Central Coast reacts to expired offshore drilling bill

After a 25-year moratorium on offshore oil drilling expired, some organizations on the Central Coast are speaking against drilling California's coastlines.

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

It is one of the most argued about points of the current political season. It may provide much needed support for our economy, but in a worst-case scenario it could wipe out an entire ecosystem.

Offshore oil drilling is a hot topic around the nation, but after a 25-year-long federal ban was lifted in September, drilling may be felt closer to home.

One vocal opponent is local congresswoman Lois Capps. Capps, who is serving the Central Coast through her 23rd district seat, issued a press release condemning congress for allowing the offshore drilling moratorium to lapse.

"Hopefully, with a new president, we can negotiate a compromise that respects the need to protect coastal states and puts our country on a path to a clean energy future," Capps said in the release.

Drilling close to the coastline has also been a contentious battle. On Sept. 16, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would allow offshore drilling from about 50 to 100 miles offshore. Many politicians wanted to allow drilling as close as three miles off the coast.

The house bill followed President Bush removing the presidential moratorium his father had put in place in 1990. The bill's passage effectively ended a moratorium that had been in effect in various forms for nearly 25 years.

Though oil drilling is currently banned in most state waters, cracks are beginning to show. Santa Barbara County passed a resolution asking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to allow drilling off its coast. A recent poll from the Public Policy Institute of California shows that roughly half of California supports offshore oil drilling, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi cautiously favors it.

I think it's kind of disappointing," said former Empower Poly President Chad Worth of the ban being lifted. "I think that it's definitely a step in the wrong direction if our federal government is serious about taking aggressive measures to fight climate change."

Worth agreed that a path to clean energy is in order and thanked Capps for helping to keep most offshore drilling away from most of the Central Coast.

"I'm very grateful that Los Capps has kept oil drilling off the coast of San Luis Obispo County," Worth said. "Empower Poly will host in Face the Nation event next February and it will look at what the school and area can do to increase alternative energy options."

Samantha MacConnell
MUSTANG DAILY

It may not yet have the name recognition of Jamba Juice, but three recent Cal Poly graduates have put their education to use to create what they say is a new and innovative business.

WiHire.com is an online job recruiting Web site where students and recent college graduates ready to highlight their particular skills and talents can find entry-level jobs, internships, part-time employment and volunteer opportunities, said the site's founders, industrial technology graduate Jesse Dundon, agriculture business graduate Kevin Rice and business administration graduate Ryan Fry.

WiHire encourages students to create free multimedia profiles where they can upload video resumes, feature examples of their work, communicate directly with company recruiters and view job postings that apply to their course of study or school.

Users do not have to create a profile to access the Web site, however, they will gain more out of the experience if they do, the founders say.

Dundon, Rice and Fry became friends in high school and came up with the idea when they began to look for jobs of their own.

During their searches, they decided that there were many ways to improve online social networking and personalized recruiting.

"They really care about what they do," said Ronda Beaman, a Cal Poly graduate school of business teacher who helped Dundon in the beginning stages of the project. "I think that no matter what idea they came up with, they would see WiHire, page 3
Drilling

continued from page 1

While San Luis Obispo County has avoided drilling thanks to efforts by Capps and the community, nearby Santa Barbara County has shown what the negatives can be. "All it takes is one little slip up and you can harm an ecosystem and really make you question what was right in the first place," Worth said.

On Jan. 28, 1969, such a slip up occurred. A blow-out on a Union Oil platform caused an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil to be dumped into the Santa Barbara Channel. Estimates of the animal life lost vary, but numbers are in the thousands for birds that inhabited the area. Many water-living animals died as well in the disaster, which spread into an 800-mile sick by winds and swells.

Cal Poly Republicans president Jacki DeMarchi said that with advances in the technology the positives of offshore drilling outweigh the negatives.

"Drilling technology has changed dramatically since then predominantly oil spills that take place now are during transportation rather than drilling," DeMarchi said.

With the recent economic slowdown, proponents of offshore drilling say that it could have a major positive impact on constantly rising gas prices.

DeMarchi also said that economic issues such as rising gas prices need to be fought now, and that offshore drilling is a good way to get prices to drop.

"I think that people are clearly upset about gas prices and that until we can research alternative fuels we have to be able to support ourselves domestically," DeMarchi said. "Our demand domestically has increased a lot in the last 20 years and we're importing far more than we ever have before. The more oil that we have in the market, it will decrease and markets won't be as volatile."

Worth disagreed.

"I think it's foolish to think we'll be able to fix our oil problems offshore," he said. "Just because we drill here doesn't mean it comes here."

Worth said that offshore drilling will likely become a necessity at some point but other energy sources would be more ideal.

Estimates put the U.S. oil reserves at around three percent of the world share with consumption up to 25 percent. "My whole opinion on drilling in general is, 'Sure we're going to need it,'" Worth said. "At the same time we should be saving the oil we have for things that we absolutely need it for, like aviation, or our ships or the shipping industry rather than drilling for oil for cars that could or can be more efficient."

Local organizations are also rallying against the lifting of the offshore ban, including the Santa Lucia chapter of the Sierra Club.

"We're totally opposed to (offshore drilling)," Sierra Club Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska said. "We're primarily opposed because there are significant alternatives instead of drilling off our beautiful shoreline."

Smokoska pointed to renewable energy as an alternative to drilling and cited an island in Denmark that relies completely on renewable sources.

"Samsoe, Denmark is a leading example of the possibilities of renewable energy," Smokoska said. "There are better ways we can provide for ourselves aside from drilling."

There are other things that Americans can do to remove the country's reliance on oil according to Smokoska.

"We need to make an investment in electric cars and transition away from our oil mindset," Smokoska said. "It makes solid economic sense to shift and localize renewable energy. If we make a shift to localize energy with renewable energy, it will provide a huge economic windfall. We need that."

Schwarzenegger, legislative leaders talk finances

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger gestures as he discusses a new public-private partnership to fund environmental preservation during a news conference near Truckee, Calif., Wednesday. Schwarzenegger met with legislative leaders in the day to discuss shortfalls in the state budget.

Juliet Williams
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders emerged from a meeting Wednesday saying they're confident California will be able to repay up to $7 billion in short-term loans, even as the state treasurer estimated the state's revenues are likely to drop another $3 billion below projections.

But they offered no explanation — and reached no agreement — on how they plan to solve the state's mounting fiscal problems, other than to say they will hold weekly meetings to discuss the crisis.

"We want to just assure everybody that we'll be able to pay our bills at the end of the month, and we go step by step after that," Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, said after the meeting.

State officials have warned that the ongoing national credit crisis could make it hard for the state to sell $7 billion in short-term bonds, starting with a $4 million offering next week. The state needs the money to tide it over until it gets a surge in tax revenue next fiscal year.

That concern about an inability to borrow prompted Schwarzenegger to write to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson last week warning that California may need a $7 billion loan if it can't get the funds from private lenders in the tight credit market.

Revenue for the first quarter of the fiscal year that started July 1 is already down $1.1 billion from the projections in a May estimate, according to state Controller John Chiang.

Based on that estimate, the state treasurer's office warns in a lending prospectus issued Wednesday that the revenue shortfall could grow to $3 billion.

State Treasurer Bill Lockyer issued the prospectus in anticipation of next week's bond sale.

In a worst-case scenario, he warned, California's revenues could erode by as much as $3.5 billion: $3.5 billion in tax revenues, $800 million from overestimating new fines, $300 million in unexpected prisoner health care expenses and $900 million from various lawsuits and responses to natural disasters.

Wednesday's meeting took place just two weeks after Schwarzenegger signed a $103.4 billion budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year in which legislators acknowledged they used accounting tricks to help close a $15.2 billion deficit. It was the latest budget in state history, as lawmakers fought for two months over how to deal with the red ink.

Yet Democratic and Republican leaders insisted that the worsening financial picture has now brought them together.

Senate Minority Leader Dave Cogdl (R-Manteca), on Tuesday criticized Democratic Assembly Speaker Karen Bass' contention that California may have to increase taxes to close the latest budget gap.

On Wednesday, he said the financial crisis is more serious "than anyone in my generation has faced. There's certainly reason to be concerned and we are, but I'm confident that this state is strong enough that at the end of the day we'll be fine."

Schwarzenegger and the legislative leaders downplayed the idea of holding a special legislative session to address the budget shortfall, possibly after the Nov. 4 election. They said their first priority is short-term borrowing needed to carry California through the spring, when tax revenues come in.

"There's really no reason to have a special session yet, until we have a plan to do something," Perata said.
Pelosi raises idea of $150 billion stimulus bill

Colleen Slevin

DENVER — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday that a $150 billion economic stimulus plan is needed now because of the faltering economy and she may call the House into session after the election to pass it.

Pelosi told reporters that the stock market meltdown, which has caused an estimated $2 trillion loss from pension funds, was a factor in her decision to consider a second stimulus bill. The first relief plan sent out $600-$1,200 tax rebate checks to most individuals and couples this year.

The House did pass a $16 billion economic aid proposal last month before lawmakers left Capitol Hill ahead of the Nov. 4 election.

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The House did pass a $16 billion economic aid proposal last month before lawmakers left Capitol Hill ahead of the Nov. 4 election. But a similar plan failed to pass the Senate. President Bush had promised a veto anyway.

If Democratic nominee Barack Obama wins the White House and if Capitol Hill Democrats make gains in the elections as well, it might be easier to pass a stimulus measure over dispirited Republicans, especially if the economy remains in big trouble.

The Senate is expected to be back at work after Election Day to complete a public lands bill and perhaps deal with other matters, such as a measure to extend unemployment benefits. The House also could return to consider a stimulus plan and additional issues in a lame-duck session before the newly elected Congress takes over in January.

"We may have to go back into session before the next Congress," Pelosi said.

Pelosi said a stimulus package would create jobs by investing in public works, increasing food stamps benefits and extending unemployment insurance for the long-term jobless. She said lawmakers need to "hunker down" and look closely at the federal budget for possible savings, and reconsider whether the U.S. can afford to fight "a war without end" in Iraq.

"We have some very hard decisions to make and some of them can't wait until January," said Pelosi. (D-Calif.)

"What we can't wait for is a stimulus package," Pelosi added. "We may have to go back into session before the next Congress."

Pelosi also promised a veto anyway.

The stimulus money would be divided among various public works projects, with money for roads and bridges, schools and parks, among other things. If some form of emergency aid were passed today, the government could begin to spend the money in December, Pelosi said.

"The macro reality is that we need people to come into this business," he said.

Sustainability is another concern, since the heating and cooling of building systems accounts for 38 percent of the nation's energy needs, a larger percentage of energy than it takes to fuel the entire nation's transportation needs.

To cope with increasing legislative and consumer mandates, the industry is attempting to develop more energy-efficient heating systems. New and innovative ideas are continually in the works and students can expect to see demand for green systems to continue to increase, Pelosi said.

"The thing I didn't have coming out of college that I wish I had is a plan; have a plan of what you want to do. To steer from the air force, aim high," he said.

The lecture will take place at 11 a.m. in the Advanced Technology Laboratory on campus.

The program "Engineering Better Careers: Engineering Better Environments," aims to teach students about fields in engineering that many students aren't aware about. The program is put on by Trans.

Jim Pape, west coast vice president of Trans, will be meeting with faculty and students in the engineering program tomorrow to discuss sales engineering.
Yosemite National Park

rock slide destroys cabins

The volume of rocks cascading from the granite face was estimated at 1,000 cubic yards, or about 180 truck loads, said Vickie Matos, a park spokeswoman.

There was another, smaller rock slide in the same area Tuesday afternoon. No one was injured then.

In 1996, a rock slide in the same area sent 1.5 million cubic yards of rock plummeting more than 2,000 feet, killing one visitor and felling 500 trees. A slide in 1999 killed one climber and injured three others while narrowly missing the popular campground.

Tom Trujillo, of New Milford, Conn., was with a group of amateur photographers, saw Wednesday's rock slide and ran toward it.

"Trees were crushed all over the place," Trujillo said over the sound of a hovering helicopter. "A couple of kids, fifth or sixth-graders, were stumbling out of the area. I tried to pick them up, tried to get them out as fast as I could."

Trujillo said he helped one bow, who had blood on his forehead and down his back, get out and find his mother.

"It was a really big mess," Trujillo said. "Tents were crushed, people walk through some of the damage to trees and lodging at Curry Village in Yosemite National Park following a rock slide, Wednesday, injuring areas, officials said.

"The fire was burning uncontrollably, with whipped flames and firebrands blowing from the granite face was estimated at 1,000 cubic yards, or about 180 truck loads, said Vickie Matos, a park spokeswoman.

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"It was a really big mess," Trujillo said. "Tents were crushed, and debris, sheet clubs.

"We were awakened at 7 to what sounded like thunder and what felt like the Earth crumbling apart," said Jeanne Masemeyer, running ahead of a tsunami.

"I ran and ran like a man. I felt like I was peding everywhere and running, running, running in a near-by cabin with her. I tried to pick them up, tried to get them out as fast as I could."

Vitali said it was not immediately known how the fire started or whether training was going on at the range at the time the fire started.

"It's putting up quite a bit of smoke," Schuler said.

Maj. Kristen Lanca said there was no measurable containment of the fire and she was not sure if un-exploded ordnance remained on the range.

Free Marine brush truck teams, similar to engine companies, were being called by 15 fire engines from county fire agencies and state and federal forestry departments, as well as a helicopter from the San Diego Fire Department and two air tankers provided by San Diego County.

SLO Little Theatre

Short Play Festival

October 17th-26th

SLO Little Theatre is proud to welcome international guest director Cornelia Drese, direct from the German Broadway stage!

Come celebrate the winners of our short play competition, and experience a variety of genres and writing styles from playwrights across the country, including a few gems from local young authors! This is an event you won't want to miss!

Tickets $25 online: slolittletheatre.org or 760-2440

Friday & Saturday 8pm Saturday & Sunday 2pm

MASTER CLASSES!

Audition Technique Master Class
Saturday, October 18th from 10 am - 12.30 pm • Cost: $40 • 20 Student Maximum

Musical Theater Master Class
Saturday, October 25th from 10 am - 12 pm • Cost: $30

Playwrighting Master Class
Sunday, October 19th from 7 pm - 10 pm • Cost: $40 • 20 Student Maximum

To register for a class, please call (805) 761-0609 x 10.

All Classes will take place at the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre 800 Morro Street, at the corner of Morro and Palm.

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Debt rises, clock runs short

OUR NATIONAL DEBT:  $10,149,644,933,872
YOUR Family share: $86,017
THE NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK

KATHY WILLIAMS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The National Debt Clock is shown near Times Square in New York, Wednesday. The clock has run out of digits to record the growing figure. As a temporary fix, the dollar sign has been switched to a figure-the "1" in $10 trillion. The clock is marking the current national debt at about $10.2 trillion.

Retailers report weak September sales

Anne D'Innocenzo

American consumers went into hibernation last month, cutting retail sales and an uncertain future well beyond the holiday season as the economic clock is marking the current national debt at about $10.2 trillion.

"Discretionary spending has come to a crawl," said Ken Perkins, president and co-founder of research company RetailerViews LLC. "Consumers are the most wor­ried I have seen since at least the 2007 recession. There are so many factors loping on their psyche."

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, said sales of discretionary items were weak as it posted solid results that were nevertheless a bit below estimates that were weak, as it posted solid results that were nevertheless a bit below estimates that were nevertheless a bit below estimates that were nevertheless a bit below estimates that were nevertheless a bit below estimates that were nevertheless a bit below estimates.

Divers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Port Police used hard plastic rafts to raise the boat to an action on Wednesday. Coast Guard Ensign Stephanie Young says investigators believe the boat belongs to 51-year-old Henry Sanchez, who has been missing since Oct. 2, along with his 48-year-old girlfriend, Penny Arata.

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BUDAPUST, Hungary (AP) — The International Olympic Committee said Wednesday that it will return samples from the games to search for a new blood-booster drug at the center of the latest tour de France scandal.

The move reflects the IOC's ag­gressive attempts to cut drug cheat­ing out of this summer's Olympics, but weeks and months and even years later once new ones become available. Results and models could be as stale.

Tijuana, Mexico (AP) — Two Mexican state pro­cutors' office said four people were shot to death in the border city of Tijuana in two separate gun­fights. Another man was found handcuffed with a bag over his head. Two men were shot and killed at a street fruit stand in downtown Mexicali. And in the beach community of Cabo, four people were killed in two shootings. The procurator's office said in a statement that all the killings took place late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

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DEBT RISES, CLOCK RUNS SHORT

State

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Former U.S. officials have approved an offshore oil drilling project that's been the sub­ject of a controversy between an oil company and environmentalists.

The coastal board of Supervisors approved Plains Exploration and Production Co.'s plan on Tues­day. The company must now receive approval from the California Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission before drilling can begin.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Drug teams have raised a 26-foot boat from the ocean floor off Los Ange­les, but have not found the couple believed to have been aboard, the brothers of two California congress­women and his girlfriend.

Divers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Port Police used hard plastic rafts to raise the boat to an action on Wednesday. Coast Guard Ensign Stephanie Young says investigators believe the boat belongs to 51-year-old Henry Sanchez, who has been missing since Oct. 2, along with his 48-year-old girlfriend, Penny Arata.

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Briefs

National

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mormon leaders are arguing California's protest against a Mormon temple in the state.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is part of a coalition of conservative groups backing Proposition 8, which would amend California's constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal biologist was arrested with a 30-day suspension over a kayaking trip she took to pre­vent perceived government threats to the Los Angeles River and other waterways, according to documents released Wednesday.

Heather Whelan, a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engi­neers in Los Angeles, was kayaking on the river one Saturday in July to draw attention to a proposal by the Corps that could have consequences for the Los Angeles River from federal clean water protections.

Shortly thereafter, her supervi­sors told her they were proposing to suspend her for 30 days without pay because of the "unsanctioned and inappropriate overall manner in which she had sent to co-workers about the clean water issue."

SACRAMENTO (AP) — There is real danger that Hamas emerges as a factor in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Hezbollah could form alliances with wealthy and powerful Latin-American drug cartels, according to officials.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Three police officers were shot to death in the capital city of Tijuana in two separate gun­fights. Another man was found handcuffed with a bag over his head. Two men were shot and killed at a street fruit stand in downtown Mexicali. And in the beach community of Cabo, four people were killed in two shootings. The procurator's office said in a statement that all the killings took place late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

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International

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WORD ON THE STREET

“Who is your favorite Cal Poly athlete and why?”

“Probably Joro (Grayson) because he moves the ball.”
Oginnia Agu, business junior

“Eric (Branagan-) Franco on the men’s soccer team because I love watching his intensity when he plays.”
Caitlin Suttich, recreation junior

“Patrick Sigler because he got hurt last year as a freshman and now he’s back and he’s doing so good.”
Dominique Olawolafe, communications sophomore

“I don’t know any Cal Poly athlete by name so I wouldn’t be able to answer that question.”
Roberto Ace, industrial engineering senior

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U.S. believes 2 American journalists missing in Lebanon

Zeina Karam
AP NEWSWIRE

Two American journalists vacationing in Lebanon have not been heard from since Oct. 1. and are believed missing, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday, appealing for information on their possible whereabouts.

An embassy statement said Halls Chafte, 27, and Taylor Luck, 23, reportedly left Beirut on route to the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

The city is a predominantly Sunni Muslim city where militants and Islamic fundamentalists are known to be active. It has witnessed sectarian fighting in the past few months as well as two car bombs targeting Lebanese troops that killed 25 people and left dozens others wounded.

Earlier this week, the embassy had issued a statement to its citizens about potential violent actions targeting Americans in Lebanon and called on its nationals to increase their security awareness. It said the threats were particularly high in the first half of October.

The embassy says the pair had arrived in Lebanon on Sept. 29 from Amman, Jordan for a vacation and told a friend on Oct. 1 that they were traveling from Beirut to Tripoli through the coastal town of Byblos in the north that day. They were then to cross by land to Syria before returning to Jordan where they were due to report to work on Oct. 4.

The families are asking for the public’s assistance in providing information on the possible whereabouts of the two Americans, the statement said.

Lebanese security officials told The Associated Press they are searching for the two.

The officials said authorities are searching for the two based on information they had gone missing and were trying to ascertain whether they had left the country. They spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with military regulations and because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Yosemite
continued from page 3

trees were knocked down, hard cabins were moved out of their positions, with boulders blocking their doorways.

Another photographer, Rena McClain, a nurse from Dover, Del., told The Associated Press that she had been back to the granite face when she heard what sounded like a轰hd earthquake. She whipped around and saw a giant cloud of rock and dust coming down.

"People were starting to yell, 'Run, run,' and kids started to scream," McClain said.

At the dust settled, shaken tourists. chaperones gathered groups of high school students and tried to get head counts.

"The kids were crying," said McClain. "I tried to comfort them. I'm a nurse, my immediate response was, 'What can I try to do to help?'"

Mates said the rocks fell across an area that used to be traversed by a trail no longer maintained because of heavy rock falls.

The beauty of the sheer granite face towering above the camp helps make Curry Village one of park’s most popular lodging options.

In recent years, geologists have published studies describing a series of cracks along the cliff’s face and hypothesizing that pressure from water flowing beneath the surface may be one trigger of the slides.

Researchers also say that tree roots growing down into cracks can sometimes wedge apart sheets of rock, sending sections of cliff tumbling.

Curry Village, founded in 1899 in south-central Yosemite, has 610 canvas and wood cabins in rows among huge boulders, which geologists say are there because of prehistoric rock falls.

Those who saw Wednesday’s slide wondered about the safety of the camp.

"With the village right below the rock face, there is definitely a safety issue," said Trappila, pointing out that the cabins could be moved farther away from the granite cliff into the parking lot area.

To McClain, on her visit to the rock slide, was one of the rock slides. "It was kind of eerie," McClain said.

"I don’t know if I would. I’m pretty skeletal," she added.

Associated Press writers Johnna Breeschke and Maria Weber in San Francisco contributed to this report.
GRAMMY-WINNING MARALIS COMES TO CAL POLY

Scott Silvey
MUSICAL BAILY

He is known to many as a godfather of modern jazz. Now the smooth, soulful sounds of three-time Grammy award winner Branford Marsalis and his saxophone can be heard tonight at 9 p.m. in the Co- hran Center.

Marsalis will perform a unique collaboration with the Philadelphia Brazilinas, under conductor Gil Jardim. Together the ensemble calls itself, "Marsalis Brasiliana." The musicians had toured Brazil before embarking on their ambitious 28-city tour.

In Louis Obiopo is the sixth stop on the tour that started Oct. 2 in Eugene, Ore. and ends Nov. 15 at Saint Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The program will include Heitor Villa-Lobos' Fantasia for saxophone (opustu) and other works by Brazilian composers.

"Everybody has a say in the come and can't decide what matters if the music goes with the understanding that what matters if the music goes with everybody's on that page - it's magic." Marsalis said. Marsalis has taken a turn towards more classical pursuit of his trade with his recent tour and has received critical acclaim for his new style.

"There are a lot of classical pieces for saxophone, but there are not a lot of those pieces that I would enjoy playing," Marsalis said. "They become exercises. They show off the technical possibilities of the instrument, not the beautiful possibilities."

The musicians that accompany Marsalis to Cal Poly will help him play jazz at its highest standard, he said. "I prefer music by composers who did not leave the saxophone as a bastard instrument, but truly believed in things that are beautiful and we found my collaboration with some classical repertoire to be like jazz, when jazz is good," Marsalis said.

The Philadelphia Brazilinas was established in 1994, and under Jardim's artistic direction, word of its popularity spread through its native Brazil. The popularity spread as a result of the group playing at many Brazilian cultural events and its involvement in the fortification and preservation of the work of Villa-Lobos.

General public tickets for the performance range from $42 to $48, with student discounts available on all seats, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Box Office.

Hand-picked entertainment to liven up UU Hour

Jennifer Titcomb
STAFF WRITER

For the students, by the students. Associated Students Inc.'s weekly Concert in the Plaza event is made up of bands hand-picked by the student body. Every Thursday in the University Union Plaza, a concert gives students a chance to take a break from their classes and relax while watching a variety of local and well-known acts that they themselves have chosen, such as Augustana and The Expendables.

"They do the research, the proposal, they do the offer to the band, they work with the contracts to be completed all the way to payment of the bands, running of the show and the evaluation of the show; it's 100 percent students," the program coordinator, Michelle Curro said.

A group of five students, made up of four supervisors and a manager, take pride in the hard work. Planning for fall quarter's lineup started back in May, Curro said. Anywhere from 15 to 20 band names are pitched and then they go through an evaluation process.

Because there are only ten Thursdays in each quarter, the process of choosing the bands that perform often gets competitive. Students who signed up to be in the program's fan club are sometimes included in the final decision making. "If we are ever in a big pickle and can't decide what band would be best, we send an e-mail to them and say, "Okay, you are your two options, which one do you prefer to see at Concerts in the Plaza," he said.

"They are going on a big tour and that one date is the only date they had available, he said. It is right on the brink of their explosion.

Since the requests were received spring quarter, Delta Spirit's popularity has grown. They were recently on Conan "It's great if we can go anywhere in the world at any time and be able to make people happy," said drummer Michael Amuzzi said.

Today San Luis Obispo's own Damon Castillo Band will take to the plaza stage today. "They have played major events with huge names and toured the country," Amuzzi said. "A lot of people are really excited about seeing them and often students say they are one of their favorite artists to see at Concerts in the Plaza," he said.

David Ryan Harris will perform Nov. 20. "He is in John Mayer's touring band and he has a solo career; he sells out large venues all over L.A." Amuzzi said. "It will be great to have a big name like him," he added.

"No matter what show or if I haven't heard of the band, every time I go to them I am always like, 'Wow, that was awesome,'" Savage said. "It's tons of fun and people are coming together. It's just a really cool event every week," she added.

For a schedule of concerts for fall quarter or to join the fan club visit www.asi.calpoly.edu.
LOS ANGELES — Jimmy Smits, a proven TV star in "L.A. Law" and "NYP Blue," is looking like the go-to guy when a drama's juicy guest role demands leading-man heft.

In the final season of "The West Wing," he is a Latino politician who becomes the first minority U.S. president. In the new season of "Dexter," Smits is a prosecutor who moves swiftly and dangerously to the center of Dexter's dark world.

But viewers are privy to the fact that the guilty party is Dexter (Michael C. Hall) — the blood-splatter expert who regularly makes a mess taking justice into his own hands. This time, however, his target was Freebo; Prado's sibling happened to get in the way.

Prado enlists Dexter's help to make sure Freebo is caught, while Dexter must get to him before police detectives do.

The prosecutor and the forensics are fatefully linked. "They go through this journey where they're interfacing professionally and that leads to a deep friendship that's brotherly in a lot of ways," Smits said. As the story twists and turns, that relationship "lets Dexter open up in ways the audience hasn't seen."

Smits called it a "testament to Michael's work" that viewers find themselves rooting for a disturbing character.

Besides Hall ("Six Feet Under"), the Showtime series' cast includes Julie Benz, Jennifer Carpenter, C.S. Lee, Laura Silverman, David Zayas and James Remar. Its executive producers are Sara Colleton, Clyde Phillips and Charles H. Eglee, who worked with Smits on "L.A. Law."

Given Smits' rich TV resume — from "L.A. Law" in the late 1980s to last year's short-lived "Cdme" — it comes as a bit of surprise to realize that "Dexter" is his first cable series.

This time, however, his target was Freebo; Smits pointed to changes in TV.

These days, broadcast networks are more likely to put on reality series or formulaic crime shows with a "CSI Crime Scene Investigation" than an envelope-pushing drama such as ABC's "NYP Blue" was in its day. That's created an opening on cable.

"I see it like fertile land for good writing, for exploration of character in different ways," Smits said. "Networks are boxing themselves in in terms of what they're doling out to their audiences."


The actor is finding the real-life contest addictive. "If you had to ask me what my TV diet has been in the last few months, I would have to say this ongoing miniseries that I've been watching called "Election '08," he said. "That's been my little soap opera, my guilty pleasure."
The day has finally come. Baltimore art punks Ponytail will be playing here in San Luis Obispo tonight at the SLO Art Center with Awesome Color and Skyknives. Their album, “Ice Cream Spiritual,” stayed at the top of the KCPR charts and over the summer cemented itself as a best album of the year for quite a few DJs. It’s no surprise. The album has more builds and climaxes in its running length than you will have in your entire sex life. It’s a pop album for people who don’t have the attention span for pop music. Lead singer Molly Siegel rarely form words and sings “as moosly grams, yell and bellob as gasser kicks and drum rhythms change every couple seconds.” Hot experimental bands like No Age and Health cram 10 punk songs into three minutes, but Ponytail crams 45 of them and a 32 oz. Rockstar into six minutes. It’s so frenetic and crazy that it is almost indestercible. So, instead of a real description, here is a rapid list of analogies that can closely approximate how sugared and sexed up but still cute Ponytail is: Geoff Delano says listening to Ponytail’s newest album, “Ice Cream Spiritual,” is like sticking your man parts in a meat grinder, seasoning it with cayenne and lots of salt and LOVING it. Like licking 10 nine volt batteries at the same time. It’s like fist pumps before, during and after sex. It’s like watchin’ a huge Mountain Dew (‘ode Red and slam dancing until you vomit. Every time you got drunk we all, everybody ditches school to go to a carnival. Like the time you went to Sea World and when the announcer said seeing them live is watching a lamar make babies with the boys of The Beach Boys. So when I got home that night, I made it my mission to toss all the Dan Drnovic make babies with the boys of No Age during a Sonic Youth/Dinosaur Jr. double bill. It’s like eating a Taco Bell Big Box meal with a huge Mountain Dew Code Red and slam dancing until you vomit. Every time you got drunk and fell in a bush times 10. Like watching a video of yourself coming out of the womb and just pressing rewind and fast forward for 30 minutes. Their album is like watching two people wake up to an alarm at 8 in the morning and start just going at it real hard, screaming out things that sound like words, and not keeping the same rhythm for more than ten seconds. When a singer yells out the only intelligible sentence “We’re gonna be late for school,” you can almost see them freeze before saying it and just going back at it until they are both a sweat-drenched mess.

As a word of warning for all those reading this, Maus is not your typical comic book of yester-year. Through the utilization of small pictures arranged in panels, full of narration and word bubbles, Spiegelman tells the very personal story of his father, a Holocaust survivor, and his plight to escape the clutches of Hitler’s “Final Solution” – the virtual genocide of the Jewish people in Europe during World War II.

There is a vast array of novels or films out there that take a deep look at the terrible tragedy that was the fate of millions of Jews in the 1940s, but few can evoke as many different emotions as Maus, for the most part due to its most unique, and haunting, attribute: In all of the illustrations, Jews are depicted as mice, while Nazis are pictured as cats.

The journey of Art Spiegelman’s father, from the Nazi invasion of Poland, and eventually to imprisonment in Auschwitz, is, without a doubt, epic. It is often the case that I judge a book to be really good when I am so moved by it that I feel differently upon completion. Maus by far meets that criterion. Even now, upon countless re-reads, I still get chills, or feel complete revulsion, or become immensely bitter that such horrors could have actually occurred, only some sixty years ago.

So if you are looking for an interesting read, in

effort to take a break from studying for that Calculus or Psych midterm coming up soon, you should pick up a copy of *Maus*. It is no “light” read, at least in context, but I assure you that you will walk away with a new insight on what it means to not just live, but survive- in the face of complete tragedy. And hey, it won a Pulitzer Prize, so it can’t be all bad, right?

Jon Minott is a history senior and a guest contributor to the Mustang Daily.
Folds brings ‘smart-alec’ attitude to album

Susan Tebben
THE POST (2008)

He calls his brand of music "melodramatic: popular song," and that’s about it. A title is any lyricist could come up with. His newest album, "Way to Normal," has a few fans to claim as his. It’s the quintessence of modernist music. Though he has been joined in the ranks by contemporary bands, Death Cab for Cutie, he holds the title of most entertaining smart alec on the biz. If you are not a Folds follower, you’d recognize "Rockin’ The Suburbs" off the album of the same name, but you don’t need to express your feelings. He’s got a talent that stands arrogantly above most bands of today, and rightfully so.

The single "You Don’t Know Me" is a duet with a beauty, with Folds’ average voice intermixing with the flooring, silky soprano of Regina Spektor. Somehow this arrangement has just intensified his unique style. He’s been known to bleed and literally get hurt while recording. "The song could have been the first three-fifths of the movie. Let’s believe it. She’s hot."

The piano lines should be the major focal point. This guy is great at his instrument, even if he’s not a fan, you will be completely thrown off by the classical prelude "Before Cologne" leading to the slow, honeyed orchestral piece "Cologne." These little tidbits of virtuosity are reminiscent of the classically trained 1970s band Emerson, Lake & Palmer.

Some of the other songs ("Dr. Yang," "Errant Dog," "Kenji from Connecticut") sound a lot like Paul McCartney’s "Band on the Run" days. That is, if Sir Paul had been a cheeky, sarcastic back-talker. "Way to Normal" is all about an artist not taking himself seriously, but still having the talent to call himself an actual artist, not just an arrogant piece of thuff. Not many "artists" today can say the same.

Nicholas Smith
THE POST (2008)

Playing a dork takes talent, and Seamus Pigg has proven just that. But in "How to Lose Friends and Alienate People," he’s proved his true acting ability. He executed the epitome of "dorky-nice" in "Shau in the Dead,* and his international film career has been built around that image. He is also an extremely talented actor who can play anything from an uncompromising super-cop like in "Hot Fuzz," to a lovable latter in "Rock Father."" He’s in a hit. It’s clear that his characters have been developed and well-protected, but can he pull off a dorky nice guy? The answer yes. The perfect example could be the start he wears with pride and distinction, a bright red one that says with bold letters, "Young, dumb and full of..." Well, you get the idea. It all starts when Sydney Young, Pegg’s character is plucked out of obscurity in England to be the next big director in celebrity gossip with the fictional Sharp Magazine. Then the mentioned shirt is what he wears for his first day and he has the audacity to present one to his new boss, Clive Harding and played by Jeff Bridges. His female co-worker Alison Olsen, played by Kristen Dunst, is the foil to Sydney’s unprofessionalism and crudeness, yet inevitably gets turned into the love interest. Megan Fox plays an up-and-coming actress named Sophie Mae whose oblivious fixation on herself is matched only by an odd love for her miniature dog, Chubbert. It is she who Young becomes infatuated with, and professes his love for Sophie by unabashedly stating, "I want to be with a girl with Sophie Mae." And yes, Fox was a large reason for me wanting to see this movie. Let’s face it, she’s hot. Despite Sydney’s crass behavior, the main antagonist in this film is the assassin Lawrence Maddox, played by Danny Huston, who has utterly no morals. This is confusing because Young is often seen portrayed to have no morals either. The only thing that really separates them is the arrange that Huston plays to perfection. Young really is a jerk, but because he is the protagonist he needs a person to call himselban actual art-ist, not just an arrogant piece of thuff. Not many "artists" today can say the same.

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THE POST entertainment editor

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How to play the Daily Dots

1. Find a playing partner.
2. Each person takes a turn drawing one line connecting two dots. Only horizontal and vertical lines can be drawn.
3. The first person to close a square, wins that square. To keep track, place winners initials in the box.
4. Once one square is closed, that player gets to go again. They continue until no more squares can be closed.
5. Player with the most squares wins.

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

Across
1. Feature of an acacia tree
6. 1986 photography autobiography
11. W.W II hero, for short
14. Historical biography that won a 1935 Pulitzer
15 & 16 Boxing result, often
17. Certain feed
18. Slow
20. Delphic quality
26. Free
28. Watch brand
32. Where Nixon went to law school
35. Much of central Eur., once
36. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
37. Married
38. & 39 Instant
40. R.O.T.C.
41. Speed (brs)
42. O.R.E. bankers, generally: Adbr.
44. Locale for four World Series
45. The last 10% of 110%
46. Three-wheeled Indian taxi
48 & 50 Grammatical infelicities
51. Quet dought
52. From southern Spain
53. Patent holder's income
56. Toto
58. 43 & 63 Go Dutch
59. Comparitively
60. Where Keaton went to law school
61. Seed alternative

56. They're usually washed separately
67. Medical flow enhancer

Down
1. "The Sound of Music" name (pl.)
2. Soixante
3. "Wait till you're ___" (parents reply)
4. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" again and again
5. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)
6. Lay off
7. Pubescent, say
8. Makeshift dagger
10. The Sun Devils, for short
11. Grable bath
12. Sports
13. Main singer with "I Got Rhythm"
14. U.S. senator
15. "No news is good ___"
16. "It's a fine day for a fight"
17. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)
18. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)
19. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)
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66. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)
67. "I've had ___" (Hawk, maybe)

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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A bad week for America with no ‘hope’ or ‘change’ in sight

This past week has been historic for all the right and wrong reasons. A $700 billion economic bailout has been passed but appears to be a band-aid on a gaping, mortal wound of the U.S. economy. The markets set records for how far they could plunge in a day; the vice presidential nominees went to war over who did and who should have asked the Fed for a loan to cover state expenses. Is the sky falling? No, really is it falling? I can’t really tell because I’m in my self sustaining bunker.

It’s the economy, stupid!

“Just saved a bunch of money... by screwing over the American people.” This should be the slogan for the recent economic bailout. It is a flawed deal and we are regretting it already.

Many have asked how we got to where we are. Frankly, I am getting tired of hearing who is to blame for the current mess. I don’t care if it was the Republicans pushing for less regulation or Clinton pushing reforms. The bottom line is that our compassion got the better of us in the welfare state we now live in. Fanny and Freddie made bad loans. When the applicant can’t pay for a loan, it shouldn’t be issued, but the mortgage companies knew the Fed would bail them out, taking risk out of the equation.

As companies invested in the bad loans they spread the problem worse on a hooker on a three day bender. And because these loans have been sold in millions of little pieces there is no way of tracking down where the separation is between good and bad loans. In turn, the American people have been left holding the bag of steaming dippers. I just hope we don’t have to bend over and ask “please sir, may I have another?”

Hope and change – empty rhetoric?

This week Sen. McCain promised to take the gloves off when dealing with the U.S. Senate. I welcome this change; it’s about time. For too long Obama’s extended campaign – the media – has hidden or omitted the truth about him. What is that truth?

For one, one of Obama’s economic advisors is Franklin Raines, former CEO of Fannie Mae. During his tenure at Fannie, he collected millions from bonuses and early retirement. Obama also has ties to William Ayers, a terrorist. Ayers was involved in terrorist bombings of the New York City police headquarters, the U.S. Capitol building, and the Pentagon in the early 1970s. When Obama was running for Illinois state senate, Ayers donated money to Obama’s campaign and hosted a event for him.

In a fundraiser in San Francisco in March, Obama said, “They get bitter, they cling to guns or religion in reference to the frustration of the political process by small town Americans. Yet this is the same man who champions his support of the common man.

There are among the many issues that now questions to me about Obama’s “hope and change” rhetoric. Is Obama actually capable of what he claims? Or is he really just a good speaker who makes people feel good? I contend the latter is the case. Obama’s leadership is incoherent. During an interview in the Illinois Senate, he took no stance on the Iraq war. Rather than voting yes or no on an issue he voted “present”. How is this leadership?

On Sarah Palin

Stephanie England’s guest column in the Mustang Daily on Oct. 7 continues to illustrate the genius in Palin’s nomination. She has energized the conservative base — something McCain failed to do in the primary season. She is a down-to-earth, sensible person and someone almost anyone can relate to. She is actually in the middle class, something neither Obama, Biden or McCain can claim. England’s column purported to analyze the vice presidential debates, but went wrong in the analysis.

Does it matter that Palin is caucasian? Not really. Frankly, if anything it is refreshing. You don’t honestly believe she would be as attainable to world leaders as she is in a televised debate, do you? England, you say you are tired of the “closed-minded, theocratic, elitist politicians”, but you fail to realize that is you are supporting two of them in your support of Obama. Neither Obama nor Biden work for conservatives.

I frequently disagree with McCain and his policies. However, outside of our options, McCain is the most open-minded choice we have. In May I contended that I was a man without a party or a candidate with the nomination of John McCain. I argued that unless something changed I would not vote for president. Now, many things have changed. McCain gave a conservative back-bone and chose a conservative running mate. If Obama wins, I’d rather douse myself in gasoline then see this shining beacon on a hill plowed under.

With that said, it is good to be back writing for the Daily. With everything that is happening, I’m almost at a loss as to where to start things off this year. There are many issues pressing that should be presented before the election, if only permitted. I hope to cover as many as possible.

Ian Nachreiner is an agricultural sciences senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

POLITICAL COLUMN

Ian Nachreiner

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008

LISTENING

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All published letters must include author’s name, year and major, and are subject to editing for grammar, style and spelling.
Get educated so you can vote smarter

When my history professor told us our first assigned book was titled "Just How Stupid Are We?: Facing the Truth About the American Voter," I was slightly insulted. I mean, come on. I'm college-educated (well, at least partly) and I consider myself fairly well-informed. I read the newspaper every day (and no, not just the comics, thank you very much).

How stupid could I really be? As it turns out, more than I thought.

Rick Shenkman, the author of "Just How Stupid Are We?", makes an interesting point right from the start. It is altogether too easy to blame all of the bad events happening right now on the Bush administration. I know a lot of people would like to do just that, but we elected him didn't we? And for a second term too. Isn't the American public at least partly to blame for what has happened to our economy?

Our decisions as voters determine who gets elected, and thus which direction our country takes. This is a heady realization. We take our right to vote very lightly sometimes, thinking that since we don't have enough time to research the issues and where the candidates stand on them, we'll just vote like our parents did or because they saw a sign on the side of the road and decided that was easier than actually looking up the various candidates? I'll admit it is hard to see both sides when ads are attacking the candidates and you just don't really even if the people reporting the news are actually objective. It's not exactly inspiring to anyone, much less young voters who already believe they have better things to do.

What you have to realize, though, is that there is no excuse for not voting or voting blindly. Our generation is being sent to war. We are the ones who will inherit the failing economy. And yet are still outvoted by the older generations four to one. How can we ever let others decide our fate for us?

I don't want to berate young people about voting because I understand why many of us don't vote. What I want is to make people think about the impact not voting has on our future and the future of this country. I'm not preaching from the standpoint of someone who knows all the answers or is, in any way, perfect in following candidates and researching their policies.

After reading "Just How Stupid Are We?" I took a civics quiz that my history professor sent out. There were 60 questions and I, who consider myself well-educated and fairly interested in government, missed 20 of them. I'm working to improve my current score. I'm not political junkies who obsess over their chosen candidate and follow their every move) to understand where the candidates stand on important issues.

Stop giving Palin such a hard time

Stephanie England's article about Gov. Sarah Palin is a typical example of liberal rhetoric full of stones. Placing blame or declaring hatred is easier than researching the truth.

England claims in what she believes might have been an unintentional revelation of Sarah Palin's personality when she is overheard saying, "Joe Biden, 'Can I call you Joe?' (the word "ya") was a Tina Fey/SNL skit. Maybe England watched the wrong debate.

Or perhaps England missed the fact that during the first presidential debate Sen. Obama continuously referred to Sen. McCain as "John," while McCain gave Obama the due respect referring to him as "Senator Obama." I suspect Palin either trying to be more respectful or being intentionally contrary to Obama's arrogance.

England claims that really mean she thinks Palin is not elite enough to represent America in foreign relations. Contrary to reality, Pakistani President Zardari had an admirable opinion of Palin, believing her to be very intelligent.

As for England's blanket endorsement of Biden — the man who never even spent more than 2 percent of the vote during the primaries — she claims his track record and recognitions with the public speaks for itself.

Prior to the primaries, exactly who knew Biden existed, let alone what he has accomplished? England claims he authentically cares about the middle class, yet he has donated less than $5,000 to charities in spite of one of over $300,000 income.

England accuses Palin of giving no post-presidential debate interviews. Last I checked, Palin isn't running for president. England also accuses Palin of memorizing and rehearsing McCa­ inn's answers, an unbecoming tactic for candidates, but admirable when Biden gave the four-point plan on the Obama cut strategy for Iraq.

While England claims Biden "ex­ uded humility, sound intelligence, hope and a powerful example of the value of hard work," I saw a very different picture.

I see Palin as a woman, very much like myself, who comes from an average American family. She received her education through a public university, raised a family and worked her way through the political trenches by starting as an active participant.

England conveniently ignores fact George Bush inherited a fal­tering economy from Bill Clinton. His tax cuts stimu­ lated a recovery and the unemployment rate fell to 4.4 per­ cent. Clinton cadastrated France Mac and Freddie Mac to underwater losses for income-rich families, resulting in compressed investments that scared huge profits.

Obama is the second highest recipi­ ent of foreign campaign funds from these public companies. The house of cards started to fall over the past year under the tutelage of a Democratically­ controlled congress that has placed blame on everyone but themselves.

England and I have different perceptions, like beauty, the perception is in the eye of the beholder.

Enka Befola is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Durgin's salary excessive and greedy

I demand an explanation from former Provost Durgin to justify the $241,488 spent to employ him last year. His salary exceeds that of all U.S. senators and re­ presentatives, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the mayor of New York City, the governor of California and the vice president of the U.S. In a time of budget cuts, such exorbitant administra­ tive salaries (including President Bicker’s, $329,275) strain the nation in its most blatant form. Their personal greed is coming at the dis­ reet expense of Cal Poly faculty, the Californian taxpayer and my fellow students.

Clayton Proto civil engineering junior

It's the best thing since sliced bread.

Mustang daily.net

Thursday, October 9, 2008

www.mustangdaily.net

Mustang Daily

OPINION

STAFF COMMENTARY

MARK WEBER SENIOR

Guest Commentary

The house of cards started to fall over the past year under the tutelage of a Democratically­ controlled congress that has placed blame on everyone but themselves.

"The house of cards started to fall over the past year under the tutelage of a Democratically­ controlled congress that has placed blame on everyone but themselves."
SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson has never been about excuses, just brutal honesty.
So in the wake of yet another bewildering loss, Tomlinson put the San Diego Chargers' plight in perspective as only he seems capable of doing.

"Make no mistake about it: This is a critical time for our football team," Tomlinson said Monday, a day after a 17-10 loss at Miami, dropped the Chargers to 2-3. "These next games before the bye are very critical for us. To me, this is going to determine what type of team we're going to be this year."

A popular preseason pick to make it the Super Bowl, the Chargers have been wildly inconsistent in Norv Turner's second year as head coach, just as they were in Turner's first.
San Diego was 2-3 at this point last year, eventually pulling out of the funk to make it all the way to the AFC championship game.

As much as the Chargers like to refer to their turnaround of 2007, Tomlinson knows the danger in going to the well one time too many.

"It gives you a confidence that you can do it, but you know that it's obviously different," Tomlinson said. "At this time last year it wasn't New England, Buffalo and the Saints on the schedule the next three weeks. It's a different year and for us we've got to find a way to put it together."

First up is a Sunday night home game against the Patriots, who eliminated the Chargers from the playoffs the last two seasons. This time it'll be Matt Cassel, not Tom Brady, leading New England.

That the Chargers traveled to Buffalo, then head to London to play the New Orleans Saints and Drew Brees, who was allowed to leave as a free agent after playing his first five seasons with San Diego.

No one seems to have any answers other than the obvious one offered up by Turner, who's 7-9-0-1 as an NFL head coach, that the Chargers have to do a better job in a lot of areas and play with more consistency.

A week earlier, the Chargers rallied from a 15-0 halftime deficit to beat the Oakland Raiders 28-18. They trailed the Dolphins 17-3 at halftime. While keeping the Dolphins scoreless in the second half, the Chargers' supposedly explosive offense couldn't fire.

The key play was when the Dolphins stuffed Tomlinson on a fourth-and-goal from the 1 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter.

"At critical times we didn't get it done," Tomlinson said. 

"Obviously there's fourth-and-1 on the goal line was something that was devastating to us." It was the kind of play that often ends up with Tomlinson flying over the pile into the end zone.

"I think they did a good job of really understanding what we like to do in that situation. To me it seemed like they really knew exactly where we were going and they just attacked that side of the line of scrimmage," Tomlinson said.

"Obviously guys were there in the hole. I wanted to jump but I kind of got hit before I could gather myself and jump, which kind of knocked me sideways," he added. "At that point somebody hit me; I can't remember who, and it just went downhill from there."

Tomlinson didn't want to say that the Chargers were predictable.

"It's not about the play-calling sometimes, it's about saying, 'You know what, I know you know what we're going to do, but we don't care. We're going to hit you in the mouth and we're going to be better than you.' That's football. Sometimes I think we try to make it more complicated than what it is. Football is really a simple game. Either you're going to hit the guy opposite of you in the mouth or he's going to hit you in the mouth. It's going to be one way."

The Chargers were the ones who got popped in the chops, by a Dolphin team that with two wins has doubled its victory total from last year.

Tomlinson, the two-time defending NFL rushing champion, was held to 35 yards. Although he continues to be slowed by an injured right big toe, Tomlinson said he doesn't plan to take time off.

"If I take a week off I've got to take three weeks off," he said. "It's not a one-week injury. You can't get better in one week. There's no such thing. Nobody can. If you're injured you're injured. One week is not going to help if you're going to take one week off, you might as well take three weeks off."

Besides, he wouldn't want to miss a date with the Patriots. Tomlinson missed most of the AFC title game with a sprained left knee. The Patriots won, 21-12.

"It's very critical, crucial, whatever you want to call it. To me, it's definitely a must-win for us," Tomlinson said.
Playoffs continued from page 16

decided until at least the ninth in-
ing. Angeles bidders had a big part
in deciding the series, but the Red
Sox had a bunt and a stolen base
and took advantage. After this series
continued from page 16

other prominent fighters train-
ing under Hackleman includes: Au-
tonio Banuelos, Scott Lighty and
GlencoeTomas. Hackleman saw
some of his fighters — and Mendes
took it hard. "I think they hit him a
little harder," he says. "It bothered
them more, maybe. It's their tradition
and they didn't realize that he was
just uneducated."

Mostly due to go as The Pit the
following for MMA has grown
rapidly on the Central Coast.
In local spke in mainstream
acceptance and popularity has been
recently exemplified by the pro-
gression of Chad Mendes. Last year
on behalf of Cal Poly Mendes was
the No. 2 wrestler in the country
in 141 pounds. After graduation, he
chose to pursue an MMA ca-
reer at the featherweight level by
training in Sacramento at Ulti-
mate Fighting (co-owned by Urijah
Faber, a former UFC Davis wrestler
who became a 145-pound World
Extreme Cagefighting champion
and the world's top-ranked feath-
wrightweight).

Apparently, the transition is
putting on well. Off Mendes applied
his wrestling background and
kickboxing and punching skills to
win his first professional fight Sept
29 in Lemoore. James Stuart, 30, of
Arroyo Grande, has a 3-year-old son
studying at The Pit and agrees
with McCann that the sport has
changed for the better.
"The sport has come a long
way," he says. "As far as his son
of my kids in the sport, it's great. It's
great for them to self-defense wise,
but it's also good for them because
they're learning a new skill."

In relation to the upcoming
presidential election, most fans
and those involved in the sport say
McCann's comments will not af-
fect how they vote.
"It was one candidate feeling
one way and one another, it might
swing my decision," says Greg Bak-
er, a 43-year-old Grover Beach
resident with a membership at The
Pit. "But with the issues the coun-
cer is facing right now, it won't be
at the top of my issues."

When McCann made his state-
ment about the pur-purist dys-
play were low.

Today, though, there are many
MMA organizations like UFC,
WEC, IFL and the EliteXC that
have changed for the better.

The sport has come a long
distance since the early days of
cockfighting," the sport has be-
come accepted to a point where
its competitors are respected.
"I think fighters work really
hard," says biology sophomore Je-
sica Fels. "There's nothing wrong
with that kind of fighting as long
as it's controlled and regulated."

LBSU continued from page 16

success has been the resurgence
of junior outside hitter Ashleigh
Bernson.
"It's very nice to see someone
who works as hard as Ashleigh does
contribute the way she did," Stev-
enson said of Bernson's last outing.

The Mustangs will need a big
effort from Bernson and the rest of
the squad as they play what is like-
ly their biggest test on the confer-
ence schedule.
"They'll have to rely on other
players to come up big and we'll
see which players can do that," Stev-
enson said of the 49ers' attempts
"to make up for Crimes' central role.
"But we'll be prepared for them.
Mixed martial arts following strong on Central Coast

Omar Sanchez

All across America there are mixed martial arts gyms like The Pit in Arroyo Grande, filled with students who want a future in the rising sport of MMA. There was a time, however, when the sport was seen by society as barbaric and inhumane.

So intense were those sentiments that presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) verbally rejected the sport in 1996 — saying it wasn't even a sport and was more akin to human cockfighting that deserved to be banned.

Many local fighters and fans chalk the remarks up to not being properly informed, and indeed, the senator's views changed due to recent regulations.

On Aug. 24, 2007, McCain told NPR, "They have cleaned up the ship bringing the rules to a new level, a lot of people will see it differently. When he got educated, he was the first to admit he was wrong."  

A 16th-degree black belt, Hackleman has been involved in MMA for more than 30 years, and has studied Hawaiian Kempo for 20. In addition to running the gym, he also serves as a trainer for professional fighters like former UFC light-heavyweight champion Chuck Liddell, who wrestled against UC Riverside on Wednesday night, scored in the 61st minute to lead the Mustangs to a 1-0 win at Alex G. Spanos Stadium. He was assisted on the goal by redshirt freshman defender Alexis Crimes.

Scott Silvey

Cal Poly's Hailey Fishburn (17) and Ashleigh Borston (10) celebrate during the Mustangs' 25-23, 25-10, 25-21 sweep of Pacific on Saturday.

Scott Silvey

Cal Poly women's volleyball setter Chelsea Haynes pounded her fist to the floor at Walter Pyramid after losing a two-set lead at Long Beach State in 2006. She knew that a decisive fifth-game loss could hand the Mustangs their first Big West Conference defeat of the season.

"When she pounded her hand on the floor, I thought, 'We're going to win this match,' " Mustangs head coach Jon Stevenson said.

In the end, it all worked out for Stevenson, Hayes and the rest of the Mustangs, as they rebounded and won the fifth game on the way to a 30-20, 30-19, 30-30, 35-37, 17-15 victory over more than nine years after their first Big West title in the Stevenson era. Two years later, Cal Poly is heading back to the pyramid for another conference-shaping tilt with the 49ers at 7 p.m. Friday.

The lone match of the week for Cal Poly (9-6, 4-0) is possibly the biggest of the conference schedule, which makes it a blessing, according to Stevenson.

"We are in a very good position to focus on Long Beach this Friday and we'll be ready to play," Stevenson said.

Scott Silvey

Cal Poly has taken five consecutive matches against Long Beach State (12-3, 2-1), including two five-set wins at the pyramid.

"I think it's a different year, a different team," Stevenson said of the 49ers. "Long Beach State, they're not the same without (former middle blocker) Alexis Crimes.

Long Beach State was shocked in three games in its first conference match by Pacific, which was winless in its non-conference schedule. The 49ers have since won two straight conference matches. Cal Poly has won all of its conference contests, dropping just one game in four wins.

A big part of the Mustangs' success was the leadership and experience of senior outside hitter Alexis Crimes, who was named Big West Player of the Week.

Scott Silvey

See Mustangs vs. 49ers, page 15

We are in a very good position to focus on Long Beach this Friday and we'll be ready to play.

— Jon Stevenson
Cal Poly head coach

Bryan Bellek

MUSTANG DAILY

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