Harsh economic times hit SLO

Downtown San Luis Obispo is experiencing a drop-off in sales thanks to the economic crisis. Tourism has decreased and expensive items aren’t selling as highly as they did during more prosperous times.

Lauren Rabaino
SENIOR DAILY

When local hotels didn’t sell out for graduation in June, the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce saw its first signs of an economic crisis.

“For the first time ever, we had hotels calling us with availability,” said Lindsey Miller, marketing director at the chamber of commerce. “Usually they sold out in January.”

According to Miller, occupancy was down six percent in June, and when tourism is down, locally-owned shops feel the impact.

“Traveling is the first thing you cut; it’s kind of a frivolous expenditure,” Miller said.

Tourism is what keeps some businesses — like downtown boutique French Quarter — thriving over the summer months when students are gone.

“I think it helps that it’s a tourist city,” said Brittany Dury, a sales associate at French Quarter. “If we didn’t have any tourism, we wouldn’t really have any income (in the summer).”

For Anomia, a locally-owned shop on Higuera street which sells exotic sculptures and collectibles — tourism also kept summer sales booming.

see Economy, page 2

Pssst! Gossip site comes to Cal Poly

Jennifer Titcomb
SENIOR DAILY

“Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.”

The famous rhyme may hold true in some cases, but what if those words were published for thousands of people, including fellow classmates, to read?

The Web site JuicyCampus.com allows students to post anonymous gossip. College students can find their university on the site and anonymously post their thoughts on anyone or anything about the school. No login is necessary and there is no way to verify if the poster actually attends the school he or she posts for.

JuicyCampus was recently added to JuicyCampus’ list of schools along with 436 other colleges and universities. The first post on Cal Poly’s page came on Sept. 29, but the Web site has been available to some campuses since its beta launch in October 2007.

JuicyCampus has received over 15,000 school requests over the last year, said Matt Ivester, founder, president and CEO of Lime Blue Inc., the parent company of JuicyCampus.

“[The process of selecting schools] was a mixture of us looking at which campuses had been requested and just trying to figure out where we would do well,” he said.

A 2005 graduate of Duke University, Ivester got the idea for the site from his own college experience. “I realized that everyday on every campus in every group of friends, they have these really great stories, so why not create a place online to share those stories?” he said. “That is how JuicyCampus was born.”

Business senior Adam Rouman and political science sophomore Josh Fabian had unflattering statements written about them on the Juicy Campus Web site. They don’t know who posted the items.

Students give back to community during service day

Breehan Yohe-Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

Students with helping hands and willing hearts are encouraged to participate in the annual Make a Difference Day taking place on Saturday as part of a national day of community service.

Started by USA Weekend magazine in 1992, the event takes place every fourth Saturday in October. Each year, about three million people are estimated to participate worldwide.

Philosophy sophomore Michelle Fox will be this year’s site manager for the volunteers helping out with Cal Poly’s Organic Farm.

“It’s a really good link between Cal Poly and the community,” Fox said. “I think we have to realize that as Cal Poly students, we have to have a part in the community so they see us out there trying to make a difference. I think they’re going to appreciate us a lot more.”

Cal Poly will send out about 500 students to volunteer, many of them from the Greek community as well as from groups such as the National Honors Society and the Society of Engineers, said Kelsey Currier, a recreation graduate student and the community outreach specialist and coordinator for the Alternative Breaks Program.

She said students can choose the organization they want to work with on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Those choices range from non-profits from San Luis Obispo to as far as Cambria. A few of this year’s 32 organizations needing volunteers will be Food Bank, Transitions Mental Health Center, 211 San Luis Obispo Hotelline, Cal Poly’s ‘Cal Program, San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, University of the Middle America Network, the San Luis Obispo Historical Society, the city of Pismo Beach and the Sierra Club.

“Non-profits usually have two to three staff members,” Currier said. “Everyone wears about
Economy

continued from page 1

"Our summer was good definitely because foreign tourism — a lot of Germans and British — could spend money," manager Deborah Hoos said. Although Hoos said it's hard to tell what direct effect the country's economic situation has on her store, she has seen a cutback in expensive items being sold.

"Inexpensive items — people spend money on all the time. They'll let themselves buy $1 earings," Hoos said. But expensive collectibles, like their Indonesian sculptures that go for $125 each, don't sell anymore.

Hoos said sales to students are down about 30 percent from average, but students are still buying clothes.

"They see clothes as a necessity," she said. "Money doesn't stop them."

Kourteny Karce, the retail keyholder at downtown clothing store Crazy Jax, said she observed the same trend; clothing is seen as a necessity, not a luxury. She said students aren't as pressed to save because they're spending their parents money.

"It's been slow to a certain extent," she said. "Because our prices are cheap and affordable, there's not as much of an impact."

When asked how the economic situation changed his shopping habits, industrial technology junior and downtown shopper Connor Mcinnimee held up his shopping bag.

"I went to Koss," he said, noting that he'd usually shop at someplace higher-end, like Men's Warehouse.

Although he browsed the racks at Urban Outfitters, he walked out without anything.

"It's been rough," Mcinnimee said. "Especially because I'm a child development major who needs things for baby care."

Many downtown storeowners were reluctant to discuss the economy's impact on their businesses.

"In San Luis, a lot of these are small business owners, so it's their livelihood," Miller said.

Overall, San Luis Obispo is faring well compared to surrounding tourist hotspots like Monterey and Santa Barbara, she added.

"I think one of the things that really helps us is that we're more of an affordable destination," Miller said. "I think San Luis has definitely not been hit nearly as hard as other areas due. People are still coming, people are still living here."

At its retreat next month, the chamber of commerce will discuss ways to help boost local business if the economic situation doesn't improve, Miller said.

"There was a line of students out the door of Ross today, so I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one," Mcinnimee said.

"The transportation costs have gone up really high; tuition even went up. The pinch is on."

—Connor Mcinnimee
industrial technology junior

Difference
continued from page 1

10 lots and so for one day to have 10, 20, 30 people at their disposal is just great."

Tasks for volunteers will vary depending on the organization but could include anything from painting, weeding and cleaning up trails to fundraising through car washes to helping United Cerebral Palsy with their Halloween party or organizing costumes for San Luis Obispo's Little Theatre.

Currier added that certain majors can be particularly helpful in some activities such as the child development majors who signed up to help at the United Cerebral Palsy party last year.

Students last year also rallied together to create a last minute needed items drive for victims of the Southern California wildfires.

For the first time this year, Currier said she submitted every single one of Cal Poly's volunteer contributions to the national Make a Difference Day Web site.

"If your project is in the top 10 that (the magazine) picks as the most influential then you get to donate $25,000 to your charity of choice," she said.

Art and design senior Melody Yazdi works in the student community services branch of the community center. This will be her second year volunteering with Make a Difference Day.

"Volunteering is a really nice escape from all the schoolwork and I think just the little thing we do for one community site can really make a difference for them," Yazdi said. "If we have 30 people come out and help, that cuts off a month's work that they would do that we just do in right hours for them."

Volunteers can contact Kelsey Currier at 736-2176 if they want to sign up ahead of time or they can go to the Chumash Auditorium 9 a.m. Saturday. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Take a break! and visit mustandaily.net

• photo slideshows
• podcasts
• send letters to the editor
• post story comments
Web site
continued from page 1

Because of the anonymity factor, students can write almost anything on their minds withouut consequences. However, site guidelines encourage students to refrain from writing lies or posting copyrighted material. JuicyCampus does not preview the posts but retains the right to remove postings.

The Web site has never identified posters except when violent threats were made against a campus community.

"It was an imminent danger to the students; we were very concerned and wanted to completely comply with the police," Ivester said. "So we provided an IP address and the police then were able to go to the Internet service provider."

There is a strong presumption against censorship in our First Amendment doctrine, but at the same time there is really a separate question. Even if you have a legal right to say what you want, do you have to do it?" he said.

While some think JuicyCampus is amusing, not everyone is laughing. Marketing senior Adam Rouman and political science sophomore Josh Fabian were both singled out on the site.

"Most of the time (the freedom of speech claim) is true; there is a strong presumption against censorship in our First Amendment doctrine, but at the same time there is really a separate question. Even if you have a legal right to say what you want, do you have to do it?" he said.

Some wonder about the legal and ethical implications of posting gossip on the site.

Political science assistant professor Ronald Den Otter says people usually claim freedom of speech such instances.

"The post about Fabian went a step further. It was an imminent danger to the students; we of course had hurt feelings," he said.

In Rounian's case, the comment could be found listed on the site.

"There is more to talk about (with) greek life; they do a lot of good things and lots of philanthropy too. You can't knock it used for," he said.

Ivester, who was the president of his fraternity and president of the Greek Honor Society, disagrees with the claims that JuicyCampus hurts the greek image.

"I think some of it is in the good-hearted, competitive nature that has always been on greek campuses throughout the history of greek life. But to the extent that they are mean or insulting — that is not really what JuicyCampus is meant to be used for," he said.

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• Have not taken any pain medication or used compression to treat your ankle sprain

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To learn more about this local study, please contact:

Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc.
849-7870
Internationally-acclaimed leaders talk women's issues

From left, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, CNN's Campbell Brown, and PepsiCo CEO Indra K. Nooyi participate in The Women's Conference, Wednesday in Long Beach, Calif. The annual conference had sixty internationally-acclaimed leaders in attendance and 14,000 women in one area along with the thousands of viewers watching the event online.

California Polytechnic State University
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.

The Annual Audit of the Associated Students, Inc. and the University Union for FY 2007-2008 has been completed. Public information copies are available at the ASI Business Office (UU 212) and at the Campus Library.

State Briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — A 20-year-old Inglewood gang member has been sentenced to 16 years in prison for conspiring to rob a San Luis Obispo bank last year. Superior Court Judge John Trice sentenced Ronald Simpson on Tuesday for his role with six others in the Dec. 13 bank heist. Sentencing as a gang and a previous assault with a firearm conviction led to the stiff sentence.

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. (AP) — A 250-acre wildfire ignited by fireworks brought an early morning scare to residents in the foothills of San Bernardino County on Wednesday as hot, dry Santa Ana winds returned to Southern California.

The blaze erupted at 12:45 a.m. near Fontana, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, and moved west into canyons of Rancho Cucamonga.

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — State agriculture officials say five light-brown apple moths have been found in a quarantine area in southern Sonoma and Napa counties.

The discovery announced Wednesday means a 10-square-mile area will remain under quarantine and the boundaries may be expanded. Grape growers and other farmers have their crops inspected and cleared before taking them out of the fields.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Where do you rent your movies/DVDs from?"

"My roommates and I rent our movies from Blockbuster because it's close to our house and convenient."

-Andrea Raggio

animal science and graphic communications senior

"I don't really rent movies; most of the things that I watch are online."

-Paul De Leon

software engineering senior

"Usually from Hollywood Video or something, but I've been considering Netflix lately. I did it last year, but I just didn't have time to watch the movies I was getting."

-Jackie DalBroi

psychology senior

"I rent my movies or DVDs from Netflix. I like it because I can get whatever movie I feel like."

-Jessie Wyry

animal science freshman

October 22-24

Wednesday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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www.mustangdaily.net
An Afghan soldier stands with his RPG rocket, at the site which was bombed by a U.S.-led coalition airstrike is seen on the background, up on the hill, in Sayed Khel area of eastern Khost province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday.

**Recession fears, weak earnings stoke offell**

Ellen Simon

**Now what?**

After three days of relative calm, turbulence returned to Wall Street on Wednesday. Leader warnings of a deep recession and weak corporate earnings took the Dow Jones industrial average down 814 points amid fears that government intervention won’t be enough to prevent global economies from faltering.

Previous dramatic drops — two of them more than 700 points — were followed by rebounds. If that doesn’t happen this time, the Dow could slip to closer to closing below the 8,000 mark, which hasn’t happened since March 31, 2005.

Wednesday’s sell-off came after poor earnings from large companies in disparate sectors — Wachovia Corp., Boeing and Merck & Co. — illustrated how wide the economic downturn has spread. One bright spot was McDonald’s Corp., where the company’s note with thanks to the strength of its low-priced meals.

Even with the agnostic steps the government has already taken, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told interviewer Charlie Rose on Tuesday that Americans would “have a number of difficult months ahead of us in terms of the real economy.”

Since stocks began tumbling on Sept. 15, the Dow has plunged as low as 8,431.19, in close on Oct. 10. On Wednesday, it closed at 8,519.21.

Big rallies last Monday and Thursday were enough to send all the major indices higher, giving Wall Street in best week since 2005. The Dow gained 4.75 percent for the week — a gain that was erased in Wednesday’s trading alone.

This week, the Dow had climbed 413 points Monday, then dropped 231 points Tuesday.

On Wednesday, most major indices fell 5 percent or more, with the Standard & Poor’s 500 down 6 percent. Oil prices hit lows last seen during trading alone.

Some of the most notable changes in Campus Dining are at the hub of UU plaza. Garden Grille is now 19 Metro Station and Veranda Cafe is Baja Surf. With the new names come new and improved recipes. All three restaurants feature flat screen TVs in the dining rooms. 19 Metro Station and BackStage Pizza also have flat screen menu boards that create a new and modern look.

There are big changes at The Avenue, too. While The Avenue still features some all time favorites such as Chick-fil-A, Tapango’s, and City Dell, new additions include Green Street (formerly City Subs), Fusion Bowl (formerly Red Dragon Wok) and Sydner (formerly Nathans®). Even the coffee has changed to Seattles’ Best, making it the 4th brand of coffee served on campus.

During the first week of fall quarter, students toured the campus to take in the new changes and entered drawings for prizes in the “What’s New Tour.” Candido Ramirez won an iPod in the drawing at 19 Metro Station; and Douglas Moss-holder, Pamela Huhtinen, Ben Hatcher, and Pete Seerden each received $70 Chevron gas cards by entering the “What’s New Tour” drawing at Baja Surf and BackStage Pizza.

**Assina Shah**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A U.S.-led coalition airstrike hit an Afghan air force base in Afghanistan Wednesday, killing nine soldiers, Afghan officials said. The American military acknowledged that its forces may have "mistaken" Afghan soldiers for the enemy.

The U.S. acknowledged that its forces "may have mistakenly killed and injured" Afghan soldiers in what may have been a case of mistaken identity "on both sides." The deaths come as Afghan President Hamid Karzai presses international forces to avoid attacks in civilian areas.

Arlahal, the province’s governor, said the Afghan soldiers died at a fixed air base checkpoint in a region where American and Afghan troops have been conducting operations for over a week. Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, the Defense Ministry spokesman, confirmed nine soldiers died and three were wounded in the airstrike in the Sayed Khel area of Khost province in eastern Afghanistan.

"As a Coalition forces convoy was returning from a previous operation, they were involved in multiple engagements," a U.S. military statement said. "As a result of the engagements, ANA (Afghan army) soldiers were killed and injured."

Col. Greg Julian, the chief spokesman for U.S. troops in Afghanistan, said American officials would meet with Afghan defense officials to "sort out the details."

In June 2007, Afghan police mistook U.S. troops on a nighttime mission for Taliban fighters and opened fire on them, prompting U.S. forces to return fire and call in attack aircraft. Seven Afghan police were killed.

In the last month, uniformed Afghan police officers have twice opened fire on U.S. troops, killing two soldiers. The police officers were killed by U.S. soldiers returning fire, but the incidents raised fears that insurgents have infiltrated Afghanistan’s security forces as a cover to launch attacks.

In the country’s southern Uruzgan province, a blast in a market that ended early Wednesday killed 30 Taliban fighters and three Afghan police, and Jane Gol Hanut, Uruzgan’s provincial police chief.

Hanut said the battle was led by Afghan forces but also involved helicopter gunships. Afghan forces recovered 35 bodies from the battlefield, he said. Some 100 Taliban fighters were involved in the battle.

In other violence, U.S. troops killed seven militants and detained seven others in a series of operations throughout Afghanistan, the military said in a statement.
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Vote for your favorite in each category. The results will be published in our Best For Cal Poly Edition in February.

VOTE

Name: ____________________________    Turn in entire page anytime at our office, building 26 room 226 or at our booth during UU hour on 10/23, 11/13, 12/4.
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FREE

and be entered to win a grand prize
Insomniac proves too weird to live, not too rare to die

Bob Whiteford described it as "the final bullet in the head" that killed his business. After nearly 12 years, the quirky indie movie store Insomniac Video is dead. The economy killed it.

But the memories will live on for Whiteford and his legion of supporters who came to the small video store on Broad Street to find the movies they couldn't get anywhere else.

"My favorite memories are of watching people grow up," Whiteford said. "In the last week or so I've had parents whose kids grew up here; they're in college now and this was a big part of their life. That makes me proud."

For several years Insomniac Video was the only place a person could rent many of the strange cult films that made the shop so revered by its customers. Even some cult directors started taking notice themselves.

"(Grade-Z filmmaker) Larry Buchanan, when he was alive he used to live around here, he came here and showed me shot for shot how he shot 'Zontar The Thing from Venus,'" Whiteford said.

Eventually, with the advent of ship-to-you giants like Netflix and Blockbuster Online, Insomniac's revenue started taking a hit.

"Netflix, downloading, YouTube and such definitely was hurting us. But the bad economy was the final blow," Whiteford said.

After a summer that Whiteford called the store's worst ever, things got even worse.

His property owner raised rent, forcing the shop to close its doors for good.

Insomniac Video may be one of the first small shops to close its doors in San Luis Obispo, and while Whiteford said he strongly hopes that is the last, there may be more problems to come for downtown's small-business scene.

"I suspect strongly that the entire mercantile landscape of this town is going to change," Whiteford said. "I think a lot of the tried-and-true that made this town what it is are going to be gone."

While the shop is in its final days, many customers are also mourning the loss of the indie film champion and reflecting on its loss to the community.

"I feel pretty torn up about the whole thing," former customer Gene Schoenee said. "I watch a lot of movies and many of them are off the wall, out of print or otherwise unavailable from Blockbuster or Netflix. Insomniac was the only place to find those gems that would otherwise be inaccessible to people."

Schoenee, who discovered the shop through his girlfriend's family several years ago, will also miss the wealth of knowledge that Whiteford and his staff brought with them.

"The vast stores of knowledge about film and film history within Insomniac is amazing and it's a sad thing that those of us seeking to draw upon that deep well of knowledge will no longer have a place we can drink," Schoenee said. "No rental chain can compare to the individual attention and understanding of movies like Bob and his staff. Imagine trying to discuss a movie like 'Breathless' (A 1960 French film directed by Jean-Luc Godard) with the kid behind the counter at Blockbuster. He would look at you like you were speaking, well, French. That is assuming they even had the movie on their shelves."

San Luis Obispo's Insomniac Video is going out of business. Owner Bob Whiteford will sell the store's inventory before the store closes for good.

Schoenee has many memories of the store, but one of his favorites involves one of his early trips to the shop looking for an off-the-wall film.

"I asked for a movie called 'Auntie Lee's Meat Pie,'" Schoenee said. "Bob laughed and told me that it had been the cornerstone of their cannibalism section for years. I thought to myself that any video store that has a cannibalism section is (in the words of Hunter S. Thompson) 'too weird to live, and too rare to die.' Unfortunately it did."

Scott Silvey
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emily Egger
Designer: Melena Krzyzuk
mustangdailyarts@gmail.com
A Clever Country Record for Grumpy Old Hipsters

Bruce Limon
(Main Stage on Nipomo Street)

Attila & Dave
(Broad Street)

Farm City Night
(Garden Street)

Pumpkins on Parade
(Chorro Street)

Dan Wilson
(Morro Street)

I hate reading late reviews. Honestly, whoever does per their views on a product already weeks old on the shelf is an obvious, more concerned with the expusion of their own scattered thoughts than with the task of imparting useful information to the reader.

Having said that, I'm reviewing a record that came out in June. Not only because I'm a willfully obvious, grumpy old hipster, but also because the record, "Lookout Mountain Lookout Sea" by The Silver Jews, celebrates the brooding, judgmental behavior of men like me. In "My Pillow is the Threshold," lead David Berman grumbles, "I unplug all the neon, turn the ringer off the phone, throw my thoughts like tomahawks into this world which I shun." I wish I could make my self-obessed talking sound so romantic.

As a veteran of the independent label boom of the 1990s, and having formed his band with Pavement's Steven Malkmus, Berman is licensed to direct some of his tomahawks at the artifact of hipsterdom, and the supposed mainstream success of "indie" music which has taken place in the last few years. This exploration is most pointed on "Strange Victory, Strange Defeat," in which Berman asks, "What's with all the handsome grandsons in these rock band magazines? And what have they done with the fat ones?" The bald and the goatee'd? To a lesser extent, the accoutrements of the "scene" scene and the are playfully mocked in "San Francisco B.C." with references to wearing sar­casm hair, general lewdness and vocal martyrdom in the vegan press.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that The Silver Jews are the only country act you'll find today who are also eminently listenable. This is not to say that the band is unoriginal or uninteresting. Quite the contrary. Their cleverness has been around for the last five records yes, but with "Lookout Mountain, Lookout Sea," it's managed in a way that uses a much wider range of expression than simple wry humor.

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Poly corn maze ready to scare again

Alisha Axsom  

Get ready for more chain-saws, corn and hot chocolate as the Haunted Corn Maze returns this year to scare young and old alike, promising everyone two nights of Halloween-themed fun. The maze is hosted by the Cal Poly Crops Club and will be open to the public Oct. 24 and Oct. 25 from 5 to 9 p.m.

“We’ve been doing it for as long as I’ve been going to school here,” said fruit science junior and Crops Club member John Molatore. “The Crops Club has always been affiliated with the corn maze and the City of San Luis Obispo has come to love it. Every single year we just try to do a better job than we did last year and keep people coming back.”

Crop science senior Brent Rhodes is this year’s club president and helped organize the maze with other officers from the club.

“There were tons of people last year,” Rhodes said. “The buses were full all night. We get a whole wide range of people (from families in students).

The corn field is grown by the crops unit at Cal Poly specifically for the maze and the corn reaches about 10 to 12 feet tall before club members go in and cut out the different paths for the maze. Molatore said they put plenty of offshoots in to confuse people and make the maze more fun.

“We’ll hide farm machinery equipment (in the maze),” he said. “We’re going to have tractors and light them up. It can be scary at night when you have this big shiny tractor in there.”

Members of the Crops Club also dress up, cover themselves in fake blood and hide in the maze, jumping out at unsuspecting victims who wander into their path. “Young punk kids who think they can’t be scared are the main challenge for club members, along with the college students,” said Molatore. “The scariest they can make the maze, the better.”

“Last year I was scaring people,” Rhodes said, “I was chained up to a tractor and I would jump out at people. They seemed to be pretty scared, especially the younger girls. They

When future employers ask if you have good technical skills, beer bong expert isn’t what they mean.

Bobby Brewski

For more information, visit respectalobro.com
**Death Cab for Cutie is coming!**

Omar Sanchez  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

The Cal Poly Recreation Center stadium will become a "live music" rock-and-roll, indie-rock band Death Cab for Cutie takes the stage at Cal Poly next week. The group that brought you such hits like, "I Will Follow You into the Dark" and "Soul Meets Body," is set for their debut performance along with special guest Matt Costa at Cal Poly's Recreation Center Monday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m.

"The tour has been going great, our fans have been great," said bass Nick Harmer. "The crowds have been responding really well to the new album," he said of the album "Narrow Stares," which he himself

The voice of lead singer/guitarist and guitarist Ben Gibbard, accompanied by the beat of drummer Jason McCreery, songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Chris Walla and bassist Nick Harmer has been labeled "boyish romantic" by "Rolling Stone." Often called "melancholy" and "dooms" love songs, the music also touches on topics of

When describing the reasoning behind the title, "Narrow Stares," the band's second album on the major record label, Atlantic Records, Harmer said the name came to turn while he was looking back at the preciousotos of his life. He explained that narrow stare symbolize sharp turns.

"It reminded me when you're younger and see things more wide, open but as you get older you realize things aren't so open," Harmer said. "It's during that period when you have to be more careful with every step." He added that the band intended to capture the sensation of a live performance. They recorded the album in three different recording studios, including one owned by the band members. The album is darker and creepier than previous albums, the band said.

Although Harner is proud of the band's studio album, he wouldn't say how it compared to their other projects. "I just don't do that, especially at this point in our career." Cal Poly is the only university left on the band's tour schedule and Harner expressed his thoughts about playing at campuses versus other venues. "We're not much different, maybe it's different on campus because there's not all- thing being saved, but the people who come to the shows are no different because they like our music," he said. "It doesn't matter where we play in the world."

While Death Cab for Cutie will be the headline act Monday, they bring along opening act Matt Costa, a friend of the band—the singer/guitarist Matt Costa. When Costa, of Huntington Beach, got the call that told him he was going to be opening for Death Cab for Cutie a week ago, he recalled his excitement.

"A fan of those guys, I've been inspired by those guys so it was great knowing I was going to open up for them," Costa said.

Although much of his music is influenced by his life growing up skateboarding in southern California, Costa's sophomore album "Unfamiliar Places" came to him during some unusual downtime. He wrote the album while recovering from a broken leg. "During that period, I had a lot of time to write," he said. "It wasn't for my broken leg, my albums would have been way different." After his most recent tour with the band Crystal Costa said he's back to writing at times performing at some local shows in Los Angeles before he was asked to join Death Cab for Cutie at Cal Poly. Death Cab for Cutie got together a decade ago in Bellingham, Washington. The four-person band has since toured the world. Currently they are coming off of shows in Canada and heading down the West coast to San Luis Obispo. Trips to Europe will follow this act, and the tour will finally end back in the States.

Tickets are available on Vallitix.com. For more information, contact Associated Students Inc.
The New York Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0925

Across
1  Fifth stroke, often
5  Tatter
8  (Shakespeare’s offering)
14  Tony winner on
’NYPD Blue’
15  Home of the
Cheesemakers
16  Not necessarily
rejecting
17  Draws
19  Edberg who won
2 Wimbledons
20  1972 musical
’Summer Nights’
21  One on it may
be out of it
23  Sorority snack
25  Wise one
26  Graduate
27  Board with a
suitcase
28  Graduate
29  Villainess in
“The Good
Mother”
30  French
32  Sole support
33  Weight
34  Shoeboy’s
w
37  Head lines, in
brief?
41  Tart in the Red
Sex Hall of
Fame
42  Angliogn sight
44  Pollen holder
45  The Tigers of the
Southeastern
Conference
46  Jumps
47  Porter, e.g.
48  Pest eradicator
49  Draws
50  “Isn’t ___ bit like
you and me?”
51  TV’s “Doctor Who”
52  Having steam
55  W.W. II blockade
breaker, for short
56  What fools do.
57  A Bobbsey twin
58  It’s news in
France
61  This may be
an adage
62  (Beatles lyric)
63  It’s news in
Persia

Down
1  By means of
2  “What’s the
matter?”
3  Middle X, s
4  Draw
5  Rather smelly
ears, say
6  “What’s the
thing?”
7  Hardly in
the Greek’
8  Like some poles;
9  Says ___ in
French

For answers, call 1-800-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a
credit card, 1-800-614-5554.

Solution, tips, and computer program at
nytimes.com/crosswords ($39.95 a year)

Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum.

Sushi Restaurant Has New Ownership

By Haruki Sushi

Sustainability

Haruki has the best prices
in town and is a great place
for students. The chef at
Haruki is also very
creative. James Lie, a
TVSDFC Culinary
master sushi chef with 35
years of experience in the
art of sushi making, has served
in most restaurants in San
Diego, London, and known

Mus and Bicks

Sushi Restaurant Has New Ownership

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Joe Elliot was starting to make a certain Muppet feel a little uncomfortable.
The million dollar political moments liberals have been waiting for

By Stephanie England

Every week John McCain creates a new tabloid exposé on Barack Obama. The negative politics practiced by the Country First camp could be a sign that McCain's Ricky Strait Talk Express is now churning down a dark dumpster alley, scavenging for garbage designed to scare the American people away from Obama.

I think it's an interesting but fallacious story they're creating. Last week they set the foundation for the ridiculous suspicion that Obama might be a terrorist—or at least a conduit for terrorists—and this week they tried to build real conflict by using the terms "extreme leftist," "socialist," and "spread the wealth." The public's confidence in Barack Obama's ability to lead as commander-in-chief broke away in a 52 to 42 percent lead as John McCain in an NBC/Ball Street Journal poll Tuesday. For the first time, Obama has pulled away from McCain in double digits — exactly 10 percent — in terms of confidence in his abilities. With only 12 more days to go in this election, public opinion is irrevocable.

Meanwhile, the media is still entertained by Sarah Palin's suggestion that Obama behaves America is so "imperfect" that he will lead as commander-in-chief broken away in a 52 to 42 percent lead as John McCain in an NBC/Ball Street Journal poll Tuesday. For the first time, Obama has pulled away from McCain in double digits — exactly 10 percent — in terms of confidence in his abilities. With only 12 more days to go in this election, public opinion is irrevocable.

I want to know if, in the mouse maze of Sarah Palin's mind, there are in fact anti-American pockets of America, and if so, how does Palin define "anti-America"? How does Palin define "pro-America," for that matter? Who knows what furry little rodents are running amuck behind those designer glasses?

Who knew that Palin's statements on pro-Americanism would lead to a million dollar moment? Allow me to explain. Friday evening Michele Bachmann, a Republican Representative from Minnesota, found herself on "Handball," and suddenly Chris Matthews followed up on a statement Bachmann had made that Barack Obama holds anti-American views, but she also suspected anti-American beliefs were held by many elected officials who happen to be liberal.

"What I would say is that the news media should do a penetrating expose and take a look," she said. "I wish they would. I wish the news media would take a great look at the views of people in Congress and find out, are they pro-America or anti-America?"

Bachmann's cell phone rang during the Matthews interview; could it have been her campaign manager on the other end shouting, "Aah! Just shut up! Shut up now!"

Because every minute that slave ball bounced off the pins in her mind was worth $100,000 to her Democratic foe Elwyn Tinklenberg in Minnesota. After all was said, Tinklenberg, previously a nobody and a long shot to win in the Minnesota Congressional race, was catapulted to the top of the polls and given nearly a million dollars to win the battle between them.

The urgency Minnesotan and Americans expressed through their campaign contributions to Tinklenberg revealed a lot of insight into America's thoughts on "McPalin's" allegations against Obama, and thus on the past few weeks of the election. Bachmann communicated the fear of Obama that McCain is attempting to instill in the public, and the repulsion felt in Americans for her nearly superstitious commentary is the noteworthiness of her statements.

Apparently, all we Democrats have to do to win the election is let the Republicans sink their own boat and offer a reasonable platform for the smart ones who jump ship.
Prop 2 threatens California agriculture

There is one thing that Oprah, Ellen and I have in common: we are all talking about California Proposition 2. However, as a conservationist and an agriculturalist I have completely different issues on the take. And given the public safety and economic effects of this provision, Proposition 2 warrants a much closer inspection.

Proposition 2 is a California ballot measure that would take effect in 2013 and seeks to eliminate gestation crates from our swine farming practices. While this measure seems like a step in the right direction, the potential negative affect it could have on the livestock sector should be thoroughly studied before going forward.

The Animal Justice Coalition, a group of people that believe we are more than just food, opposes this measure. While I respect the opinion of those people, we must look at the facts.

Swine gestation crates are a topic I have personal experience with. As a child I raised 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) livestock, specifically pigs. I know firsthand how swine gestation crates are used to promote humane and ethical farming practices.

When pigs are housed in gestation crates they can move about with limited room for movement. This allows pigs to avoid injury and illness that could occur in overcrowded situations, which are prevalent in open barns.

For most people, the idea of swine gestation crates may not be entirely comfortable. I, along with my co-agriculturalists, have a completely different take on this issue. And given the public safety and economic effects of this provision, Proposition 2 warrants a much closer inspection.

Currently no commercial swine production will be decreased or eliminated. There are actually replacement dairy calves. When they reach the age of maturity they will be replaced. This means that even if Prop 2 passes, there will still be replacements for the pigs that do not have gestation crates.

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Support our team, don’t heckle the opposition

I would like to thank the many thousands of Cal Poly students who attended last Friday night’s soccer match against UC Santa Barbara. All 11,000 people who attended the match and most were on their feet singing and cheering for the entire match and from the opening minute both teams participated with immense desire, passion and at full speed. It was an awesome sight.

Unfortunately, a few fans acted inappropriately and threw bottles onto the field. This was very disappointing to me personally, as I have such great pride in our supporters. Being a passionate, vocal Mustang supporter is great but we also have to realize that negative heckling, throwing things onto the field and generally not supporting the team is not how we want to act as supporters. We have to support the team in our form of our team and enjoy the spirit of the competition. There are many California families and children that also attend the games so we want to set a good example for them as well.

As we consider Prop 2, a distinction needs to be made between animal rights and animal welfare. Most of the proponents of the measure believe animals have the same feelings and cognition as humans do and that they therefore deserve the same rights as humans. These are the same radicals who compare swine gestation crates to human rights atrocities in a 2003 PETA campaign.

Now don’t get me wrong. I think that humans should be treated humanely and with respect. However, as callous as this may seem, hogs, sheep, cattle, dairy cows, chickens and other livestock are tools that we use to sustain our lives. They are not companion animals like cats or dogs, nor are they working animals like horses and mules. They are not and should not be placed on the same social, ethical, emotional, or philosophical plane of existence. They are animals, and frankly we ought to be conscious of our decisions, but consciousness does not equal disuse.

Prop 2 is a bad law and is fundamentally flawed. Proposition 2 allows farmers to have pigs that are moved less than seven to eight times per week in the 70s by only once per week. If the end result is a generation where we are moving our pigs in a battery cage with low intensity lighting, actually reduces the number of living beings. So which is better? A slightly more confined bird that is well-fed for a dead bird? I’ll let you decide.

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Hamels, Utley lead Phillies over Rays in opener

Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Cole Hamels, Chase Utley and the rest of the Philadelphia Phillies shook off a week’s worth of waiting and turned it into a World Series win.

Hamels escaped trouble to win his fourth postseason start, Utley hit a two-run homer in the first inning and the defending champion Philadelphia Phillies shook off a week’s worth of waiting and turned it into their first game in baseball’s ultimate event, managing just five hits.

The two-time defending champion Phillies stopped in their first game in baseball’s ultimate event, managing just five hits. The Phillies showed little evidence but went 0-for-13 with runners in scoring position; their other run even scored on an out, an RBI grounder by Carlos Ruiz.

Philadelphia, seeking the city’s first World Series crown since 1980, had six days off after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers for the NL pennant, but the Rays didn’t start their ownnl Pennant.”

The Rays also won the opener in 1988 against Kansas City, starting them to their only title since winning play in 2002. Philadelphia also started the Series with wins in 1915 and 1950, but dropped the first game in 1950 and 1993.

After 10 seasons as a doormat, the Rays became the surprise of baseball, toppling the defending champion Red Sox and the Yankees to win the AL East, then beating the White Sox and Boston in the playoffs. The crowd of 40,783 at the Trop wasn’t given much to cheer about, though, with Crawford homering in the fourth and Akinori Iwamura hitting an RBI double in the fifth. The Rays took a 1-0 lead in the second following two singles, and Victorino followed with a foul ball into the right-field seats.

The Philadelphia had a chance to pad the lead in the sixth following two walks, but center fielder B.J. Upton made a nifty one-hop throw to the plate on Rogers’ fly to short center, and catcher Dioner Navarro applied the tag on Shane Victorino for the inning-ending double.

Rays manager Joe Maddon had the bases loaded with one out in the third on two singles around a walk. But third baseman Pedro Feliz went to his left for an impressive pickup on Upton’s grounder and started an inning-ending 5-4-3 double play.

Vazquez hit an RBI grounder in the fourth following Victorino’s leadoff single, but Crawford’s homer on a hanging breaking ball cut the lead to a 3-1 in the bottom half, giving Rays fans a reason to ring those bells. As he rounded the bases, lights flashed on the three center field carrels that ring the stadium under the roof of the quirky dome.

Iwamura reached down for an outside 2-2 pitch and drove one into the right-field seats, becoming the 34th player to homer in his first Series at bat.

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Biking
continued from page 16

Top competitors like Greg Mimura, Kathy Pruett, Eric Carter and Brian Lopes are among the many that will compete for a $100,000 payout and keys to a new Jeep Grand Cherokee.

This year's STRAIGHT, coming from two races in New Jersey and Utah, has partnered with Eco-Act to create a Green Your Scene Eco-Festival, which will offer educational and interactive features aimed at raising environmental consciousness and providing local-level solutions.

"It costs a pretty wide net for somebody just looking for something fun to do on the weekend," Cochran said. "If they're only interested in sports, we've got that. We've got the music, and if they're interested in environmental awareness, this event offers that as well."

Many local vendors will also be in attendance to showcase their environmentally friendly innovations.

Competition begins on a course (designed by Carter) at the base of Madonna Mountain at 2:30 p.m. Friday with an open qualifier, time-trail race. The dual slalom race will follow Saturday.

Because the event is not sanctioned by the National Off-road Bicycle Association, an annual license is not required. However, participation in the qualifier is restricted to professional and semi-professional riders, although Cochran said it will be open to athletes from all over California. Amateur riders will also have an opportunity to contend in the bill climb competition.

"This is a great opportunity for amateur athletes to show their stuff," Cochran said.

Out of the 75 men and 25 women who qualify in the open qualifier, the fastest times will earn entry into the dual slalom championship, where they will compete against the champions from the previous two events. Prizes put up by event sponsors for the taking Saturday will include the keys to a brand-new Jeep and $10,000.

Two free concerts will be part of the all-inclusive, with a noon concert by the Sunshine Brothers. Folk-pop singer Brett Dennen, who Rolling Stone named as one of "10 Artists to Watch" in 2007, will wrap up the event from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Cochran expects a large showing for this year's event, which he said will cater to different audiences.

"We're talking about thousands of people coming for the several events — either for the music or to go green," he said.

Alexi Hiney, expo manager at the Madonna Inn, said that the attendance should be larger than in recent years.

"This is a good location in terms of the weather, population, the facilities available and the age base," she said. "This is the first year we've had the event while Cal Poly is in session, so the college demographic may be higher."

In addition to other guest giveaways slated for Saturday, Madonna Inn staff will be handing out free tri-tip sandwiches to the first 500 visitors to the expo site.

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could've been, but we keep on getting better every day."

The Matadors (6-15, 1-7) certainly have no shortage of things to work on. They enter Friday's match lost in the Big West in wire, hitting percentage (.166) and digs per game (12.1).

"I'm sure California Northridge is coming off a 3-1 win Saturday over Pacific — its first home win of the season — and is led by junior outside hitter Angela Hupp, who earned an All-Big West honorable mention last season and averages a team-best 2.63 kills per set," Atherstone said that the Mustangs (11-7, 6-5), now alone atop the conference standings, shouldn't be overly concerned with adapting to possible challenges posed by Big West foes, much less spending time admiring their own individual milestones.

"We just really need to focus on playing our game," she said.

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Deloitte
Atherstone, Houston on record pace

Donovan Aird  
SPORTS EDITORS

At a recent Cal Poly women's volleyball practice, Mustangs associate head coach Mike Johnson decided to do something that hasn't worked out too well for many people: challenge Kylie Atherstone.

"One of our big, powerful coaches — coach Johnson — ripped a ball at her in practice," Cal Poly head coach Jon Stevenson said. "We want to get those girls up to a speed that is at a rate as good or better than they'll ever face in an actual match. So here comes Mike hitting this ball, a ball she would normally bail out on because it's coming fast."

Atherstone, a senior opposite for the Mustangs, showed the kind of presence that made her an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American last year.

"She hung in there and dug the ball," Stevenson said. "And I thought, 'Wow.' "

Atherstone's tendency to impress has been in the making not only for four seasons, but for 4,000 swings. She became just the second player in the 30-year history of the program to eclipse 4,000 career hitting attempts on her way to a team-high 17 kills Saturday night in a 3-1 win over UC Irvine.

Atherstone, in her bid to become the first three-time Big West Conference Player of the Year since U.S. Olympian Misty May, enters Friday's 7 p.m. match against Cal State Northridge in Mott Gym just three aces away from breaking the school's career record of 167.

She's not the only Mustang to be rewriting the school's record book, though.

Two nights prior to Atherstone's 4,000th hitting attempt, senior middle blocker Jaclyn Houston became the program's all-time block assist leader during a sweep of UC Santa Barbara when she surpassed the previous standard of 499.

In spite of the history, Atherstone said, the Mustangs were too caught up in the moment to be concerned with the numbers.

"I didn't even hear it when (the PA announcer) said it," she said. "I didn't find out until the end of the game. We don't really think about that too much. It's the same thing with Jaclyn. Of course, it's fun to be recognized but it's not something we're thinking about right now."

The two-time defending Big West champion Mustangs had plenty to think about after dropping out of the AVCA top 25 poll (for the first time in more than two years) following a five-set loss to Long Beach State on Oct. 10 — just their third loss over their past 35 conference contests.

It came after an ambitious preseason, in which five of Cal Poly's six defeats came at the hands of teams ranked in the top 12.

"We had a really tough preseason and that got our spirits down a little bit," Atherstone said. "Getting into conference play, we're just making sure we keep up our intensity."

Stevenson said that dipped a bit against UC Irvine, which followed a second-set win by getting out to a 21-18 third-set lead before a Cal Poly rally.

"You'd think we'd come in and be guns blazing, and we were just flat," Stevenson said. "We need to serve better, we need to pass better and be more aggressive."

After committing 17 serving errors in the loss to the 49ers, the Mustangs totaled a combined 20 over their past two matches.

"We've been working on serving a lot," Atherstone said. "It hasn't been as good as it see Volleyball, page 15