Controversial Measure Y program on hold

Lack of city finances delays expansion of neighborhood patrol

Breehan Yolfe-Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

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 that was 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," Fiscorial Director Bill Slater said.

Residents and council members alike decried 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 judici­ rial responsibility, the main responsibility of the city council," said Councilwoman Christine Mulholl­ land. "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 looked grim for the many Measure Y supporters, Slater remained optimistic.

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

Slater 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," Slater 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 rate neighbors make against students.

"We have had ongoing problems in neighbor­ hoods for years and we have been unable to respond in a timely matter to a lot of the calls we get," Mulholland said. "People who make calls in see Measure Y, page 2

Whitney Tuttle
MUSTANG DAILY

Poly grads start online campaign for Obama

Alisha Asssom
MUSTANG DAILY

Two former Cal Poly students are attempting to influence the upcoming presidential election in a whole new way. Cliff Branch and David Riordan 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 Riordan. This has created an exponential effect, evident 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 Palm, Biden debate gives her chance to come back

Beth Foushy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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
MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your corrections to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

- 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.

Debate
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 may want to redefine 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 latest in a series the next president will face.

In a segment that aired Tuesday, Palin 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. Ifill 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 publications including USA Today and Rolling Stone. The
advertisements were personally funded by Branch, who
after year...and the cops can' t even
deal with it because they are out at
other parts of the city...don' t get
response at all because the cops
continued from page I

Response at all because the cops
continued from page I

"We wanted to get students interested in their country," 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 inter­
estad in voting. Nor was there 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 has always been active in civic affairs and his
community. Now he wants to pass that desire on to the
next generation, he said.

"The basis of democracy is the participation of the citi­
zens," Branch said. "If citizens stop participating, then we

Chief Gunther, who started an alter­
native facebook group called Cal
Poly Students AGAINST Measure Y, said that he listed facts about the
program correctly.

Although Gunther said that
many Measure Y programs would
be good for the community, he was
concerned with certain parts of the
neighborhood policing program.

"I was against the 'no warn­ing
for repeat offenders,'" Gunther
wrote in an e-mail interview. "This
bullet on the program basically
would allow the police to give a
lot of unwarranted tickets to peo­
ples just because they are living in
a house that is flagged as a party
house."

Gunther added that he is also
against the noise warning periods.

"This allows the police to
choose weekends as they see fit
and become no warning weekends.
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.

Sean Grant, ASI's chief of staff,
said that most students' concerns
about the program have turned out
to be unfounded.

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

"They were developing neighbor­
hood teams to give officers a closer
relationship with neighborhoods to
try to avoid the crackdown that the
facebook group has brought up."

Grant added that relations be­
tween the city's students and long­
term residents will always be an is­sue in this college town.

"Some (measures) work, some won't and it's going to be a learning process between Cal Poly and the
community," Grant said. "Hopefully someday they will find a perfect solution."
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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 Agurino, mechanical engineering junior

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

-Math 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.”

-Evie Ewers, parks and recreation junior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER TITCOMB

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WOMEN ONLY CALL
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 news, so I'm not particularly worried that one-day blog chatter is going to destroy my reputation," Ifill said. "The proof is in the pudding. 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 (seen in this 2005 file photo) who disappeared Sept. 2007, after taking off in a single-engine plane.

Possible Fossett ID , other items found in Calif.

Authorities say a hiker has found items possibly belonging to Fossett (seen in this 2005 file photo) who disappeared Sept. 2007, after taking off in a single-engine plane.

Possible Fossett ID, other items found in Calif.

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 Wasatch 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, completed an Ironman Triathlon, competed in the Iditarod dog sled race and climbed some of the world's best-known peaks, including the Matterhorn in Switzerland and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

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European Union monitors in white shirts and bright blue berets began patrolling a buffer zone Wednesday outside South Ossetia, a breakaway region in Georgia, occupied 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.

Georgia's president and his prime minister vowed to press Moscow for a promised Russian pullback from the region they blame on South Ossetians said they had damaged by arson and looting.

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

"The situation is very calm," said Ivan Kukushkin, a Russian officer in charge of the checkpoint near the Georgian village of Kroustskuto.

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 EU monitors inside the regions.

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 Kalaleti, a village on a main road leading from Georgian-controlled territory to South Ossetia, Vitaly Shivishvili 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 Shavishvili, 24.

The host of PBS' "Washington Week" and senior correspondent for "The NewsHour" said she did not tell the Commission on Presidential Debates about the book. The commission had no immediate comment when contacted by The Associated Press. A spokesman for John McCain's campaign did not immediately return phone and e-mail messages.

Ifill, who is black, asked if there were racial motives at play, she said, "I don't know what it is. I find it curious."
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 sunk 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 event’s foundations, the crowd at the event was diverse and accepting.

“I’ve been going to this for about three years,” said Jay Nica, 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:
'Religious' Flays Organized Faith

David Germain
ASSOCIATED 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 "Religious," 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. "Religious," directed by fellow documentarian 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," Maher said.

"Religious" is intended to be a rich topic. I did when I was a young comedian, but they weren't making money on getting arrested. Drink responsibly.

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Cal Poly's news is at your finger tips — while you rest in bed.
John Curran
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 news release confirmed by a notice in a newspaper in Hampton.

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 months 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."
Folk Yeah! music festival proves educational

A few things I learned last weekend during Folk Yeah! 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 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 time on the guitar, it's not cool. Not in the slightest. In fact, if the band wasn't amazing I would make some arrogant statements. Instead I'll reserve those statements for the half hour he 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/artist friend 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.

Hipster Bullshit by Graham Culbertson

Check out some of the festivities downtown:

The Believers
(Main Stage on Nipomo Street)

The Clear
(Broad Street)

Alternative Fuel Day
(Chorro Street)

Garth Wilwand
(Morro Street)

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vs. Pacific
Saturday, Oct. 4
7:00 p.m.
Mott Gym

Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students for all home Athletic events.
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—because I’m afraid of what is at stake.

The conservative underdog of California are once again bashing the constitution by leading the effort on the initiative that allows voters 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 marry 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-Caucasian students. Why 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 court, 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 a sign 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 killed while defying homophobia. Outside the church I had belonged to, holding hands with fellow churchgoers as members of the Westboro group yelled their anti-gay messages of hate and we were verbally and physically assaulted by all people.

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, is challenging to understand that gays deserve the same right to marriage as I do as a heterosexual. The outside perception of the world “marriage” with gays scares some, but it doesn’t have to scare others.

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 sister to admit her son into a hospital. The importance of the legal marriage is important to same sex couples like my sister and her partner.

My nephew still has to carry a piece of paper to the church in order to be married to his gay partner. Others who acres is normal to see his parents married just as his friends are. Parents are.

If this ballot measure fails, it will give gay rights 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 have 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.

Presidential candidate John McCain has spoken publicly for the prop­osition S, his platform, while allowing that same-sex orientation should be changed by the out-spoken religious right. Churches would NOT be forced to change anything, the court decision passed says “no religious institution or marriage should not be mingled with the divorce between religion and politics. Namely, that the religious institution of mar­riage should not be mingled with governance, both for taxes and for the protection of their reason I do not support Proposition 8. Moreover, by add­ing this text to the California Constitution, we intrude into the personal lives of citizens. I too believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman; however, that is a personal belief that should not be forced upon others.

Jacob Kory
electrical engineering junior

NOTE: The Mustang Daily feature story comments on an upcoming vote on Proposition 8—a hot topic in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses will be printed, the Mustang Daily will print comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.

To read the original commentary, go to http://tinyurl.com/MDProp8. 
The great debate drinking game

Asher Smith

While polling following Friday’s debate and all subsequent dark horse factors—naturally either one was depend­ ing on who “wins,” these numbers will inevitably be ephemeral. Now that Barack Obama has a lead as large as any that he held over the summer, who remembers that McCain spent about a week slightly ahead in every poll? To revisit 2004, that first debate swung the poll­ ing by data only about four and a half points, according to data compiled by Professor Tim Hennes in the University of Wisconsin—Madison and that’s quickly negated by the uncontrollable reality of the campaign news cycle, in which special media might as well have occurred a month ago. Before the issue-related fallout from that first debate could even be fully ab­ sorbed, voters had already moved on to questions about a strange burger coming from the back of Bush’s suit jacket.

What debates really do is provide the reporters, col­ umnists, political scientists and historians following the race with useful little vignettes that help in framing the already decided-upon broader narrative. It’s difficult to explain why Ronald Reagan was able to utilize his unique gift of cleverly covering over whatever the real story was — until you can point to him successfully dismissing Jimmy Carter with that famous “there you go again” retort. It’s easy now to see Al Gore’s sighs and over-eager wonkiness as evidence of his complete and utter inability to connect with ordinary folks — so long is you ignore the fact that, regardless of what you make of those Florida results, at least half a million Americans voted for him than for them — for Gore Bush.

So sure, go to your debate parties, and let the ups and downs of what is in essence two hours of campaign infomercials have an immediate impact on your personal happiness. Sit in awe and wonder as you con­ sider this opportunity to discuss teen sexual health. It’s uncertain whether Bristol received comprehensive sex educa­ tion at her school, and thus for the McCan campaign has for the most part kept silent on this issue.

Bristol Palin’s pregnancy raises many unique discussion opportunities for all Americans — through her views on teen pregnancy parlance and education. The American public should take this opportunity to think about this issue.

Palin has driven fire for many of her policy talking points, but nothing could be stranger than her views on sex education.
back Noah Shepard will likely be involved.

“Our offense kind of goes with him,” Coyotes head coach Ed Meierkort said.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pound Shepard has completed 58.9 percent of his 107 pass attempts 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 hasn’t, losing Northwestern State 52-18 Sept. 20. But due to McNeese State canceling a third-week meet with the Mustangs may consequently have to live in the moment and take advantage of it now.”

The cancellation, Meierkort 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.

“Because the Coyotes are in transition from Division II, a win would be a good count toward a total of seven Division I victories required for playoff eligibility by the selection committee,” he said. “We just could not get anything going offensively.”

The Mustangs are fourth in the FCS in total offense, averaging 458 yards per game.

Cal Poly women’s tennis junior Britanny Blalock and Steffi Wong were eliminated in the second round of qualifying play at the 2008 Riviera/Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American Championship on Tuesday morning in Los Angeles.

The Mustangs’ top doubles team, ranked No. 31 by the ITA, fell to No. 16 Carolina Escamilla and Christine Johnston of Kentucky, 6-8. The loss was their first of the season.

“I thought the girls really started the year playing at the same level or maybe even a little better than they finished last year,” Cal Poly head coach Hugh Bream said in a statement.

Escamilla and Johnston, who were seeded third in the qualifying draw, defeated Maria Sanchez and Alison Ramos of USC, 8-4.

Blalock and Wong, who went 23-11 last season, advanced to the second round after beating Alabama’s Paula Beges and Tiffani Welcher 8-6 in the first round.

Blalock and Wong, along with their teammates, will return to action at the Cal State Fullerton Fall Intercollegiate Tournament from Oct. 10 to 12.

If there had to be so many byes, Field said, placing one in the first week of school, which started Sept. 22, wasn’t such a bad thing.

“It’s good to have a week there to get relaxed and settle in with your new schedule and make sure you get off to a good start, especially because we’re on the quarter system,” he said.

Field couldn’t agree more.

“The first week of school is exactly the right time to have a bye,” he said. “If I could choose where it would go, that’s where it would go every year.”

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As instrumental as anyone is senior receiver Ramses Barden, who leads the country with 156 receiving yards per game — 25 ahead of the runner-up.

“He’s phenomenal,” Meierkort said. “They know that and they’re committed to blocking 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.”

Meierkort emphasized his team “can’t afford” to fall into a hole like it did last week.

“One of (the Mustangs’) cornerbacks is tough guys,” he added.

“That’s why they’re successful in this day and age when everyone wants to be pretty. They’re kind of anti-what you would think of California.”
Chicago Cubs centerfielder Jim Edmonds (15) kneels 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 was helped in the inning by two nice defensive plays. Kosuke Fukudome, who started at second base, and Russell Martin, who started at catcher, each robbed a hit.

Calm and cool, Roots tossed four hits and four runs in 53 games after he was acquired from the Red Sox. Despite (2.0) worked six innings, allowing two runs and seven hits. Dempster, who played six positions this season while setting a career high with 21 homers, missed the final four games of the regular season with strained calf muscle.

After a single by Edmonds, Dempster lifted a high fly down the right-field line, and the ball kept carrying, landing just over the first baseman and to the left of the pole to give the Cubs a 2-0 lead. It was his first postseason homer.

The Cubs are out to end their 100-year championship drought and the Dodgers have been struggling in the postseason for the last two decades. Before winning the last two games to reach the Series, Los Angeles beat San Francisco in Game 1 and Seattle in Game 2.

The Dodgers got past Arizona to win the NL West, with a huge boost this year. Now, they're in a hole again, clinging to a lead and silenced a Wrigley Field crowd that gave the Dodgers a 4-2 lead and silenced a Wrigley Field crowd that was cheering loudly for Dempster to get out of the jam he created.

"I literally, when you keep putting people on, they're going to score, and they scored them quickly with that grand slam," Piniella said.

When Matt Kemp followed with a double and had seen enough and brought in Sean Marshall from the bullpen. Marshall gave up Ramirez's solo shot in the seventh that made it 5-2.

The Dodgers padded the lead in the eighth when Blake DeWitt doubled to right and reached third on an error by Cubs' center fielder Jim Edmonds, scoring on Casey Blake's single off Jeff Samardzija. Martin homered off Jason Marquis in the top of the ninth.

On the first day of spring training, Dempster said he thought the Cubs would win the World Series this year. Now, they're in a hole already.

Dempster (0-3), 14-3 at Wrig­ ley during the regular season, allowed 109 pitches in just 4 2-3 innings, giving up four runs and four runs while walking seven to tie a career high.

Loew went 6-1 in his first 10 starts of the regular season as the Dodgers got past Arizona to win the NL West, with a huge boom from Ramirez's 17 homers and 53 games after he was acquired from the Red Sox.

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The Cubs are not out to end their 100-year championship drought and the Dodgers have been struggling in the postseason for the last two decades. Before winning the last two games to reach the Series, Los Angeles beat San Francisco in Game 1 and Seattle in Game 2.

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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 words “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 "South Dakota," and vice versa, was construed in 2007 to denote being gashed by running back Cory Kroeging for 297 yards — the second-most by an opponent in Cal Poly history — in a 48-35 loss. In 2006 its connotation of collapse was giving up 23 unanswered points in the final eight minutes of a 29-28 overtime loss.

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 hesitating to group the first-timers with the seasoned tormenters.

“They’re the rest of the schools from the Dakotas we’ve faced over the years,” he said. "They don’t freak out if they get a little bit behind.”

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.

A purely numerical look might seem to suggest such a predilection 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).”

He may have a point. After all, Cal Poly swung up and départed Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) South Dakota State 29-27 Aug. 30, and No. 2 Montana — which beat 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 see USD, page 14

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.

men's HOOPS | CAL POLY 3, CAL STATE FULLERTON 0

Alvarez scores twice as Mustangs blank Titans in Big West opener

Rick Gano
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Manny Ramirez and Joe Torre brought their winning postseason ways to the Los Angeles Dodgers — and Wrigley Field. James Loney hit a go-ahead grand slam off a wild Ryan Dempster, Ramirez and Russell Martin homered and the new-look Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 7-2 in their NL playoff opener Wednesday night.

The Cubs entered the postseason with the best record in league, hoping for a fast start 100 years after their last World Series championship.

But Ramirez and Torre, winners of six World Series titles for the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night. For a complete recap of Wednesday’s game, go online to mustangdaily.net.

The last time they started a postseason series with a victory was 1988 — the Kirk Gibson game in the World Series. The Cubs will try to get even in Game 2 on Thursday night when they send righthander Carlos Zambrano against Chad Billingsley.

"Let’s hope we get better," Cubs manager Bobby Valentine said. "It was a good win for the Dodgers. The last time they started a postseason series with a victory was