New law protects journalism advisers

High school advisers and college journalism program faculty, including Cal Poly journalism department chair Bill Loving, gained additional protection from the repercussions of student material with the passage of a new law.

Alisha Axsom
MUSTANG DAILY

High school advisers and college journalism programs no longer have to fear retaliation from administrators because of controversial student work. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill into law Sept. 28 that protects students and employees from being penalized for student speech.

The new bill would "prohibit an employee from being dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against for acting to protect student speech."

Senate Bill 1370, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2009, was introduced by Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo). A strong proponent of free student speech, Yee has written other bills dealing with the matter, including one to prevent the censorship of student-written material.

"Since passage of these (previous) laws, some administrators have tried to control student speech by threatening, disciplining, demoting, or even firing faculty members, including journalism advisers," wrote Yee in his statement regarding the need for the bill.

"I have seen instances in other states, where advisers fear for their jobs because of what students journalists printed," said journalism department Chair and Professor Bill Loving. "This law is well overdue."

"I want to believe that Yee really thought there was a problem," wrote Yee in his statement regarding the need for the bill.

see Bill, page 2

Capps urges Poly students to get involved in this year’s election

Congresswoman Lois Capps of the 23rd district spoke on campus last night as part of Cal Poly's Democracy Week. She urged students to get involved and capped her speech with a shout-out to presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama.

CASSANDRA L. CARLSON MUSTANG DAILY

Former Poly student turns passion for beer pong into career

Alex Kacik
MUSTANG DAILY

Many college students improvise beer pong tables, but few can transform their tables into a career. However, former Cal Poly business student Russell Meyerowitz has done just that. Meyerowitz, 21, created his company OnFIREbeerpong, Inc. in July of last year to sell customizable, lightweight and portable beer pong tables.

Beer pong — a game where teams of two try to make the opposition drink by sinking ping-pong balls in cups filled with beer — is one of the most popular college drinking games.

Most college students create beer pong tables by using a scrap piece of wood, a vacant kitchen counter, or an old ping-pong table. Meyerowitz made it easier to play the game, and it's getting attention.

In April, College Tonight Inc. acquired OnFIREbeerpong, changed the name of his tables to Quad Pong and made Meyerowitz the head of its online retail division, The Shop.

"I had no idea that there was a business dedicated to beer pong," said Zach Suchin, president and chief executive officer of College Tonight, Inc. "Once we saw how Russell worked, it was a great opportunity to develop a partnership."

TheQuad.com, previously known as collegetnight.com, consists of four main aspects: The Scene, The Shop, Academics and Greek Life, according to Suchin. Meyerowitz controls The Shop, with a primary focus on selling the fully customizable beer pong tables called Quad Pong.

"I truly wish I could say this (success) was a direct result of the three years of education I received from Cal Poly," he said. "However, this has all stemmed from my personal desire and motivation to follow the vision that I have created." Meyerowitz uses that "vision" to develop The Shop, which sells beer pong accessories, clothing, Greek merchandise and services like spring break trips. His job also entails composing agreements, brand sponsorship, advertising and technical design.

"The goal was to create an online store with all the products and services that a college lifestyle demands," Meyerowitz said. "I want to engage" see Business, page 2

Quad Pong customizable beer pong tables are lightweight and collapsable.
Bill
continued from page 1
and journalism professor and media law instructor John Soares, who said he has never personally experienced problems with student speech. "There are always two sides to every story, but I do think it's a great law."

Mustang Daily general manager Paul Bietrick said the Mustang Daily has had no problems in the time he's been with the newspaper.

"I think this law will benefit high school students more," he said.

Some school administrators have objected to the bill, claiming that it wouldn't allow them to fire teachers or employees who weren't doing their jobs.

Soares, who said he has never personally experienced problems with student speech, said the law also protects those who read students' letters to the editor.

Soares said the law also protects the rights of students.

"It doesn't mean we can do everything and anything. I recommend that students and advisers learn their rights," Soares said.

He particularly liked that advisers and school employees "have access to the court of opinion as well as the court of law. Before, it came down to public opinion and that doesn't always make the administrator do the right thing," Soares said.

Soares said the law also protects those who read student newspapers.

"We need to focus on who this ultimately affects," Soares said. "Readers can be confident the content of the newspaper isn't colored by political leanings or time zone differences but these are absolutes generally and very good at what they do," Meyerowitz explained.

The bill also ensures that students can still challenge censorship or retaliation after graduation. In the past, some schools have had to refer complaints to the students.

The Student Press Law Center, a nonprofit organization which provides free legal information and assistance to students and educators, called the bill "one of the nation's toughest and most forward-looking laws protecting teachers against unfair retaliation when they stand up for their students' First Amendment rights."

The California Newspaper Publishers Association also strongly supported the bill.

If an incident was to occur at Cal Poly, Loving said he would refer complaints to the students.

"If the president, provost or dean complained to me about the content of the newspaper — something they didn't like — I would tell them, 'You are free to write a letter to the editor.'"

Business
continued from page 1
The Quad into online and offline college life and promote a site you could use on a day-to-day basis.

The young entrepreneur works with outsourced labor in China and programmers in Romania. There are many hours of work and programming necessary to create and expand, he said.

"Sure, you have language barriers and time zone differences but these guys are absolutely genuine and very good at what they do," Meyerowitz explained.

Meyerowitz has what Suchin has deemed an invaluable role with the company because he has the ability to focus on a wide variety of tasks, which demonstrates an "inherent drive."

According to TheQuad.com, the site "promotes actual social interactivity rather than the sedentary lifestyle nearly all social networks' regulate its users to behind a physical computer screen. It is what social networking should have evolved into by 2008, but hasn't."

The Web site was developed as a fundamental one-stop-shop for the college experience, from helping people in the Greek community to academic needs, Suchin said.

The idea behind the site was not as a new site to address all the needs of college students, "It is a social ecosystem unlike anything out there; we developed it with college students," Suchin added. "It's not like a bunch of 40-year-olds are sitting around a table tapping their pencils trying to figure out how to relate to college students."

"It is that 'social ecosystem' that Cal Poly lacked," Meyerowitz explained.

"We need to focus on who this ultimately affects," Meyerowitz said. "It IS that 'social ecosystem' that Cal Poly lacked; it did not make connections between the student body and past alumni, which would give 'belief for a student knowing their potential can be reached by attending this university as a step into their career."

"When I left Cal Poly and heard that the president of Mike's Hard Lemondade is a Cal Poly alumna, I really wonder why I didn't know this while I was sitting in class," he added. "My question now is, how many of these people are out there?"

Although Meyerowitz did not graduate with Cal Poly alumni through the university, he had no trouble maintaining relations with Cal Poly students and the San Luis Obispo community. The Quad recognizes the benefits to marketing its product to Cal Poly students.

"We will be doing a lot of marketing to Cal Poly students when our new tables arrive here this coming weekend," Meyerowitz said. "San Luis Obispo has a big beer pong following and the league at Downtown Brew has a great customer base."

The Nation Hydration Tour is an event that encompasses beer pong tournaments, leagues, tours and events in different locations nationwide, Meyerowitz said.

The tour allows beer pong teams to participate, after paying a fee, with a chance to win prizes and earn team notoriety as they are ranked by wins and losses, which can be viewed on quadpongtation.com.

The Nation Hydration Tour will make a stop in San Luis Obispo's Downtown Brew Nov. 22.

Once we saw how Russell worked, it was a great opportunity to develop a partnership.

—Zach Suchin
College Tonight, Inc.

WE'RE LISTENING

What's New Tour Winners

Melissa Montecuollo
Campus Dining Staff Writer

Changes continue to take place throughout Campus Dining. Tapaingos's by Dexter Lawn is now Rockin' Bar-P-Q which sells all things BBQ, with tip included. Julian's Patissiere moved to the second floor of the library and now sells a variety of very special pastries, as well as locally roasted Costa Java coffee and espresso drinks. Starbucks® opened this fall in the U.U., replacing Julian's, and is proving to be extremely popular.

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Campus Dining prize giveaways included a quarterly voucher of textbooks, donated by Peppers, for lucky fourth year liberal studies major Katie Clearwater. Katie says she'll buy "mainly education resource books." Nicole MacDonell and Ryan Star each won a PQ plate for six from Rockin' Bar-P-Q. Mike McGee entered a Campus Market drawing and won a Casual Catering Platter for 15.

WE'RE LISTENING

Mustang Daily
University of California, San Luis Obispo

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Wildfires force frantic evacuations near LA

Shaya Tayef Mohajer
ASSOCIATE PRESS

Two huge wildfires driven by strong Santa Ana winds burned into neighborhoods near Los Angeles on Monday, forcing frantic evacuations on smoke-and-fire-choked highways, destroying homes and causing at least two deaths.

More than 1,000 firefighters and nine water-dropping aircraft battled the 5,300-acre Marek Fire at the northeast end of the San Fernando Valley, and the 3,000-acre Sesnon Fire in the Porter Ranch area at the west end. Winds blew up to 45 mph with gusts reaching 70 mph.

Authorities confirmed more than three-dozen mobile homes burned at the Marek Fire and TV news helicopter crews counted about 10 homes destroyed by the Sesnon Fire. Both fires also consumed commercial sites.

Firefighters were struggling with the resurgent, day-old Marek Fire when the new blaze erupted at midmorning a few miles to the west.

"It is a blowtorch we can't get in front of," said Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Frank Garri­do. The man who was killed in a head-on collision around midnight when police closed the 118 Freeway because of flames, TV news helicopters showed vehicles running around and driving against traffic to use an on-ramp as an exit.

Earlier, a fatality was discovered at the Marek Fire, an area where neighborhoods abut rugged canyonlands below the mountains of Angeles National Forest. The man appeared to have been a transient living in a makeshift shelter, officials said.

About 1,200 people evacuated due to the Marek Fire, which was just 5 percent contained.

"We could have had an army there and it would not have stopped it," Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief Mario Rueda said. "Wind is king here, it's dictating everything we are doing.

Mobile home park resident see Fires, page 4
Conservative protesters denounce delisting in Seoul's streets

South Korean protesters burn defaced portraits of North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il and North Korean flags during a rally against the United States which removed North Korea from its terrorism blacklist near the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Monday.

Glenn Bell said he and another park resident broke a padlock in an emergency exit gate to escape at dawn. "If we hadn't broke open that gate, there would be people dead up there," he said.

Spokeswoman Carla Nino said the four newborns and the fifth patient were on ventilators and were the most difficult to transport. Some other patients were discharged but the hospital decided it was not necessary to evacuate about 100 others.

Flames jumped the Foothill Freeway, which was closed in both directions for about a three-mile stretch in northern Los Angeles between the 118 Freeway and Interstate 5 amid the morning rush hour, officials said.

"That was quite a jump. That's an eight-lane fire break," said fire spokesman Inspector Faul Hartwell.

Monday afternoon, a wildfire on Chipmunk forced the evacuation of military housing and several neighborhoods near the Marine base. About 4,000 acres have burned. Authorities didn't immediately know how many people were in the evacuated area.

In northern California, a blaze charred more than half of San Francisco Bay's largest island but spared scores of historical structures, including an immigration station that was the first stop for millions of immigrants, mostly from China, in the early 1900s. The Angel Island wildfire was about 75 percent contained.

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 correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

In Friday's Word on the Street, a photo of Lizzie Trout, who was quoted, was incorrectly run instead of the photo of Lizzie Trout, who was quoted.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students for all home Athletic events.
Tuesday's new releases

New DVDs:

“Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”
starring Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Karen Allen, Ray Winstone, John Hurt, Jim Broadbent and Shia LaBeouf

“War Inc.”
starring John Cusack, Hilary Duff, Joa Cusack, Marisa Tomei and Ben Kingsley

“Mongol”
by Tadanobu Asano, Khulan Chuluun, Sun Honglei, Ondyam Odsuren and Pui Ying

New Books

“The Fire”
by Katherine Neville

“Sea of Poppies”
by Amitav Ghosh

New Music:

“Little Bit of Everything”
by Billy Carrington

“At Carnegie Hall”
by Buena Vista Social Club

“4-13 Dream”
by The Cure

“Dirt Don’t Hurt”
by Holly Golightly

“If the World Was You”
by J.D. Souther

“Perfect Symmetry”
by Keane

“Christmas Spirit”
by Los Lonely Boys

“The Cosmos Rocks”
by Queen

“Gossip In The Rain”
by Ray LaMontagne

“Secret Machines”
by Secret Machines

“Songs of Joy and Peace”
by Yo-Yo Ma

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Introducing...

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Cold Draft Beer • Cocktails • Wine

10PM - 12PM Tuesday-Saturday
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SIDEWALK SALE!
Save up to 75%
on Cal Poly clothing & emblematic gifts, seasonal gifts, computer accessories, school, office & art supplies, textbooks and more!

In front of El Corral Bookstore
A non-profit organization serving Cal Poly since 1953
www.elcorralbookstore.com
Samantha MacConnell  
MUSTANG DAILY

Singer and songwriter Matt White, a "Rolling Stone" top 10 "artist to watch," is coming to San Luis Obispo tonight. White performs his acoustic pop sound at Downtown Brewing Co. this evening.

White's headlining tour, Vote For Love, began Oct. 7. "I wrote the entire album when I was in college," White said. "It's kind of caught in that middle area. That's what I was striving for."

White, 27, signed a record deal with Geffen Records/Interscope fresh out of college. His debut album "Best Days," also the name of the first single off the album, topped the Billboard Charts in 2007 coming in at No. 4.

"I was over the moon," said White in regard to his Artist to Watch title. "That was just the coolest thing in the world. That's as good as it gets."

Primarily a piano player, White also plays the guitar and writes all of his music.

Much of White's music involves past heartbreak, falling in love and coming of age, a theme woven throughout his debut album. With the constant demands touring asks from an artist, like time away from friends and family, White understands the difficulty of maintaining a romantic relationship.

"It's really hard to have a normal kind of relationship," said White. "Best Days' is really a story about me falling in love with my girlfriend at the time," White said.

For the Vote For Love tour, White has teamed up with the Gap in support of its "Vote For ______" campaign and White's new single entitled "Love."

The campaign offers T-shirts that say "Vote for ______" and urges people to fill in the blank with what they're passionate about. With the upcoming elections, the campaign assumes that most of the blanks will be political, although they do not have to be.

"[The Vote for ______ campaign] engages people and gets them to be proactive and have an opinion," White said.

White. White's "Vote For Love" tour will take him all across the United States and end with a performance in his hometown of New York City.

Tonight's show will take place at Downtown Brewing Co. at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $10 and all ages are welcome.
dictators (as well as comic book references and unknown terms), I realized that I had come across something truly original.

Although the book focuses on the tale of Oscar Wao (the Dominican pronunciation of Oscar Wilde, as he is nicknamed one Halloween when he supposedly resembles Wilde), that is not really the masterpiece in this cluster of crazy. And as the title suggests, our Oscar is not meant to be around for very long. I was mostly captivated by the tales of his family members, including his sister Lola, and the immense love she made sure to show Oscar, especially in his darkest days. I found that the true story was in the heart of the sorrowful life of Oscar's mother Beli.

When we first meet Beli, it is hard to understand her harsh antics and crude childrearing practices. But when we go back a generation, we are slapped in the face with her story. It is an interesting, horrible and raw tale of a young abandoned Dominican girl finding and losing herself as she comes of age. We also get to see the story of Beli's father and his unfortunate circumstances under the cruel and unusual rule of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, and the controversial story he was writing that ultimately led the family's long-standing curse or as the Dominicans call it, the dreaded "Fuku."

If I could spotlight one recurrent theme through all of the generations of tragedies, I would say it is each member's unwillingness to give up. All of the characters boldly stand for what they believe in, even if it will cost his or her life. I have never read a book like this one. The narrative is told by Yunior, Oscar's college roommate and screw-up boyfriend of Oscar's beautiful sister Lola, in a witty, snappy, full-of-slang sort of way.

In truth, reading this book was no small order; it took some weight and to get laid. Reading "The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, was more than just comprehending type on a page. It was more than getting to know a plot, some characters and a story line. Each time I opened the book, there was no telling where I would be taken, whom I would meet, or what intense emotion I would feel.

This story required me to be completely present and willing to be taught, told and forced to hear the story of a cursed Dominican family spanning various generations of despair, tragedy and unbelievable perseverance. The story of Oscar Wao is not by any means a happy, sugary tale. It is the hard-to-swallow story of an overweight Oscar's beautiful sister Lola, in a Dominican dude with something to say. The narrative is told by Yunior, Oscar's college roommate and screw-up boyfriend of Oscar's beautiful sister Lola, and fall into a fantasy love with her story. It is an interesting, horrible and raw tale of a young abandoned Dominican girl finding and losing herself as she comes of age. Junot Diaz has, to be able to weave a tale so thick, so rich with feeling. It was amazing and, perhaps because it is not something I was immediately drawn to, turned out to be the reason why I was sad to see it come to a conclusion. This is the gritty tale of immigrants pushing and shoving their way toward survival, but really, it is the life of Oscar Wao: writer, lover and linguist extraordinary, who just wouldn't go down without a fight.

Next week's Read This! will be Joe Meno's latest creation, "Demons in the Spring." Happy reading!
Energy: the issue defining our generation

Let's face it. The United States stumbled out of the starting blocks into this century. This administration has supremely screwed things up that's a fact. I can't help but feel a bit dependent when thinking that I spent the prime years of my life growing up in a Bush-run America. Everybody has a defining issue for the upcoming presidential election (hmm... economy, anyone?). My foremost concern is energy policy. The issues of the economy, jobs, national security, and climate change are all underlying derivatives of energy. It is the lifeblood of modern civilization. I, like many others, feel that just as the 19th century belonged to coal and the 20th century to oil and gas, the 21st century will belong to solar, wind, tidal, biofuel (biodiesel is poppin' soot) and geothermal power, along with plug-in hybrids and smart grids. Can we expand renewables fast enough? Most definitely. Recent trends in the use of mobile phones and personal computers give a perspective on how quickly new technologies can spread. Sales of solar cells are doubling every two years. Wind turbine manufacturing capacity is growing 25 percent annually.

And while we're at it, let just get the nuclear option out of the way. Nuclear power plants cost over $10 billion just to construct. They cost millions to run and maintain, storage and security issues face it: The United States stumbled out of the starting blocks into this century. The administration has supremely screwed things up that's a fact. I can't help but feel a bit dependent when thinking that I spent the prime years of my life growing up in a Bush-run America. Everybody has a defining issue for the upcoming presidential election (hmm... economy, anyone?). My foremost concern is energy policy. The issues of the economy, jobs, national security, and climate change are all underlying derivatives of energy. It is the lifeblood of modern civilization. I, like many others, feel that just as the 19th century belonged to coal and the 20th century to oil and gas, the 21st century will belong to solar, wind, tidal, biofuel (biodiesel is poppin' soot) and geothermal power, along with plug-in hybrids and smart grids. Can we expand renewables fast enough? Most definitely. Recent trends in the use of mobile phones and personal computers give a perspective on how quickly new technologies can spread. Sales of solar cells are doubling every two years. Wind turbine manufacturing capacity is growing 25 percent annually.

And while we're at it, let just get the nuclear option out of the way. Nuclear power plants cost over $10 billion just to construct. They cost millions to run and maintain, storage and security are through the roof, and they rely on a rare and expensive fuel to function. Nuclear power will continue to provide a fraction of American energy, but it is nonsensical to declare that nuclear power alone will provide us with the most affordable prices. Nuclear is over-hyped if you examine the entire fuel cycle, from digging up the uranium, enriching it, transporting and building the very concrete-intensive reactor it is definitively not carbon-neutral.

With the current economic crisis, it might seem a bit overbearing to mention an entire market failure. But if you think the mortgage meltdown is troubling, wait until the markets discover the true price of carbon and realize that our entire energy system is, essentially, built on a planetary accounting fraud. In late 2006, Nicholas Stern, former chief economist at the World Bank, released an earth-shaking study on the future costs of climate change. He discussed the failure of the current market to incorporate the cost of burning fossil fuels into its accounting, which he speculated to be in the trillions of dollars. With the economy as large as it is, the indirect costs of burning coal (air pollution, acid rain, devastated ecosystems, etc.) can exceed the direct costs, namely those of mining the coal and transporting it. As a result of these neglected externalities, the market is undervaluing many goods and services, creating price distortions. In our modern high-tech civilization, it is easy to forget that the economy is wholly dependent on the earth's natural systems and resources. What we need is a true cost analysis, which includes more than just the accounting costs of utilities and includes the costs our environment and common areas have to bear.

We are nearing a crossroads. Our generation will ultimately decide between one path headed toward economic decline and another headed toward sustainable economic progress. If we choose to fully commit to the latter, the change will be painful. We've spent the last eight years with a White House full of former oil executives pushing the status quo rather than preparing America for a wide-scale energy transition. Considering where we should be at this point, we've got a lot of catching up to do. Building a new energy economy will require massive workforce upheaval, require enormous government policy initiatives (research, smart incentives and tax breaks), and a focus on private investment. Just in Silicon Valley last year, venture capital investment in renewable energy and clean technology rose 173 percent over to over $1 billion.

The last time we took such issues seriously, in Jimmy Carter's day, it was called an "energy crisis." Thermostats were turned down across the land and we went into R&D overdrive. And that crisis was only about the price of oil, which topped out at all of $78 a barrel in today's dollars. Few were talking about global warming or blood for oil (see: Iraq).

Today's energy crisis is on a different scale. Greenhouse gases, geology, geopolitics give us no choice but to change our ways. The truth is, that change has already begun. Just as in the last three years we've gone from debating the validity of climate change to being confronted daily with the rapidity of glacial melting, so too will the shift to a post-carbon economy soon be painfully evident. We can --- as we did when confronted with the Great Depression or World War II --- overhaul our society and economy and emerge stronger, or we can get swamped by change, watching helplessly as other nations ride the wave of post-carbon innovation. You decide.

Ben Eckel is a business veteran with a minor in sustainable environments. "The Green Spot" will run every in this section every Tuesday. The column features a variety of writers on environmental and sustainability issues.

Have something to say?
Send a letter to the editor!
Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
Boycott downtown cover charges

Bring cheap boozy back to SLO

From that first public urination ticket while stumbling through bubble gum alley to the 100th trash-strewn public restroom, the downtown bar scene has been a call to arms for anyone who cares. We don’t pay more to see things that are of lesser value, so why should we pay to enter the premises. But there is a constant pressure to charge for entering a local establishment and are required to pay a cover charge to enter, that just gets my goat.

From the $300 fine for public urination to the $30 you spent on drinks while trying to convince that hot brunette to come home with you, the entire economy of SLO depends on your drunken expenditures.

That is where the bars get you in this town. Moving from Seattle, my experience with the bars up there was that if you didn’t know what you were doing you wouldn’t be able to buy a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label for the price I’m going to pay downtown. If you have seen bigger and better things, you are probably better off going to your home for urination to the $30 you spent on drinks while trying to convince that hot brunette to come home with you, the entire economy of SLO depends on your drunken expenditures.

I personally love the nude beach. I have gone once, and that was just recently. I feel that it should not become public. We have enough beaches for families, why do we need one more? Plus even getting to it is pretty hard, so who wants to hike through a field of pocky weed with a kid? There are lots of rocks and seaweed there so it’s not really fit for swimming anyway. The only thing I just perfect how it is. There is not a law saying you have to be naked to go, you can go with all the clothes you want if you want to go for the views. If you don’t like it, don’t go. But don’t force everyone to get dressed in the one place they can go.

Response to "Nude no more: beac hgoers may soon have to cover up"

Troy; I am so glad you are still at Poly to write meaningful and to-the-point letters to the editor! Your letter on the conservative columns was so right on. Seriously, it is all that (presumably mature and wise) people know how to do mudding? Give me a candidate or a political party that solely talks about what they are going to do to address some issue and why they think their idea will work — and equally important, they actually set out to do what they say they will— and boom, I am interested!

Likewise, I would also be careful to scrutinize their background, experience and record too, but I would much rather go for someone on some party exhibiting those characteristics then vote for a professional name-caller... And if you think that I will think of you any less for not returning fire when you are getting attacked, let me say a more honorable person is one that knows how to turn the other cheek or respond in a way that does not sink to the level of muddlingers.

Response to a letter to the editor by Troy Kowalski

I am so tired of brain-washed young people believing the garbage they have stuffed down their throats from "professors" in colleges. I am a financial advisor by profession and also prepare hundreds of tax returns every year. I will tell you, and every CPA in America would say the same thing, the only people that care about the poor and downtrodden and donate to charity are conservatives.

My Democratic clients make many hundreds of thousands of dollars, yet give to charity a few hundred. My conservative clients give large percentages of their income, large incomes, to charity, often above 15 percent.

Obama has given 4 to 6 percent of his $55 million income to charity every year for many years, yet his champions to be the little guy. I don’t think so. He also says his tax plan will lower taxes for 90 percent of Americans. That is a falsehood as 60 percent of working Americans pay no income tax whatsoever. I am so tired of Hollywood and even wealthy types saying that the rich don’t pay enough taxes. The government will gladly accept any amount extra that they feel they should be paying. You can pay more than you actually owe and they will not reject the extra cash.

College students please pay attention to where you get your information and pay attention that the college campus and San Luis Obispo is not the real world. The real world does not want the burden of socialized health care or anything else socialized. All the government manages get screwed up they need to get their grubby hands off everything.

— Seth L

Response to "A bad week for America, no 'hope' or 'change' in sight"

That was pretty far reaching. This column dumbs down the quality of the Daily. You should read the book before you write about it. And then read a book about comedy.

— Jet

Response to "How to reject a hook in 3 words"

Making an educated decision is not a requirement to cast a vote. One man, one vote. That is the only rule. The ballot (or democracy for that matter) doesn’t care if you are mentally retarded or have a Phd. Both votes are treated equal. This is the beauty of democracy and this is also why I think we need to innovate democracy.

— Mike Macedo

Response to "Get educated so you can vote smarter"

leggible health care costs, unemployment, "nation of winers," exploiting poverty rates, implicit stock market, job loss, stop loss, no body armor, denial of PTSD treatment, multiple and extended tours of duty, Diebold, paperless vote, voter suppression, fewer allies, more enemies, Bin Laden still not captured; enough about! Vote!

Craig Russell

music professor
Girls & Sports by Justin Bonus and Andrew Feinstein

Translated: Girls & Sports by Justin Bonus and Andrew Feinstein

Answer to previous puzzle:

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Edited by Will Shortz

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Cereal Cartoon Irish Wake

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The Phillies hit an NL-leading 214 home runs during the regular season, and have nine in eight postseason games, good for 17 of their 35 runs. Brad Lidge, the Phillies' sixth pitcher, got four outs for his fifth postseason save in five chances, but it wasn't easy.

Lidge, a perfect 41-for-41 in save opportunities during the regular season, entered a game in the eighth for the first time this year, coming in with two outs and nobody on. Martin showed his bat with a double, and Russ­sell Martin struck out but reached first on a wild pitch before James Loney fielded it to left.

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**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**football**

**Cal Poly matches program’s highest ranking ever**

The Mustangs football team matched its highest ranking ever.

**Cal Poly matches program’s highest ranking ever**

**Donovan Aird**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Tuesday, October 14, 2008**

The Cal Poly football team matched its highest ranking ever.

After their third bye over the past five weeks, the Mustangs rose to No. 3 in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division 1-AA) coaches poll and No. 5 in the Sports Network media poll. They were seventh in both last week.

Mustangs head coach Rich Ellerson downplayed the jump, even calling it "nuts." Ellerson said, "Our name resonates with coaches and media people around the country. That's a compliment for our program and our institutions not necessarily this football team. It doesn't mean anything. If we're still there in a month, I'll be a little more excited about that!"

The Mustangs were last ranked third midway through 2005, before they would go on to reach the quarterfinals of the playoffs and finish No. 6.

Richard, New Hampshire and McNeese State — which had been above the Mustangs in both polls — lost last Saturday.

Also, North Dakota State, which was slotted sixth by the coaches, dropped to 16th in that poll after falling 27-22 to Western Illinois.

James Madison and Appalachian State remained Nos. 1 and 2 in both polls.

"It was pretty surprising," Mustangs senior running back Ryan Mele said of Cal Poly being ranked third. "It's great for the program. It's just one step closer to being No. 1."

Cal Poly (3-1), which opened the season 14-1 in both polls, picks up where it left off at 4 p.m. Saturday at South Dakota State (3-3), which also had lost Saturday.

The Jackrabbits beat the Mustangs senior running back Ryan Mele 8-7 last year.

"The guys think (it could be the best) and the coaches are talking about it," he said.

Ten offensive starters returned from 2007, when the Mustangs went 7-4 and missed the playoffs but trailed only national champion Appalachian State in total offense.

"We're definitely one of the top teams Cal Poly has had," Mele said. "But we hope to be the best.

Cal Poly (3-1), which opened the season 14-1 in both polls, picks up where it left off at 4 p.m. Saturday at South Dakota State (3-3), which also had a bye last week.

The Jackrabbits beat the Mustangs 48-35 last year, also in Brookings, S.D. and 29-28 in 2006.

"We expect it to be very physical," Mele said. "It should be the toughest game we've had yet. The last couple years they've defeated Idaho hasn't been pretty."

Mele was quick to emphasize that the Mustangs may need to win out to make the playoffs, which require at least seven wins against fully-fledged Division I competition for at-large consideration (which Cal Poly needs due to playing in the Great West Conference, comprised of just five teams).

The road to that win total — which already included stops against South Dakota (a non-counter due to transitioning from Division II) and Football Bowl Subdivision (F-B) Wisconsin — was complicated when McNeese State canceled the teams' third-week meeting due to Hurricane Ike.

If the Mustangs do win out, they'd seem to surpass the 2003 version as arguably the best Cal Poly team ever.

"It has that potential," Ellerson said.

Mele said the team’s chance of going down as the best in program history — which includes 1933’s unscored-upon edition, 1953’s undefeated and untied squad and the 1980 Division II national champion — isn’t lost among the players.

"I think they guys think (it could be the best) and the coaches are talking about it," he said.

Rays blast Boston, take 2-1 lead in ALCS

**John Nadel**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Los Angeles** — Shane Victorino and the Philadelphia Phillies struck back with long balls rather than baseballs to move within one win of the World Series. After dashing a pitch thrown over his head the previous day, Victorino and much-traveled pinch-hitter Matt Stairs delivered two-run homers in the sixth inning, giving Philadelphia the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-5 Monday night for a 2-1 lead in the NL championship series.

It was the first time the visiting team has won a game in 12 meetings between the teams this year.

Lefty ace Cole Hamels, who won the series opener, can pitch the Phillies to their first World Series since 1993 in Game 5 on Wednesday night. He’ll be opposed by Game 2 loser Chad Billingsley.

"We keep fighting," Victorino said. "We keep plugging along." Eleven teams in baseball history have come back from 3-1 deficits to win a best-of-seven postseason series — two in the NLCS.

There were no boozing pitches or other trouble Monday night, unlike Game 3 when the benches and bullpens erupted in the third inning, moments after Dodgers starter Hiroki Kuroda threw a pitch over Victorino’s head in retaliation for Philadelphia’s high and tight pitches earlier in the series.

With a runner at first and one out in the eighth, Victorino lined Cory Wade’s first pitch into the right-field bullpen to tie the game at 5. Then, after a two-out single by Carlos Ruiz, Dodgers manager Joe Torre called for Wade to be lifted.

John Nadel

*Associated Press*

**The Philadelphia Phillies’ Shane Victorino celebrates a touchdown during the second half of the Mustangs’ 49-22 win over South Dakota at Alex G. Spanos Stadium on Oct. 4.**

**ANDREW SANTOS-JOHNSON**

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