Media influence on election up for debate

Alisha Axsom

“Does the media really influence votes? Find out at the next Associated Students Inc. True Life Series event on Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.”

Cliff Kincaid, editor of conservative watchdog organization Accuracy in the Media, and Norman Solomon, founder and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a national association of policy researchers and analysts, will debate the topic, “Does the media sway votes?”

“The True Life series is really just an event that provides students with the information and education to make up their own minds about controversial topics,” said ASI Program Coordinator Michelle Curro. “It’s a way to provide students with an education without being biased one way or another.”

The True Life Series happens once a quarter and Curro said they wanted to do something related to the election for fall. With no way to get the actual presidential candidates on campus for a debate, and with the popularity of shows like “Saturday Night Live,” Curro said ASI decided on a media debate.

“We wanted to see if there is a debate out there that talks about the effect of the media and do they sway votes?” she said.

They called a production company that gave ASI the names of two people, Kincaid and Solomon, who were touring college campuses debating that very topic. Neither man is a journalist, however, which may seem strange given the subject.

“We try to choose the two people who have the most experience in the topic and they happen...
Compost
continued from page 1

stream it would be fined $600,000, equal to the safety of a full-time lecturer. He said he’d rather keep a lecturer than the program.

"This is a safe approach for the college. This is temporary and there is no controversy here," Wehner said.

Wehner and Thulin say they decided to relocate the compost without looking at research or testing samples. In May 2008, Timothy Belzaker, project designer and implementer of the project, published a report that said the compost was tested for and passed pathogens and heavy metal standards from July to December 2007. He provided testing in compliance with the U.S. Composting Council's Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC) and found safe levels of Fecal coliforms (feces) and Salmonella in October 2007. In another test in March 2007, pathogens passed for Fecal coliform but not Salmonella.

Wehner and Thulin said that they did not read the report but felt that if there was a fine, the College of Agriculture would have to pay it, not the Integrated Waste Management.

"Truly our intent was to put in a demonstration project on how to do it and provide research," Com said.

"We did some pathogen work, but when it comes down to it, it’s Cal Poly’s property and it’s their decision.

According to the report, the yearly gross income from the sale of bagged compost without tipping fees was estimated around $18,595.

Douglas said that without the food waste compost the Organic Farm will now have to buy the compost.

The removal of the compost impacts another campus program too. Director of campus dining, Alan Cohran, said he was told on Oct. 15 to discontinue putting food waste into the compost. Instead, 1,800 pounds of waste a day goes directly in the trash.

"We were capable of increasing flow (to compost) but we asked to hold it," Cohran said. "It’s essential to proceed in proper fashions and we are excited for the future of composting.”

Cal Poly trucks and a hired company hauled the remaining sites from Chemos Creek Farm off U.S. Highway 1 while other compost was taken to field 34 near the dairy units on campus.

Wehner and Thulin said that the piles were fully decomposed, but Torres claims that the piles taken from the site had not fully completed the "curing process cycle", meaning the compost was not ready to go into the ground since it normally takes about 20 weeks to normally decompose.

The food waste compost won the Innovative Waste Reduction award last summer at the seventh annual UC CSMC Sustainability Conference. Cal Poly shared the honor with the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Program who helped start the program in 2006 by providing at least 10,000 dollars to start up the composting. They also took part in research of the project.

Debate
continued from page 1
to be Chell Kincaid and Norman Solomon."

"We feel pretty confident that Kincaid and Solomon are going to be able to debate both sides incredibly accurately," AIU tried to bring in Cal Poly journalism professors to moderate the debate but it didn’t work out, she said.

Due to increased student involvement in politics, Carro and students should definitely attend, especially those who are casting their vote on Nov. 4 based on what they hear in the media.

"Students should figure out for themselves if what they are voting on is really what’s going on, if it’s just what they’ve heard in the media there might be a different spin on it," Carro said. "When you’re voting, you really want to make sure that it’s an educated decision."

Journalism senior Tom Whitmore said she probably won’t attend the debate, but she thinks the media does affect voters.

"The reason I feel so strongly that they do (way voters) is because of my public relations background," she said. "Anyone can see that marketing works. I can see the inside part (of public relations) and how much we use marketing to our advantage to sell a product."

"I can see Obama everywhere, advertised everywhere," she continued. "I can see Obama everywhere on Facebook because his campaign is doing such a good job of marketing him. Why wouldn’t people market politics if they market everything else?"
Feds disrupt alleged plot targeting Obama

Two white supremacists allegedly plotted to go on a national killing spree, shooting and decapitating black people and ultimately targeting Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, federal authorities said Monday.

In all, the two men whom officials described as neo-Nazi skinheads planned to kill 88 people — 14 by beheading, according to documents unsealed in U.S. District Court in Jackson, Tenn. The numbers 88 and 14 are symbolic in the white supremacist community.

The spree, which initially targeted an unidentified predominantly African-American school, was to end with the two men driving toward Obama, "shooting at him from the windows," the documents show.

"Both individuals stated they would see Plots, page 4
plot
continued from page 3
dress in all-white tuxedos and wear top hats during the assassination attempt, the court complaint states. "Both individuals further stated they knew they would and were willing to die during this attempt."
An Obama spokeswoman traveling with the president in Pennsylvania had no immediate comment.
Sheriff deputies in Crockett Coun-
ty, arrested the two suspects — Daniel Cowart, 20, of Bellis, Tenn.; and Paul Schlesselman 18, of Helena-West Helena, Ark. — Oct. 22 on unspecified charges. "Once we arrested the defen-
sants and suspected they had violated federal law, we immediately contacted federal authorities," said Crockett County Sheriff Tonyaylor.
The two were charged by federal authorities Monday with possessing an unregistered firearm, conspiring to steal firearms from a federally licensed gun dealer, and threatening a candidate for public office.
COWART and Schlesselman were be-
ing held without bond. Agents seized a rifle, a sawed-off shotgun and three pistols from the men when they were arrested. Authorities alleged the two men had been preparing to break into a gun shop to steal more.
Jasper Taylor, city attorney in Bells, said Cowart was arrested Wednesday. He was held for a few days in Bells, then moved over the weekend to an
other facility. Taylor said Cowart lived with his grandparents in a southern, rural part of the county, Taylor said, adding that Cowart apparently never gradu-
ed from high school. He moved away, possibly to Arkansas or Texas, then re-
turned over the summer, Taylor said.
Attorney Joe Boyd, who has been hired to represent Cowart, said in a written statement that he was investig-
ating the charges against his client and would have no further comment. Messages left on two telephone num-
ers listed under Cowart's name were not immediately returned.
No telephone number for Schlessel-
man in Helena-West Helena could be found immediately.
The court documents say the two men met about a month ago on the Internet and found common ground in their shared "white power" and "skindhead" philosophy. "We must secure the existence of our people and for future for white children" and to the eighth letter of the alphabet, H. Two
numbers 14 and 88 are sym-
bol in skindhead culture, referring to a 14-word phrase attributed to an im-
prisoned white supremacist; "We must deal with the existence of our people and have the special ses-
suspect and have the Legislature deal with this crime as quickly as possible because it's much bigger than we knew just a month ago," he said after meeting with legisla-
tive leaders.
SAN DIEGO • • • Pros-
cutors argue that a man should be convicted of murder for killing a professional surfer in La Jolla, but the man's defense attorney says the fatal punch was thrown in self-defense.
Prosecutors said in opening state-
ments Monday that 22-year-
old Seth Crawford and four other men went to the home of Emery Kaunui one night in May 2007 to get revenge for a previous con-
frontation at a bar.

State

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Painting a gloomy picture of California's finances, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Monday that the revenue shortfall in the state's five-week-old budget has grown to more than $3 billion.
He said he would call the lame-
duck Legislature into special ses-
ion immediately after the Nov. 4
election to find a way to close the
gap, deal with the state's housing
crisis and stimulate the economy.
"I think it's very important
that right after the election that we go and have the special ses-
ion and have the Legislature deal with this crisis as quickly as possible because it's much bigger than we knew just a month ago," he said after meeting with legisla-
tive leaders.

WASHINGTON • • •
Ted Stevens, a pillar of the Senate for 40 years and the face of Alaska politics almost since statehood, was convicted of a seven-felony string of corruption charges Monday — found guilty of accepting a banquet of home renovations and fancy trimmings from an oil executive and then lying about it.
Unbowed, even defiant, Stevens accused prosecutors of blatant mis-
conduct and said, "I will fight this
injustice with every ounce of
energy I have." Stevens says he will stay in the race for his seat against
Democrat Mark Begich for Nov. 4
conviction and said, "I will fight this
ingrace with every ounce of
energy I have." Stevens says he will
stay in the race for his seat against

International

SUUKARYEHI, Syria (AP) — A cross-border raid by U.S.
special forces killed the al-Qaida-
linked head of a Syrian network that smuggled fighters, weapons and cash into Iraq, an Ameri-
can counterterrorism official said Monday.
Blood stained the earth in this border village as anguished Syr-
ians buried relatives they said were killed in the U.S. helicopter attack.
Sunday. Some shouted anti-Ameri-
can slogans and carried banners reading "Down with Bush and the
American enemy."

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Fu-

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Women's Soccer vs. UC Irvine
Friday, Oct. 31st - 7 p.m.
Alex G. Spanos Stadium
Fright Night with Mustang Women's Soccer - Fans with the best costumes will be given a half-price ticket and some great prizes courtesy of Mustang Athletics.

Men's and Women's Soccer Doubleheader
Sunday, Nov. 2nd
Women vs. Long Beach State
Men vs. UC Davis, 2:30 p.m.
Alex G. Spanos Stadium

 Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students for all home Athletic events.

mustangdaily.com
In a few words, "TheGirl With the Dragon Tattoo," by Stieg Larsson can be described as unsettling, detailed, and... amazing. Murder mysteries are not exactly my forte, but after seeing the large display at the book store dubbing the novel an official Barnes & Noble Recommend, I had to give in and found myself setting forth on a twisted intricate tale of a missing girl, journalist and a pulp backer due that bring her story into the light after decades of injustice.

Originally printed in Swedish, the title, "Men Som Ha I late Women," literally translates to, "Men Who Hate Women." Needless to say, this is a constant theme throughout the novel, as it centers more or less around a series of brutal murders in Sweden in the 1940s though the 1960s.

Written quite journalistically, this novel does not survive on its beautiful writing or personal prose. Instead, Larsson states fact after fact, rather bluntly and forces the reader to take note. At times I felt as though I was reading a rough documentation of a series of happenings, rather than a novel. I was at first turned off by the lack of character development, and after reading the entire work, am still not sure if I was truly able to connect with any of the characters by the end. I wanted to know more of their insights and feelings as the novel progressed. They remained a bit one-dimensional for my liking. I will however, in defense of one hell of a mystery, say that this is a translation, and I would assume that much of the personal touches Larsson may have intended for the reader were left somewhere in limbo from Swedish to English.

The issue in the novel turned out to be far more than a simple who-dunnit with so many family trees and timelines to keep straight you might think you are reading a history book. The book begins with a slow start, with just enough action to keep you wondering where Larsson is going. After the third chapter, though, I was sufficiently engrossed in the sometimes horrific portrait that is the mystery of Harriet Vanger's disappearance.

Mikael Blomkvist, a journalist and publisher of Millennium magazine, finds himself on the losing side of a libel case involving Swedish industrialist, Hans-Erik Wenstrom. Without the resources to prove his innocence, Blomkvist finds himself in a predicament any journalist, or human being for that matter, would dread. Feeling exiled from his livelihood, he agrees to a seemingly random offer to move to the small island of Hedby to write the family portrait of the well-to-do Vangers. Of course, this is only the surface of the issue, with the real job being an uncovering a cold-case disappearance of then 16-year-old, Harriet Vanger.

Immediately seizing that the assignment is impossible, Blomkvist agrees to try, knowing that at the end of his one year "sentence," he will be paid by the withering Henrik Vanger, who had dedicated his life to cracking the mystery, regardless of whether the job is completed or not. Vanger also promises him something he cannot refuse in reward for his efforts that could solve his libel upset.

What Blomkvist did not anticipate when accepting the terms was that he himself would become extremely engaged in the sordid mix up of violence and endless question marks. In possibly a little too deep, he eventually teams up with unexpected asocial Lisbeth Salander, punk-Goth computer hacker extraordinary who, in her own right, guides and owns the story.

I found myself more interested in her tale than the actual mystery overall, and as a character, I think she was well described and quite deep. Her story is an unfortunate one, and she is frustrating to read about at times. Brilliant but bothered, it is Salander that takes this story to the next level for me.

This book was addicting early on. If I was not reading it, I wanted to be reading it. I had to know what was coming next and I suppose that is a sure sign of a good, engrossing novel. Many times I sat back and marveled at the intricacy of the details. Between dates, times, places and the endless list of Vangers, it was unbelievable that Larsson could keep it all straight himself. At 465 pages, I would not recommend this if you are in search of a light "beach-read" of sorts. Oh no, reader beware, this novel is a full time commitment. But once you get past the obligatory first 100 pages, you will have a hard time putting it down and an even harder time forgetting it. It was a perfect combination of chilling, entrancing and mind spinning.

I also found out after I was well into my reading, that Larson had written three novels at the time of his death in Jan 2004, with this being the first of the "Millennium Trilogy." Dare I say, I am a little excited to think the mystery is not yet concluded.

Next week's book is "Karma and Other Stories," by Rashi Reddi.
Civil trial of Keanu Reeves begins in LA

Anthony McCartney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Just like “The Matrix,” jurors in a civil trial featuring Keanu Reeves may have to wade through several versions of reality.

A jury was selected Monday to hear the case, which stems from a March 2007 incident in which a paparazzo claims he was seriously injured while shooting photos of Reeves behind the wheel of his Porsche.

A lawyer for Alison Silva contends Reeves struck the photographer with his car, causing him to fall to the ground. But Reeves’ attorney, Alfred Gertsh, told the panel that the photographer repeatedly changed his story depending on whether he was talking to paramedics, a deputy or doctors.

“My name, during the course of that night, has told at least five different versions of what happened,” Gertsh said during opening statements.

Reeves, the star of action flicks such as “Speed” and the upcoming remake of “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” sat quietly in the courtroom. He spoke only to jurors with “good morning.”

The actor could spend up to three hours on the witness stand Tuesday, when he is expected to testify about his recollection of the incident.

In opening statements, Gertsh said Reeves saw Silva trip over his own feet, and that the actor stopped to help him after the fall.

Reeves had gone to a residential area about 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles to visit a family member in March 2007. Gertsh said Silva had followed him after spotting the actor driving his car on Sunset Boulevard and wanted until he was leaving, Gertsh said.

Silva shot several photographs of Reeves walking down the street and continued to shoot the actor while he was behind the wheel of his car and trying to pull out of a parking space.

“His intent, Joseph Farzan, told jurors that Reeves struck the photographer’s knee with his car and continued rolling until he fell to the ground. Reeves seriously injured Silva’s wrist and required surgery that left him with reduced strength and flexibility, Farzan said.

He said evidence will show that Reeves had his head down when the accident occurred. The trial will likely feature testimony from several doctors describing the damage to Silva’s wrist.

Both sides acknowledge the paparazzo injured his wrist years earlier, but Farzan contended Monday that the injury was made significantly worse by the fall. A jury selection had a distinctive Hollywood flat, with several prospective jurors working in the film industry.

One woman who listed her occupation as “actress” said she knew people who worked with Reeves, who smiled slightly as she spoke.

One man who said he was once the voice of Bugs Bunny did an impromptu impression, causing laughter in the courtroom.

Another man who said he hadn’t seen a movie theater in 30 years said a friend gave him one of Reeves’ movies with special effects, possibly describing “The Matrix.” In the film, Reeves’ character joins a war waged on multiple planes of reality.

Whatever the film, the plot threw the man, who said, “Frankly, I didn’t understand it.”

Those three potential jurors were dismissed, along with an entertainment attorney and others who expressed a negative view of the paparazzo.

Many were familiar with his film roles, and commented on his acting ability. Those who remained on the panel include a law office clerk who described her firm’s celebrity clients as “just files,” an animator for “The Simpsons” and a government worker who serves as a liaison between film studios and public officials.

In R. rating is well-deserved for the subject matter, Smith’s trademark profanity, and nudity involving some of the co-stars, including Mews and porn star Katie Morgan.

The movie initially had an adults-only NC-17 rating, though Smith received an R on appeal.

The title alone has proven a turnoff. Some newspapers, TV stations and other outlets have rejected “Zack and Miri” ads because of the word “Porno.”

Yet the film has a sweetness beneath the crudity that could pack in bigger crowds than Smith normally draws. Reeves figured that if “Pineapple Express” could become a hit despite its dark themes and bloody gunplay, “Zack and Miri” had a chance.

“In Pineapple Express, we sell drugs to 12-year-olds and we kill dozens of people,” Reeves said. “A lot of people who put off by drugs and violence, but this at its core is a romantic comedy that tradition-
**"Saw V" proves a cut below the rest**

Tony Lewis

The "Saw" franchise has always centered on one question: How much blood would you shed to stay alive? But with its fifth installment now in theaters, the bigger question these days is "How much money will audiences continue to shed to keep a dying series alive?"

Ever since Darren Lynn Bousman ("Saw II-IV") took over the helm from original director James Wan ("Death Sentence"), the series has continued to disconnect itself from its innovative beginnings on the way to becoming blood-splattered trash reminiscent of the later "Friday the 13th" and "A Nightmare on Elm Street" sequels. "Saw V" is no exception, as it forgoes all originality in favor of a sloppy storyline that only serves as a way to tie up the loose ends from the previous films.

Although producers made the right decision to replace Bousman as a way of breathing new life into the franchise, they clearly made the wrong choice in choosing David Hackl, a production designer for the past three films with no previous directing experience. Hackl does not revert to the series' creative roots but instead takes this opportunity to reflect on his past visual work. While the movie does feature one of the most inventive Jigsaw traps to date, and slightly better acting than in the past, these improvements are heavily overshadowed by the film's horrendous main plot thread.

The film picks up from where "Saw IV" last left off with Special Agent Peter Strahm (Scott Patterson, "Gladiator Gulch") left alive to put the pieces together as to who is the last remaining apprentice of Jigsaw (Tobin Bell, "Saw IV"). Meanwhile, Detective Mark Hoffman (Costas Mandylor, "Beowulf"), who secretly revealed himself as Jigsaw's apprentice in the last film, is starting up his master's last wish, a trap where five seemingly unconnected people face a gruesome lesson on teamwork.

When putting together a sequel, it is always to the director's advantage to create a movie that has the ability to stand on its own. One of the major drawbacks associated with the third and fourth "Saw" films was that, unlike the first two movies, these films overlapped each other and only made sense if you had seen both of them. Unfortunately, this film requires you to be familiar with all of the previous films in order to follow the plot. The worst part, though, is that this film is not even necessary to begin with; all the film does is reveal some additional background that is neither interesting nor significant.

This franchise has often been categorized under the sub-genre of "torture porn" for the excessive amount of torture, mutilation, nudity and sadism that comes with it. Although the series has notoriously become excessively gorier with each new installment, this film actually appears as if some of the needless brutality has been turned down a notch. However, it is difficult to tell whether this reduction was an intelligent, conscious decision by the producers or just an illusion that comes as a result of the movie including an abundance of previously seen torture montages that audiences have already been desensitized to.

Regardless of whether the grisly violence has been toned down or not, this film still lacks any real sense of terror. Blood and guts are really only frightening when fittingly used to supplement the fear in a horror film. Like many horror flicks these days, this movie uses gore solely as a gross-out element. Nowadays, audiences are only covering their eyes as a way to prevent puking, not nightmares.

While the acting performances in this film are a cut above those usually found in this franchise's low-budget casts, it does not make a noticeable difference. In all honesty, no one really goes to these films expecting spot-on portrayals of heavily developed characters anyway.

For dedicated fans of the series, "Saw V" may serve as an acceptable nostalgic trip to past films, but, for everybody else this movie will only disappoint. So, for now, audiences can only hope for a more frightening experience next Halloween when the already confirmed sixth installment will fight to keep the franchise breathing.

1 1/2 stars out of 5

---

**Palm Theatre**

Located at 817 Palm St.

Downtown near the mission

Devil's Night 2008

Scare: 7:00

Devil's Night

OCT. 30

The Crow: 7:00

9:30

Devil's Night

1:30, 4:15, 6:15, 9:15

The Crow

1:30, 4:15, 6:15, 9:15

Weekdays.

Devil's Night

1:30, 4:15, 6:15

The Crow

1:30, 4:15, 6:15

Palm Theatre

817 Palm Street downtown near the mission

805-541-5161

DEVI S E S N I G H T : Thursday

The Crow

@ 7:00 & 9:30

Devils Night: Scream

www.myspace.com/thepalmtheatre
Cal Poly is too classy for Juicy Campus

More than hurting just individual reputations, it presents an altogether ugly side of Cal Poly to the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kramer deserves praise for column

ASU President Angela Kramer deserves high praise for speaking up on Prop 8, a very controversial issue that has been polarizing the electorate. The passionate level of civic concern is evident in the large number of pro and con dogmas displayed on yard signs, bumper stickers and billboards that have popped up everywhere. The high frequency of TV ads on this dubious and unnecessary proposition is yet another surrogate metric on the fervor of campaigning from both sides.

Past ASI Presidents have typically been hesitant to take a stand and speak up on highly controversial issues. In this regard, Angela has fully lived up to the expectations that provide a credit to the campus.

Unny Menon

Biblical definition of marriage lists women as property

The number of women who have been interviewed by or written in to this paper about Prop 8, who pine for "the Biblical definition of marriage" amazes me. I think if they had actually read the sections of the Bible that deal with marriage, this really would be a bad option for women.

Consider that the women's rights movement provides a stand and speaks up on highly controversial issues. In this regard, Angela has fully lived up to any favorite Martin Luther King quotation: "The ultimate measure of a man is not what he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Interpreting it as a genderneutral proposition, Angela has fully met MLK's expectations. Angela, thank you for the well-articulated case you have presented. I for one vote with you on Prop 8.

Unny Menon

Indians and manufacturing engineer

Vote no on Prop 2

I would like to thank Ian Nachreiner for Prop 2 threatens California agriculture. There has been a lot of attention on some of the propositions for November, and rightfully so, but Prop 2 is one that I feel hasn't had much exposure whatsoever, and I feel like it is an important matter that the public needs to be aware of and educated about.

Just as Ian said, Prop 2 will most likely impact laying hens and the egg industry. If Prop 2 were to pass there would be many negative consequences including higher egg prices and a greater risk for Salmonella, which can be transmitted to eggs from the fives of laying hens.

Current housing systems, which effectively separate egg and hens from feces, would no longer be economically feasible under the new law. Prop 2 is admirable; I understand that it makes people uneasy to know the chicken's contents in your eggs, but with eggs live in cages. The fact is, though, chickens that are housed in cages have a lower mortality rate than those that are cage free. They are less exposed to parasites and have better air quality.

So I urge you to not only vote no on Prop 2, but to educate yourself on why you should vote no. Please don't allow California's agriculture practices to be determined solely by your emotions — use your intellect as well! There are many good, sound scientific reasons for why laying hens are housed in cages.

Kelly Leinbach

animal science senior
Policy of declaring at application deprives many students of new experiences

When I applied to schools my senior year of high school, my dad advised me to make a list of the pros and cons for every school I applied to. While compiling information about each college, I read many comments from students, and I came to the conclusion that there was only one negative on my list for Cal Poly: deciding my major. Students shouldn’t have to decide on their major as incoming freshmen.

At the age of 17, I didn’t have much of a clue what I wanted to do. It seemed what I deemed important in finding a school were the following: location, size of the town, what the on campus food was like, how many of my favorite shops were downtown, the distance of the school to the beach and what campus housing was like. And to think that I actually considered going to a school because it had a conjugate service for students so they didn’t have to do their laundry.

Once acceptance letters are received, starting out with a major may help or hinder your decision whether or not to attend Cal Poly. My friend was accepted as an architecture major, but after having only four to five high school drafting classes, panicked before the April 1 housing deadline and decided to consider other schools.

College is about new experiences and meeting new people in a completely different environment than you are used to. These experiences help you learn more about yourself.

The decision of choosing your major may be a little overwhelming since you don’t have to feel restricted. You may say to yourself, “If I go to Cal Poly I will be a (whatever your major is)” whereas “If I go to another school I will have a couple more years to figure out who I am and what I would like to do with my life.”

By making students choose their major prior to coming to Cal Poly, the school is forcing people that don’t have a definite idea about what they want to do for the rest of their lives to cross Cal Poly off their list. And Cal Poly only accepts a certain number of applicants for each major so students that apply for majors with higher requirements may be great students but were turned away because of the major they chose.

Elections help students get a feel for other subjects that aren’t related to their major. These are really important especially if you didn’t get to take many in high school. Fortunately, my major allowed me to take numerous classes outside its curriculum. However, doing that has also made me realize that some other majors may have suited me better.

Cal Poly’s goal to have students graduate in four years leaves little time to rethink your major. Also some of the requirements to switch majors seem almost as if they don’t want you to change your mind.

I was told last spring that I could not double major because I would be taking up two spots and it would take me much longer to graduate. Since I had taken the majority of major classes, it would be foolish to change. It seems like we are only allowed to change majors and add another when it is most convenient for the school. Starting our major classes fall of freshmen year makes it harder to switch along the way since we will have so many useless credits. Other schools are more flexible and don’t pressure you to decide until your general education courses are finished. I love Cal Poly but are you really denying me the right to learn what interests me most?

Jennifer Tiscomb is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily reporter and copy editor.

Local candidates matter: where the (bike) rubber hits the road

Local government is “where the rubber hits the road” as Barack Obama said in reference to the role of local governments in making change. While our national presidential candidates “yak in the Senate,” mayors and city council members have to fill the potholes and trim the trees, and make decisions that often directly affect the daily lives of Americans more than a national celebrity or musician.

With one week to go before election, I encourage you to take a few minutes to look at local candidates. If you’re new enough, I think you’ll arrive at the same decision the Empower Poly Coalition did that Jan Marx should once again serve on San Luis Obispo’s City Council.

But before I tell you about Jan’s plan for San Luis Obispo and why she deserves your support, I want to address something we’ve been hearing an awful lot about lately: the youth vote.

Because as much as politicians like to talk about how we are the country’s future, it is rare to find a candidate who has an actual track record of supporting an issue important to young voters, let alone in a town where the students cycle in and out every four to five years. Believe me, ask around town and you’ll learn that local politicians do not have to cater to student issues because we are not a large enough voting block to decide the election.

But what if there was a local candidate whose record at a platform positively affected the lives of Cal Poly students? They would need a large number of votes from students to win, right?

This is why the Empower Poly Coalition voted to endorse Jan Marx for San Luis Obispo City Council.

Through her experience as an environmental activist, an attorney, a business owner and a former city council member, Jan has acquired a unique perspective on how to work towards sustainability at the local level.

A self-declared conservationist, both fiscally and environmentally, Jan is a quintessential politician who truly understands that our economic and ecological futures are directly connected.

And nowhere is this ideology more evident than in her championing a campaign this last year with her Rotary Club and Cal Poly students to fund the “missing link” of the new Railroad Safety Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail being built by the city parallel to California Boulevard.

As chair of the local Rotary Club’s Clean and Green Program, Jan helped raise more than $32,000 from hundreds of community members and Cal Poly parents and helped persuade the city to fund the $500-foot trail section from Cal Poly’s border to Foothill Boulevard.

When the trail is completed, a Cal Poly student will be able to safely and quickly ride from Cal Poly over the 101 (on a new bike bridge) and downtown. With long-term plans to connect this trail to the train station and other bike and pedestrian trails it is imperative that we have a leader like Jan who understands that bike trails improve local air quality, save citizens (and students) money and promote healthy living.

Another outdoor project that Jan supported was the opening of Bishop’s Peak to the public in the 90s. Much like the bike trail, Jan worked with local environmental organizations to raise community funds and persuade the city, county and state agencies to purchase, maintain and plan trails around Bishop’s Peak. As a believer in people power, Jan has a track record of using grassroots fund raising efforts to improve the city in ways that are beneficial for both residents and students.

Her connection with Cal Poly students goes beyond leading important community projects. She and her husband, a Cal Poly English professor, are neighbors to students, choosing to live in a densely populated area close to Cal Poly. She also appointed the youngest member ever, a Cal Poly student, to the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission years ago while on city council.

If elected, Jan will make smart decisions about the future of this city while always lending an ear to the voice of students. She will work to implement cutting edge renewable energy and smart growth policies, expand local bike trails and appoint more students to city commissions and advisory boards. So come Nov. 4, I encourage you to vote for Jan Marx and help give our local government the traction it needs to pedal to a sustainable future.

Chad Worth is an industrial engineering senior and former President of the Empower Poly Coalition.
Football
continued from page 12

that returned starters from last year's unit that finished behind only national champion Appalachian State in total offense.

"It became pretty apparent to us that we had prepared pretty well," Tober said. "The only thing I felt could increase our chemistry was experience. Entering the season with a group of guys already accustomed to what we do, anything was possible."

Tober, who caught six passes for 106 yards and two scores Saturday, is one of seven Mustangs who've amassed at least 200 all-purpose yards this year.

"I think we have a very unique collection of individuals,"olver said. "We all contrast and complement each other. We've got special players at every position."

Even without senior running back James Noble — the third-leading rusher in program history who's recovering from surgery on a broken left hand that sidelined him for two straight games — the Mustangs have made a mark with a total offense output of 477 yards over the past two weeks.

"We're not trying to force the ball into anybody's hands," Ellison said. "All those guys are a little bit different and they've all got their own unique styles."

Ellison pointed to ball security and blocking as areas left to fine-tune.

Two more home games, against Idaho State and North Carolina Central — which have combined for one win — will be followed by another home date, against UC Davis (which has won four straight) and a regular-season finale at Wisconsin.

Cal Poly (5-4-1) — now ranked third in the FCS coaches poll and fourth in the media's — was left with three barrels over a five-week period when Mc Calister and the Mustangs rushed for 477 yards last week.

"It was so fueling for us just to be able to play twice in a row," Tober said. "The problem was why we looked like kids in a candy store out there (against Southern Utah)."

That kind of enthusiasm has seemed to go hand-in-hand with such a relentless scoring mentality.

"Would Ellerson consider doing things down, if not to make the scoreboard look like one from Mount Everest, to steady the course, get first downs and give his defense a rest?"

"I think we're better than that," Ellison said. "I think we expect to score when we stop the ball."

SINGLETARY
continued from page 12

and that's not going to change any time soon."

While his predecessor usually wore expensive dress shirts and tailored pants to bring in television appearances, Singletary showed up in khaki cargo pants and a T-shirt, looking like a hedge fund manager and more like a drill sergeant on his day off.

Although fans still don't know whether Nolan's coaching protege can fix the 49ers (2-6) on the field, compliments for Singletary's passion and straightforward style printed in the arts section of the Mercury News.

Robin's Skincare & Waxing
Halloween Special!
Get 95 of your spray tanning and $50 of your facial waxing with your Student ID for appointments call 805.353.5013
Locally owned & operated

Beverley's HALLOWEEN HEADQUARTERS
15% off all Halloween Items (On or off campus)
Expires 10/31
876 Higuera • 805.343.6433

In the game.

He got an early jump on fixing those problems, however. At the age of 11, Davis, who has thrown 11 interceptions and fumbled 11 times in his 7 1/2 games as the team's starter, was left to fend for himself.

"You have to tell Vernon, 'That's his hilly steady ball security and game management,"' Ellison said. "When you look at J.T.'s capabilities and the arm strength and all of those things, you'd say, 'Hey, maybe that guy gives us the best chance to win.'"

"That's a little bit out of the realm of the league, there are guys that are very talented, very smart ... but they can't play quarterback," he said. "It's done a good job. He's just been inconsistent."

When you look at J.T.'s capabilities and the arm strength and all of those things, you'd say, 'Hey, maybe that guy gives us the best chance to win.'"

"That's a little bit out of the realm of the league, there are guys that are very talented, very smart ... but they can't play quarterback," he said. "It's done a good job. He's just been inconsistent.""That's a little bit out of the realm of the league, there are guys that are very talented, very smart ... but they can't play quarterback," he said. "It's done a good job. He's just been inconsistent." "That's a little bit out of the realm of the league, there are guys that are very talented, very smart ... but they can't play quarterback," he said. "It's done a good job. He's just been inconsistent."

Singletary won't lose the flavor that made him a well-paid motivational speaker during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best in the game.

"There's not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"

Singletary knows Davis possesses a measure of passion the Niners' coach showed during his playing days with the Chicago Bears, but without the mental awareness that made Singletary among the best to ever play his position.

"Vernon is not a guy who doesn't come to practice," Singletary said. "You have to tell Vernon, 'That's your teammate. He works his tail off. You don't have a problem with Vernon that way. You have a problem with who dropped the ball.'"
Mustangs getting offensive

Donovan Aird
SPORTS STAFF

Sure, there was a chill sharp enough by California stan- dards to ruffle the daries, chest-painted fans in the Alex G. Spanos Stadium student section to cover up, and enough fog to make out-of-state observers assume San Luis Obispo was no other than Los Angeles or San Francisco, not somewhere in between.

But despite elements that suggested otherwise, the Mustang's football game against Southern Utah on Saturday, October 28, 2008 had enough scoreboard updating to feel like another sport.

It wasn't just that David Fulkerson's school-record, 90-yard return of a fumble recovery in the fourth quarter mimicked a coast-to-coast steal and loop when he stepped in front of a chic in a pitch of one in a lifetime peculiarity.

By the time his touchdown turned a potentially two-possession question mark into a four-possession resolu- tion, enough had already been done to remind of bas- ketball. Rameses Barden snatched first downs out of the sky like a power forward crushing the glass. Jonathan Dally scurried around the baseline looking to rifle outlet passes and routinely found Tre'dale Tolver on the fast break. Ryan Moli and Jonei Grayson diced through clusters of defend- ers stumbling next to their crossers.

The final score was 69-41 — just four points fewer than the Cal Poly and Southern Utah men's basketball teams combined to score at Mott Gym last season.

Although the Mustangs' points were a single-game re- cord for the program since it moved to the Division I level in 1994, other numbers may be more impressive.

Dally's passing efficiency rating of 211.1 is the best in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Divi- sion I-AA), safely ahead of the runner-up 181.3 of Mont­ tana's Cole Burgquist.

Barden's 147.2 receiving yard per game are the easy- est in all of Division I.

Dally and Barden shared The Sports Network's Na- tional Offensive Player of the Week honors Monday. Perhaps most telling, the Mustangs' 44.8 points per game also lead the FCS.

That's a far cry from an offense that in 2006 failed to score more than 18 points in seven of 11 opportunities.

"We'll take (wins) any way we can get them," said Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson, an architect of Arizona's "desert swarm" defense in the early 1990s. "I can love win­ ning 69-41. I can love winning 2-0. It's an interesting year that way because it really is explosive."

It's a culmination-in-process for a triple-option scheme that way because it really is explosive."

It's a culmination-in-process for a triple-option scheme day for the program since it moved to the Division I level in the late 1990s. Four numbers may be more impressive.

Dally's passing efficiency rating of 211.1 is the best in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA), safely ahead of the runner-up 181.3 of Montana's Cole Burgquist.

Barden's 147.2 receiving yard per game are the easiest in all of Division I.

Dally and Barden shared The Sports Network's Na­ tional Offensive Player of the Week honors Monday. Perhaps most telling, the Mustangs' 44.8 points per game also lead the FCS.

That's a far cry from an offense that in 2006 failed to score more than 18 points in seven of 11 opportunities.

"We'll take (wins) any way we can get them," said Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson, an architect of Arizona's "desert swarm" defense in the early 1990s. "I can love win­ ning 69-41. I can love winning 2-0. It's an interesting year that way because it really is explosive."

It's a culmination-in-process for a triple-option scheme