the ID and some cash came to the police department office Tuesday, Police Chief Kandy Schienle told CNN.

"The ID is well weathered," Schafer said. "We have heavy winters up here."

A sweatshirt was also found in the area, but no wreckage was found, he said.


This year's biggest search for Fossett focused on Nevada's Was- suk Range, more than 50 miles north of Mammoth Lakes. That search ended last month.

Mammoth Lakes is a community at an elevation of more than 7,800 feet on the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada, where peaks top 13,000 feet.

Fossett made a fortune trading futures and options on Chicago markets. He gained worldwide fame for more than 100 attempts and successes in setting records in high-tech balloons, gliders, jets and boats. In 2002, he became the first person to circle the world solo in a balloon. He was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in July 2007.

He also swam the English Channel, competed on Ironman Triathlon, competed in the Ed- tand dog sled race and climbed some of the world's best-known peaks, including the Matterhorn in Switzerland and Mount Kilme- manjaro in Tanzania.

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EU monitors begin patrols in Georgian territory

Matt Siegel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

European Union monitors in white shirts and bright blue berets began patrolling a buffer zone Wednesday outside the breakaway region of South Ossetia that has been controlled by Russian troops and separatists since an August war in Georgia.

The deployment paves the way for a promised Russian pullback of its remaining troops from areas they occupied outside South Ossetia and another separatist region in Georgia.

Georgians in villages beyond Russian checkpoints welcomed the Western observers, who are to monitor the cease-fire and the withdrawal of Russian troops. Some frightened residents of villages damaged by arson and looting blamed on South Ossetians said they were split between relief and concern that Moscow was backtracking on its commitments.

But EU monitors — whose job is to observe the cease-fire and the Russian pullback — arrived on schedule. They were quickly allowed to pass through Russian checkpoints near two Georgian villages on the perimeter of the so-called security zone.

“The situation is very calm,” said Ivan Kukoshkin, a Russian officer in charge of the checkpoint near the Georgian village of Kentskhi.

Russia still plans to keep around 7,600 troops in South Ossetia and the other breakaway region of Abkhazia, which the EU and U.S. consider to be violations of its cease-fire commitments.

Moscow has refused to allow the EU monitors inside the regions themselves.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said there are no ideological grounds for a new Cold War or any other kind of war could start.

Medvedev said at a news conference after meeting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero outside St. Petersburg, Russia.

In Karabak, a village on a main road leading from Georgian-controlled territory to South Ossetia, Vitaly Shashibishvili said he and his relatives are living in a cowshed after looters burned down their two-story house and stole two of their vehicles.

“We only count on ourselves,” said Shashibishvili. 34.

A convoy of European Union monitors for Georgia leave their temporary base at the Bazledi Lake, about 15 kilometers (9 miles) north of the Georgian capital Tbilisi, Wednesday.

“And we do not have such ideological differences around which a new cold or any other kind of war could start,” Medvedev said at a news conference after meeting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero outside St. Petersburg, Russia.

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Samantha MacConnell
ARTS & CULTURE

Spoken word artist Cyn Da' Poet kicked off Latino Heritage Month and a night of spoken word poetry Wednesday when Another Type of Groove, the university's monthly open mic night, opened to a large crowd of Cal Poly students and community members.

Another Type of Groove, which is hosted by Cal Poly's Multicultural Center and Student Life and Leadership, gives students and members of the community a chance to be heard by allowing them to take the stage and share poetry of their own.

"Students like the energy of the spoken word," said Renoda Campbell, the Multicultural Center coordinator. "Sometimes even community members come and share their poetry."

In regard to Latino Heritage Month, Campbell added, "We try as a community to show our support from one month to the next."

Cyn Da' Poet also paid homage to Latino Heritage Month with her poetry. She, too, comes from a Hispanic background.

Originally from El Salvador, Cyn Da' Poet moved to Los Angeles at a young age. Her natural talent for writing and art, as well as her diverse surroundings, led her to become a spoken word artist while she was growing up. Today, she hopes to touch the lives of others by sharing issues they can relate to. Her aspirations are far from over, as she has yet to publish her first book and develop a new genre of poetry.

Clad in a hat that sat just above her eyes, Cyn Da' Poet opened the show passionately reciting her first poem, "Eres" (You Are), entirely in Spanish. While surprised at first at language difference, the audience listened with open minds while the words of the poem sank in.

Some of the issues she mentioned in her poetry included unity, struggle and love, as well as more specific topics of struggle, racism, poverty and immigration. She also took time to address family issues.

"We grow up believing that our parents hold us down because they don't love us, but the reason they (try to keep us near them) is because they love us," she said as her mother and grandmother watched her perform for the first time. Later, she added, "To me, my parents are my heroes."

Cyn Da' Poet also dedicated a poem called "Las Camisas Blancas" (White Shirts), to her grandmother, who sat in the back of the room. The poem focused on issues of immigration, as several members of her family have moved to the United States.

Another Type of Groove takes pride in bringing together individuals of different backgrounds and cultures that have something to say, and letting respect build between them. True to the events foundations, the crowd at the event was diverse and accepting.

"I've been going to this for about three years," said Joa Nauta, a junior business major and open mic participant. "What I like about it is the diversity, different styles, different people, and the different poems."

Another Type of Groove takes place on the first Wednesday of each month in Chumash Auditorium, and is free and open to the public.

mustangdaily.net

It's the best thing since sliced bread.
Maher vs. God: "Religulous" Flays Organized Faith

David Germain
ASSOCIATE PRESS

TORONTO — Bill Maher has taken his crusade against religion to the big screen.

Maher, who has been picking on organized religion for years on his TV shows "Politically Incorrect" and "Real Time," zealously traveled the world for "Religulous," his documentary challenging the validity and value of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths.

Raised in a Roman Catholic household by a Catholic father and Jewish mother, Maher decided at an early age that the trappings and mythology of the world's religions were preposterous, outdated and even dangerous.

"Religulous," directed by fellow doobier Larry Charles ("Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan"), is intended to inspire similar skepticism in others and perhaps get nonbelievers to talk more openly about their lack of faith.

"I'm not looking to form an anti-religion religion. That would defeat the purpose."

—Bill Maher

"Religulous" director

The numbers Maher and Charles really hope to grab are general audiences simply looking for a fun night at the movies.

Maher, 52, who started mocking religion when he was a young comedian, but they weren't the kind of comments that got right to the essence of it, jokes that got right to the essence of it, never one to soft-pedal his own opinions, Maher openly scorns remarks made by Christians, Jews and Muslims he interviews.

He hopes audiences will laugh with him, never one to soft-pedal his own opinions, Maher openly scorns remarks made by Christians, Jews and Muslims he interviews. He hopes audiences will laugh with him, never one to soft-pedal his own opinions, and that "Religulous" will stand as a testament for people who share his scorn.

"When you're talking about a man living to 900 years old, and drinking the blood of a 2,000-year-old god, and that Creation Museum where they put a 500 million-year-old dinosaur because people rode dinosaurs. It's just a pile of comedy that was waiting for someone to exploit."

Charles shot 400 to 500 hours of material around the world as Maher visited a Christian chapel for truckers in North Carolina, a gay Muslim bar in the Netherlands, the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, and Israel.

Maher meets with priests at the Vatican, chats with rabbis and Muslim scholars in Jerusalem, encounters street preachers in downtown near the mission, London, and hangs out with the performer who plays Christ in a crucifixion enactment at the Holy Land Experience theme park in Florida.

They left Eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism alone largely for budgetary reasons, saying the extra travel and expanded scope would have made the film too unwieldy. They also figured that Christianity, Islam and Judaism were the trinity of faiths at the heart of Western conflict.

Charles grew up Jewish and once considered becoming a rabbi but was discouraged by his parents, who told him to "get bar-mitzvahed, get the checks and then get the hell out," he said. He said he now shares Maher's position: Heavy on doubt about the existence of a supreme being, even heavier on certainty that organized religion is hazardous to humanity's health.

"If I believe that Jesus is God and you believe Muhammad is God, then no matter how tolerant we are, we are never going to meet," Charles said. "All you have to do is push that one more step, then somebody's like, 'You're in the way of people believing in Jesus,' and 'You're in the way of people believing in Mohammed,' and the only answer is to kill you."

"Unfortunately, that sort of thing dominates the religious landscape, not the Mother Teresa of the world. She becomes the aberration. ... The altruistic wing of religion has been minimized and his militaristic, war-mongering fundamentalism has become the dominant pressure."

Charles said he assembled the 100-minute film from 14 hours of prime material. He has suggested to distributor Lionsgate that the 14-hour cut could be edited into half-hour segments and sold to television as a series.

Never one to soft-pedal his own opinions, Maher openly scorns remarks made by Christians, Jews and Muslims he interviews. He hopes audiences will laugh with him, never one to soft-pedal his own opinions, and that "Religulous" will stand as a testament for people who share his scorn.

"It is a sobering thought to think that the answer is to kill you."

"We all believe in being kind to one another — while you rest in bed."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
可想而知的， 公平地说这是一篇关于宗教问题的严肃文章， 并且文章的结构和语言都非常严谨。文章的作者认为， 通过旅行和采访， 他希望观众能够更加开放地讨论他们的信仰。文章中提到了一些具体的例子， 例如对穆斯林和犹太人的讽刺， 并且指出这些信仰的荒谬和过时。文章的结尾部分， 作者表达了对这些信仰的否定，并且认为这些信仰对人类的危害是显而易见的。
MONTPELIER, Vt. — Those reunion rumors weren't just cut bait: Four years after disbanding, the time seems right to Phish.

The Vermont-bred foursome on Wednesday announced three concert dates next March in Hampton, Va., a longtime favorite venue for the band and its fiercely loyal fans. Other 2009 dates will be announced later, according to a notice posted on the band's Web site.

Androsia Holt, a spokeswoman for the band, confirmed in a news release the dates of March 6, March 7 and March 8, 2009, at the Hampton Coliseum. She said band members weren't available for interviews Wednesday.

After a more than 20-year run that saw its audience build from a few people in Burlington, Vt., bars to a Grateful Dead-like cult following, Phish called it quits in 2004. Though their fans continued to pack stadiums around the country that year, it was clear that fatigue and personal problems began to subtly erode the band's intricate and demanding live sound.

But in recent months, its members began to muse about a renewed appetite for the music, causing their well-connected fans to buzz that the reunion was all but a done deal.

"Sometimes you hear bands say 'We're breaking up' and a year or two later, they come back," said Jimmy Awards co-founder Peter Shapiro, who brought the foursome together last May at the awards ceremony in New York. "This was the only band in music that was all but a done deal.

"By the time they come back, it'll be almost five years," he continued. "That's a fair amount of time for them to do what they needed to do on an individual level. And probably it was enough time to realize they needed to get back together as a group. They got the itch."

In August 2004, the band said an emotional goodbye with a two-day festival at Newport State Airport in Coventry, Vt. But even that performance ended on a sloppy note: A freakish rainstorm caused many fans to be turned away and trapped the cars of many others in a morass of mud.

Those who got in watched the band break down in tears in the middle of some songs and muddle haplessly through others.

But odds are that Trey Anastasio, Page McConnell, Mike Gordon and Jon Fishman will put that all behind them come March. The Hampton Coliseum, where Phish has played a dozen times, is the site of some of their most revered performances, including the one captured on "Hamp­ton Comes Alive," a six-CD set, in 1998.

Phish, which got its start at the University of Vermont in 1983, is known for its amorphous blend of rock, jazz, bluegrass and other styles. Like the Grateful Dead, most songs from their vast cat­alogue include sprawling improvisational passages with one song often morphing into another and no two shows are ever the same.

Also like the Grateful Dead, much of its fol­lowing is steeped in the communal ideals of the 1960s, including life on the road, psychedelic art and, of course, drugs.

The group has released 11 studio albums, and announced Wednesday the Nov. 18 release of "At The Roxy," an eight-CD box set chronicling a three-night 1993 stand in Atlanta.

Since their last gig together, members have pursued solo projects and Anastasio has endured some tribulations. The guitarist was arrested dur­ing a 2006 traffic stop in upstate New York for possessing painkillers without a prescription; he ultimately pleaded guilty, and later spent two days in jail for missing a court-mandated counseling session.

Whether his band will command the alle­giance it once did remains to be seen. Word of the reunion lit up message boards a day in advance of the announcement, and hotel rooms in Hampton, Va., were said to be selling out quickly.

"The fans are much more excited than I ex­pected they'd be," said Ellis Godard, 37, of Moorpark, Calif., who runs the fan Web site phish.net. "The fan base the people who used to tour with them is older. They have kids and jobs. But all the people who said they didn't care are absolutely nuts. The fan frenzy is much bigger than I expected."
A couple of things I learned last weekend during Folk Yeah’s Festival in the Forest, an independent music festival at Fernwood Campground in Big Sur featuring Silver Jews, Beach House, Entrance Band, Port O’Brien, Little Wings, Megapuss (Devendra Banhart), and a mountain of other bands.

Big Sur during a Folk Yeah festival most likely has more people on acid per capita than any other place on the planet. On the second night, the Entrance Band dedicated their set to a guy who no one had seen since he wandered off into the woods on an acid trip the night before. Immediately, the guy in question yelled from the audience that he found his way back. Funny story, right? Only, I have the sneaking suspicion that the guy who yelled is just another guy that took acid and the real lost guy is still out there. I don’t know any other place where it becomes almost cliché to take acid at midnight and wander off with a handle of rum.

Devendra Banhart is not a celebrity and no one on an independent label ever will be. When Banhart climbs on stage with Little Joy (a new band featuring Fabrizio Moretti of the Strokes) and sits on stage with them for the entire set except for a very brief stint on the guitar, it’s not cool. Not in the slightest. In fact, if the band wasn’t amazing I would make some angry statements. Instead I’ll reserve those statements for the half hour he was played as Megapuss, a half hour that should have been reserved for masturbating and crying to pictures of Natalie Portman.

John C. Reilly will always be a celebrity. It’s almost impossible for people to get starstruck at these things because everybody is press/art friends of the band or super-stoned. However, the moment you spot John C. Reilly, it feels like the elation of losing your virginity mixed with the eventual embarrassment of not being able to stop telling people that you just lost your virginity. And in that vein, I seriously took a shot of rum with John C. Reilly this weekend. I also saw the Silver Jews while standing next to Mille from “Freaks and Geeks.”

The only thing you have to do to hang out with your favorite band is get super wasted. It will most likely be the only time you can get over telling them how much you love their music and say the things you really want to say. Tell Beach House that everyone you know has sex to their albums. Berate them to play R. Kelly covers. Demand to play the high parts on the keyboard during their set. They want you to do these things and most likely you will only feel okay doing them after you start shotgunning cans of Budweiser.

Kyle Field (Little Wings) is the Raymond Carver of folk music. Raymond Carver captured the bizarre juxtapositions of modern life, especially the juxtaposition of any part of life with alcohol. Little Wings’ opening song about a cashier who sells scratchers to a poor man only to find them covered in puke outside of the bar where the cashier went too far with a girl does Carver proud. If you don’t know Carver or Little Wings, seriously get with it because busting out either makes you look super smart and super sensitive. Wink.
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

WANNA SEE A PLAY TOMORROW?

SORRY, I HAVE TO WORK LATE.

PICNIC THIS WEEKEND?

MEETING MY TRAINER AT THE GYM.

WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY?

SPENDING TIME WITH MY FAMILY.

ALL THOSE EXCUSES GIRLS USED OVER THE YEARS SURE ARE COMING IN HANDY.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0828

Across
1. Poor dating prospects  30. Refrigerator part
2. Central Africa's Lake  46. Obeys
5. Place for a motto  47. Come-on
9. 14 M. P.'s quarry  48. Not punishing
14. 19 Mountaineering  49. ........light; Var
15. Bloody, so to speak  50. Lay person?
16. Early British automaker  51. Cold-blooded
Henry  52. Stimulate
17. Hot stop?  53. Punny hint to
18. Washington has some big ones  54. Holiday season
19. Mountaineering equipment  55. Quarter
21. CFDA award  57. Ones with
22. Bygone political
23. Classic 1947 memoirs  58. Ones with
24. 40 Chapel Hill sch
25. Close, old-style  59. Writer who wrote
26. Record holder  60. One of the
27. Rehearsal part  61. After lunch bite
28. Big name in 62. Night school
29. Byline for Blundergrads

Down
1. Part of a pound  11. Transcript
2. Out  12. Process, in a
3. Seas  13. Transcript
4. Able  14. Transcript
5. Hatch  15. Bloody, so to speak
6. Global legal venue; with The
7. Yankee nickname starting in 2004
8. 1950s-60s film/TV star with two nicknames
9. Cause for using a hot line
10. Sinbad's avian attaché
11. Classic 1947 detective novel
12. Process, in a
13. Transparencies
14. Biographies
15. Delivery notation: Abbr
16. Give and take
17. It's sometimes grabbed
18. Flygame political slogan
19. Movie starring Harvey Keitel
20. 1940s-'50s film/TV star with two nicknames
21. Station
22. 35 Put away
23. Stool on a dash
24. Sufficiently
25. Students' campus
26. The Hundred Acre Wood
27. "Brady Bunch" winer
28. "C'mon, it's not working"
29. "Brady Bunch" kids
30. Night school class, for short
31. Herring... 32. Night school class, for short
33. E-steam royal
34. "C'mon, it's not working"
35. Night school class, for short
36. Liquid fat
37. Prefers with
38. Liquid fat
39. "C'mon, it's not working"
40. Night school class, for short
41. Only player to win two World Cups
42. Night school class, for short
43. Poland's
44. Tear
45. Soldiers' jobs
46. Obeys
47. Come-on
48. Not punishing
49. ........light; Var
50. Lay person?
51. Cold-blooded killers
52. Stimulate
53. Holiday season
54. "Hud" Oscar
55. "Must Have" dancer
56. "Dharma" character
57. Ones with
58. Ones with
59. Writer who wrote
60. One of the
61. After lunch bite
62. Night school class, for short
63. Stool on a dash
64. Sufficiently
65. It may be rounded up in a roundup
66. European capitals
67. "Do the Right Thing" characters

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com
I came to California for the beaches, the people and the progressive outlook this state takes on issues.

This is why I am saddened by Proposition 8 on the November ballot — it is a step back in the battle for equality. The conservative underdog of California are once again battering the constitution by leading the efforts on the initiative that seek to decide whether or not to ban gay marriage. After the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of gay marriage last May, the court ruled that individuals of the same sex have a right to mar­ riage under the California Constitution; defining marriage only between a man and woman violated the equal protection clause.

The proposed ban was put up by the religious right and backed by our state’s Republican representatives.

But, it is stripping the rights of the American people and being led by bigots.

Growing up in Montana I faced bigotry head-on. In high school, I had classmates who were part of a student white supremacy group that shaved their heads and discriminated against the few non-Caucasians in my senior year. I protested against the Westboro Baptist church group of Topeka, Kan., who came to our town to protest churches that supported gays along with Montana Supreme Court. They had problems with the courts, which had just ruled that the Montana University system needed to give gay and lesbian part­ners the same rights to health insurance benefits as heterosexual partners.

They held up signs that said “The Montana Supreme Court sup­ports sodomy” and “Hell is real: Ask Matt” referring to the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of North Dakota who was murdered while affirming his sexual orientation. Standing outside the church I had belonged to, holding hands with fellow churchgoers as the members of the Westboro group yelled their anti-gay messages of hate.

St. Paul’s Methodist Church, which I belonged to at the time, was a liberal church in a conservative town. The motto of the church was “Open Doors, Open Hearts.” We had a woman pastor and a lesbian youth pastor.

Growing up outside the religious right, who are in full support of this Proposition 8 and under the lies that gays deserve the same right to marriage as I have as a heterosexual. The outside perception of the word “marriage” with gays scares some, but it doesn’t have to be that way.

Heterosexuals ruined the sanctity of marriage a long time ago when divorce rates skyrocketed. Opponents to the bill say that same-sex cou­ples have the same domestic partner rights as heterosexuals in California and they are right to a point.

But my gay sister still has to carry a piece of paper with her partner’s permission along with a copy of her partner’s license in order for her to admit her son into a hospital. A nurse would not even look at her son if her parents married just as his friends’ parents are.

If this bill passes, it will give gay rights a step forward on a federal level, where they are right now stripped of their rights as couples.

Imagine a ballot measure against interracial marriage: people would be insulted and outraged. Americans want to wake up and stand for their fellow Americans by embracing diversity before it’s too late. Vote No on Proposition 8 and when making decisions on local, state and presidential elections this year, keep in mind what each candidate stands for.

Proposition 8 is un-Californian.

Presidential candidate John McCain has spoken publicly for the prop­osition, saying that it is a threat to the values and the diversity of America. However, Prop 8 goes against the view that all are equal under the law. This is why I am saddened by Proposition 8 on the November ballot — it is a step back in the battle for equality.
I’ll see your race card and raise you a woman.”

The great debate
drinking game

Asher Smith

God bless presidential debates. God bless the spin room, the collections of inexplicably undecided voters corralled by the cable news networks and, most of all, Jim Lehrer. For there’s no denying reality: Ever since they’ve become a set part of the narrative and pan­egyric of our nation’s presidential elections, the debates have made for some truly legendary opportunities for drinking games.

It’s true. Whether you’re waiting to see how many times Sen. John McCain starts a phrase with “My friends,” Sen. Joe Biden fails to control himself from commenting on Gov. Sarah Palin’s attractiveness or Gov. Palin fumes at “Will Bruton” it simulates that includes puckballet, hockey moms and lipstick, you predict your night will be far more productive in the long run than those of Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain—a prediction made safer by the fact that the even the latter doesn’t want to be at the debate, despite the fact that debates are one of the few opportunities available to losing campaigns to receive equal time and coverage.

Don’t believe me? Think back to the last election and the first debate in which John Kerry dominated George W. Bush, forcing him to cry Poland until the colored lights came to his rescue. That’s completely forgotten now — and the only period that most observers could recall from the 2004 debates, if heavily prod­ded, is Kerry’s feeble attempt late in the final debate to broach the topic of Dick Cheney’s lesbian daughter.

The same holds true for practically every election. In 2000, Al Gore’s singing, space-invading and Dringall-Norwood references failed to move significant swaths of students themselves.

consider the home life and values of the student population, yet few saw fit to “go straight to the source and con­sider the home life and values of the student population, yet few saw fit to” speak the proliferation of stories about teen pregnancy. The saga continued when Jamie Lynn Spears, the child star of Nickel­odeon’s “Zoey 101,” announced her pregnancy in December 2007, the world of the moment was “shocked.” Spears declared herself to be “shocked” by the discovery and her mother, Lynne, echoed similar sentiments (though it was apparently not too shocked to release the story to the press). In an apparent attempt to placate the equally shocked parents of her teen daughter — Nicky — McCain was considered broadcasting a special on teen sexual health, but the program never materialized. Jamie Lynn Spears’ pregnancy produced a lot of drama, to the delight of gossip mag­azines, edon, yet she repeatedly re­ceived praise from fellow friends for her “strength and supposed motherly qualities.”

Palin has drawn fire for many of her policy talking points, but nothing could be stranger than her views on sex education.

Adrienne Langlois

Say what you will about politics — you’ve really got to hand it to the United States for producing bizarre trends. Here we are the country that has produced an artificial vagina for over a decade, inexpertly priced coffee and Tila Tequila.

There’s a strange bulge coming from the back of Bush’s suit and the first debate in which John Kerry dominated George W. Bush, forcing him to cry Poland until the colored lights came to his rescue. That’s completely forgotten now — and the only period that most observers could recall from the 2004 debates, if heavily prod­ded, is Kerry’s feeble attempt late in the final debate to broach the topic of Dick Cheney’s lesbian daughter.

The same holds true for practically every election. In 2000, Al Gore’s singing, space-invading and Dringall-Norwood references failed to move significant swaths of students themselves. Consider the home life and values of the student population, yet few saw fit to “go straight to the source and consider the home life and values of the student population, yet few saw fit to” speak the proliferation of stories about teen pregnancy. The saga con­tinued when Jamie Lynn Spears, the child star of Nickel­odeon’s “Zoey 101,” announced her pregnancy in December 2007, the world of the moment was “shocked.” Spears declared herself to be “shocked” by the discovery and her mother, Lynne, echoed similar sentiments (though it was apparently not too shocked to release the story to the press). In an apparent attempt to placate the equally shocked parents of her teen daughter — Nicky — McCain was considered broadcasting a special on teen sexual health, but the program never materialized. Jamie Lynn Spears’ pregnancy produced a lot of drama, to the delight of gossip mag­azines, edon, yet she repeatedly re­ceived praise from fellow friends for her “strength and supposed motherly qualities.”

Palin has drawn fire for many of her policy talking points, but nothing could be stranger than her views on sex education.
“He’ll pull it down and start to run, keep his eyes downhill and make some incredible throws on the run.” As versatile as Shepard may be, the Coyotes trailed 35-0 midway through the fourth quarter of a 37-18 loss at Montana State last week. "We just could not get anything going offensively," Meierkort said.

No. 8 Cal Poly (2-1) certainly has reeling Northwestern State 52-18 Sept. 20. But due to McNeese State canceling a third-week meet, Ellerson couldn’t agree more. "One of (the Mustangs’) corner-backs is their tough guys," he added.

The cancellation, Ellerson said, only magnified the importance of each game for Cal Poly, which stands to lose more playing South Dakota (2-3) than it does to gain.

"It’s phenomenal," Meierkort said. "They know that and they’re committed to chucking it to him. But with the triple option they run, you can’t focus on him first. You’ve got to stop the run first." Ellerson emphasized his team’s need to win their next six to be "in the conversation at the quarter system," he said. "If I could choose where it would go, that’s where it would go every year." The Mustangs are fourth in the FCS in total offense, averaging 458 yards per game. As instrumental as anyone is senior receiver Ramses Barden, who wants to be pretty. They’re kind of anti-what you would think of Califormia."
Dodgers

Chicago Cubs centerfielder Jim Edmonds (15) knelt as he watches fans go after a Dodgers home run in the ninth inning Wednesday.

The wind at Wrigley Field, often a factor, was blowing from left to right across the field and announced at 6 mph to start the game.

Los Angeles also loaded the bases in the third on two walks and an infield single by Ramirez before Dempster struck out Andre Ethier to end it.

Dempster helped in the inning by two nice defensive plays. Kosuke Fukudome, scoring on Casey Blake's Foul Hy as he tripped over the mound.

The Cubs took a 2-1 lead in the eighth when Blake DeWitt drove in a run with a double, I'mella had seen the strike zone all night and got him out. The Cubs scored two runs on a sacrifice fly by (mbs'  center Fielder Jim Edmonds, scoring on C'asey Blake' s Martin's long drive.

Torrone and Finiella met for the first time in the ninth inning, Torre was still well aware of his surroundings Wednesday night.

Wednesday night, Los Angeles had posted 1-12 in the playoffs once beat­

ing Oakland in the 19S8 Series. After all his successful years with the Yankees and the many eventual games, Torre was still well aware of his surroundings Wednesday night.

"I've been in the American League for 12 years, to come into Wrigley Field for a playoff game, that's pretty cool," said Torre, who also has managed the Mets, Cardi­

nals and Braves.

"I feel pretty good about it. I said, 'If you're here, it must be a pretty good restaurant.' Torre re­
called telling Finiella.

The Cubs are out to end their 100-year championship drought and the Dodgers have been strug­
gling in the postseason for the last two decades. Before winning
Cal Poly defends against another Dakota debacle

The Mustangs, coming off their second of three byes over a five-week period, face a Division I newcomer Saturday at home.

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

The word "Dakota State" may as well translate into "bad memories" in the language of Cal Poly football.

Of course, there are variations. "North Dakota State," means the sting of surrendering 22 unanswered points in the final 10 minutes of a 2002 game to lose 31-28 to the Bison, then the No. 1 team in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA). A year prior to that, it was interpreted as a double-whammy from Fargo. No. 13 in defeat with a 51-14 margin — the worst in the seven-year tenure of Mustang head coach Rich Ellerson.

"South Dakota State," conversely, was construed in 2007 to denote being gashed by running back Cory Koenig for 297 yards — the second-most by an opponent in Cal Poly history — in a 48-35 loss. In 2006 its combination of collapse was giving up 23 unanswered points in the final eight minutes of a 29-28 shortcoming.

The meaning of simply "South Dakota" will be written when the Mustangs host the Coyotes in Alex G. Spanos Stadium at 6:05 p.m. Saturday in the first meeting between the two.

"We respect all the Dakota schools," Mustangs senior guard Stephen Field said. "Personally, I have another level of respect for them."

Ellerson isn't hesitant to group the first-timers with the seasoned veterans.

"They're 'transitional,' but they're at the top of that Division II echelon," Ellerson said. "And that's just not that much difference (between the divisions)."

He may have a point. After all, Cal Poly swung up and dripped Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) No. 8 Cal Poly 30-28 Sept. 6 — could only get by Division II Central Washington 38-35 last week.

"South Dakota's on a par with the best teams on our schedule," Ellerson said. "They can break our heart."

If that happens, junior quarterback Jonathan Dally, shown in a 29-27 win at San Diego State on Aug. 30, is third in the FCS in passing efficiency. A purely numerical look might seem to suggest such a predicament for South Dakota, in its first year of transitioning from Division II to the FCS. But the Coyotes, who went 27-8 from 2004 to 2006 before dropping to 6-5 a season ago, managed Sept. 6 to lose just 24-13 at Northern Iowa, which is ranked 10th in the FCS coaches poll, and one of their losses — 31-30 at Southeastern Louisiana — came down to a two-point conversion attempt with time expired.

"They're 'transitional,' but they're at the top of that Division II echelon," Ellerson said. "And there's just not that much difference (between the divisions)."

South Dakota (2-3)
at
No. 8 Cal Poly (2-1)
Saturday, Oct. 4
6:05 p.m.
Alex G. Spanos Stadium

Radio:
ESPN 1280 AM
KCPR 91.3 FM

Last Game:
Montana State 37,
South Dakota 18
(Saturday)
Cal Poly 52,
Northwestern State 18
(Sept. 20)

Cal Poly senior quarterback Jonathan Dally, shown in a 29-27 win at San Diego State on Aug. 30, is third in the FCS in passing efficiency.