Student loans harder to come by in uncertain economy

Scott Silver
MUSTANG DAILY

With the American economy seemingly on the verge of collapse, many students are becoming levy of the unstable job market that awaits them after graduation. But there is a more immediate effect that is worrying others.

Increasing economic troubles are causing students nationwide to borrow more money than ever before. Many private lenders have gone out of business thanks to the high demand and a poor job market that prevents some students from repaying their loans.

"Last year (Cal Poly students) borrowed through 76 different lenders," Cal Poly's Director of Financial Aid Lois Kelly said. "Nineteen of those lenders are now declining to make any student loans. That is a substantial number of lenders no longer in the market."

Kelly stressed that those 19 lenders only made up about 3 million of the school's 85 million in loan money over the last fiscal year but noted that there are still several lenders checking their options.

"We still have a lot of vendors who are weathering financial issues, trying to make appropriate decisions that will allow them to continue," Kelly said.

Many students have had to deal with finding a new lender, a task Kelly said is difficult to manage.

"I see the challenge for students right now is finding a lender who can be there for them for see Loans, page 2

THE ECONOMY:
A CAL POLY PERSPECTIVE
2 of a 3-PART SERIES

Media debate questions press politics

Alisha Axsom
MUSTANG DAILY

The influence of the media on voting was debated Tuesday night as the upcoming presidential election drove the conversation.

About 30 people gathered in Chumash Auditorium to hear Cliff Kincaid and Norman Solomon debate the topic, "Does the media sway votes?"

"The bottom line is our major media are in love with Barack Obama," Kincaid said. "I've never seen more one-sided coverage.

Kincaid opened his remarks by saying The New York Times and all other newspapers are biased. He mentioned how he and others at AIM call The Washington Post, "The Washington Compost." Kincaid said "didn't hide that fact" that he is a conservative, but said that based on his experience, there are few conservatives in journalism. He called the media too liberal and supportive of Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill).

"I think the media does sway votes, but it's interesting to see other people's points of view," Hoftert said.

Poly still waiting for finalized JUC deal

Camas Frank
MUSTANG DAILY

More than three months after sending a signed five-year contract to develop a new engineering program at Saudi Arabia's Jubail University College (JUC), Cal Poly still doesn't know the document's fate.

The deal, worth $5.9 million, was controversial due to the Saudi government's discrimination against women, Jews and homosexuals. Some worried that this would lead to discrimination against Cal Poly participants in the program.

However, Cal Poly signed and sent final draft after Cal Poly's negotiators felt the criticisms were addressed.

As the Mustang Daily reported on July 31, a response was expected in the week following contract's delivery on July 10.

But the response was received two months later — a vague e-mail from Saudi Arabia's Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, which oversees the JUC. The e-mail said the deal ran into unforeseen conflicts with Saudi procurement law, and that the participants would "have to resolve a few legal issues."

"The reason we signed the contract was that terms and conditions had been met that satisfied both parties, so this was kind of a shock," Susan Opava, dean of Research and Graduate Programs said.

Opava quoted the e-mail, saying, "Due to unforeseen circumstances resulting from the Saudi procurement law, we have to resolve a few legal issues. The Royal Commission shall work diligently in resolving this matter so that an association can be legally enacted accordingly."

Procurement refers to the purchase of Cal Poly’s services and expertise in establishing an engineering program. Some in the College of see JUC, page 2

see Debate, page 3
Loans

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the rest of their years as a student,” Kelly added.

One bank that still lends to students is Wells Fargo, though it acknowledges it’s having trouble accommodating both the influx of new applicants and its already high-volume of prior borrowers.

“We’re very active in serving the need for Federal stu­
dents,” said Wells Fargo spokeswoman Julie Campbell. “However, because of new laws for federal student lend­ ing,” and because other lenders have left the business or reduced their support for it, we have taken steps to ensure we can meet all of our existing customer commitments and achieve the appropriate mix of federal and private student loans.”

Not only are more stu­
dents borrowing money, but their debt level has risen dra­matically.

Over the past decade, debt levels for graduating seniors with student loans has more than doubled from $9,230 to $19,200, an increase of 108 percent which, after inflation, is a 58 percent rise according to projectstudentdebt.org.

Campbell said the bank has tightened its lending practices but will continue to loan to students at schools they feel are less risky. Currently, Cal Poly is one of those schools.

A 2002 U.S. Department of Education study done on student debts ranked Cal Poly students among those most likely to repay their debts after graduation.

Cal Poly had a 1.3 percent default rate, making it the lowest default rate in the California state university sys­tem.

“Cal Poly students have an excellent reputation for re­
paying their loans,” said Cal Poly economics professor Mi­chael Marlow. “Keeping that up is probably the best thing. It sheds a good light on our students.”

Marlow, who worked for five years in the U.S. Treasury Department, thinks that growing interest rates present an­other problem for students.

“When economic times are tough, college applications go way up. More demand means probably interest rates will go up.”

While college applications may be on the rise, a survey released Tuesday by the National Association of Indepen­dent Colleges and Universities claims that out of 500 col­leges surveyed, 43.8 percent have had some students “stop­ping out of school or switching to part-time status.”

One of the surveyed universities said it lost a large por­tion of freshmen who were unable to secure a private loan or whose parents were either denied a PLUS loan or could not take one.

Kelly said that Cal Poly’s students aren’t having these is­sues and continue to borrow at the same rate despite hav­ing less lending options.

Marlow said that other factors have also prompted some privately-run lenders to get out of the market, in­cluding fluctuating laws that allow lenders to rewrite loan contracts.

“When a bank issues a loan and it seems that there is a favorable environment for lawyers and judges to rewrite the terms of the contract lit­
er a lot of bankers are going to be hesitant,” Marlow said. “It will downgrade the value of a loan. (Lenders) are in the type of environment where they will wait and see how it all pans out.”

Marlow was quick to point out that students are not being picked on; tough economic times make it harder for everyone.

“I don’t think students are in any other boat than what anyone else is right now that wants a car loan, student loan or mortgage loan,” Marlow said. “There is no reason to think students are being sin­
gled out.”

Kelly said that student borrowing is not the only op­
tion since most lenders offer parent-driven loans for their children who are entering university.

She added that if the parents are not eligible due to a precarious financial situation, then that student may be eligible for an extra four to five thousand dollar loan each year.

Parents of students are borrowing more over recent years. In 2004, the parents of 15 percent of graduating seniors took out federal PLUS loans. The average debt for parents of public university students was over $14,000.

An alternative that many students turn to when denied a student loan is credit.

Kelly says this is a dangerous game for students to play.

“Student loans are a much better alternative than falling into credit card debt,” she said. “If a student feels that he and his family are in some financial crisis, the counselors would be more than happy to help find an alternative.”

I see the challenge for students right now is finding a lender who can be there for them for the rest of their years as a student.

—Lois Kelly
Cal Poly Director of Financial Aid

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JUC
continued from page 1

Engineering think there may have been a mix-up at the lower level of Saudi bu­

There has been no offi­
cial contact since that e-mail in early September. While it may seem frustrating to be put on hold after such a long negotiation process, the college is taking a “wait and see approach.”

“It happens,” Ed Sullivan, associate dean of the Col­
lege of Engineering said. “It certainly happens in this country. Where you’re set­
ing out to establish a major contract and some people are unaware of some rules and they just charge ahead until it gets to a level in their bureaucracy where it’s caught. It’s not unique to the Saudi situation.”

Sullivan speculates that the timing of the contract might have placed a part in the delay, since it was sent before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

“The message we got from them in September was right before Ramadan and they work during Ra­

The Mustang Daily is always accepting
guest commentaries.

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to
mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

* Editors reserve the right to edit
commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profundity.

—Lois Kelly
Cal Poly Director of Financial Aid

Dave Romero has spent a lifetime improving our city, and as a longtime college lecturer, he cares about what matters to you.

Dave has been instrumental in:

• Installing & maintaining over 26 miles of bike lanes
• Acquiring 5500 acres of city open space and creating 25 miles of hiking trails
• Developing the Dameron-Garcia Sports Fields
• Creating & operating our public bus systems
• Creating, maintaining and improving Mission Plaza
• Creating and maintaining city recycling programs

As Mayor, Dave will continue to:

• Support additional student housing
• Encourage a closer working relationship with Cuesta and Cal Poly
• Support creation of good local jobs for students and graduates
• Offer “Free Rides” on the city bus system

Proven leadership counts.

Paid Political Advertisement

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Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Dave Romero
Debate

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verage of a campaign than this one!”

He said coverage of presidential
candidate, Sen. John McCain (R-
Ariz.) was biased as negative as that
of Barack Obama.

Most people think the media is
biased and they overwhelmingly
think the mediawants Obama to
win the election, Kincaid said. He
also said that media coverage of the
election affects votes.

“I don’t doubt that the media bias is real and has an impact,” Kin-
caid said. “I think it’s probably re-
 sponsible for five to 10 points in the
polls. I think it’s that powerful; it’s
that important.”

Solomon opened his statement
with a quote from a press critic
from the The New Yorker: “The
freedom of the press is guaranteed
only to those who own it.”

He mentioned how newspapers
endorsed Republican presiden­
tial candidates from the 1930s to
the 1980s, with the exception of
Lyndon B. Johnson. He also cited
Democrat the press didn’t sup­
sport such as Presidents Franklin D.
Roosevelt.

“The media coverage does sway
some votes,” Solomon said. “But I
think we can see a lot of times when
the ownership of media has tremendoreseffect on the way news is
filtered.”

Solomon said he agrees that
most people who work in news­
rooms are liberal, but counters that
it’s the owners of newspapers who
decide what is printed. There are
increasingly fewer owners of media
outlets which means fewer gate-
keepers, or those who decide the
news, he said.

“[If you’re going to have democ­
acy, you need the circulation with­
inth the body of politics, of ideas, of
information, with a multiplicity of
sources,” Solomon said.

It’s too easy to say there is a bias
in the media toward liberalism or
conservatism, he said. The media
helps form people’s perspectives,
but it is also “responsive to the
market.”

Kincaid disagreed in his rebut­
tal. He called reporters lazy, saying
they report poll numbers because
it’s easy and said that just because
a company is large doesn’t mean it
favors Republicans.

Solomon rebutted by saying the
Republican party is historically
more corporate than Democrats.
He added that there are virtues
and dangers of a capitalist system
and one danger is that people with
money are the people who rule.

Solomon argued that journal­
ism do have values and they should
embrace this. He also discussed the
concept of balance, saying that just
because someone writes a story
about the negative effects of racism
doesn’t mean they also must write
a story about the positive effects of
racism.

“There are such things as facts,” he
said. “We should all want infor-
mation. The facts should be on our
side.”

Afterward, the floor was opened
for audience questions. Cal Poly
senior Dan Karbousky, who’s in the
teaching credential program, asked
how to find unbiased facts about
both general news and the presi­
dential candidates.

Both Kincaid and Solomon
recommended looking at several
sources of information, instead of
using one news organization as a
“gospel source” as Solomon said.

“I thought the debate was re-
 ally good,” Karbousky said. “I
liked their answer to my question. I
think the media is biased and they
do have an influence on votes and
what people think.”

FELLOWSHIPS: AN EXCITING POST-GRAD ALTERNATIVE

If you see work and graduate or professional school as your only options after graduation, think again. For those who like to think outside the box, a fellowship may be just the experience you’re looking for. There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of fellowships out there in every topic area imaginable – politics, technology, human rights, the environment, international relations and many others.

If selected for a fellowship (which is a temporary, paid experience), you will work for a government, non-profit or private organization or institute receiving specialized training and valuable leadership experience. Fellowships can jumpstart a career, introduce you to a powerful network of professionals in your field and/or dramatically improve your graduate or professional school candidacy. Work alongside a Senator, conduct research on HIV/AIDS, experience the intersection of science and public policy, work on a feature film set in London, or serve as an ambassador for the U.S. conducting exciting research in a foreign country— the possibilities are endless. So, if you have a strong interest in hands-on, intellectually challenging work, make an appointment with your career counselor.

Check out the Career Services homepage and click on ‘Fellowships’ or conduct a search at http://www.arts.columbia.edu/lws/gss/search.php to get started.

κ

KRISTEN HAYS

MUSTANG DAILY

Cliff Kincaid (above),
editor of the conserva-
tive watchdog organiza-
tion Accuracy in the
Media and Norman
Solomon (left), founder
and executive director
of the Institute for Pub-
lc Accuracy, debated on
Thursday, October 30, 2008

THE DEBATE CONTINUES...
Obama promises rescue plan for middle class in ad

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — Prosecutors on a gang member traded a handgun used in an Arroyo Grande murder for a tattoo. Angel Ayala's tattoo would have cost $40, but he allegedly burned $10 worth of designer clothes, abbreviated tattoos of a mongoose and a man wearing a hat, in order to get the gun. Investigators later found the gun with Gutierrez.

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Sarah Palin has been cut loose. Sheriffs' officials say the West Hollywood homeowners who put a mannequin dressed as the vice presidential candidate in their front yard Halloween display agreed to take the Palin effigy down Wednesday evening.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says Mayor Jeff Prang had a "long beard-to-heart" with the homeowners. Whitmore says the display's creator realized the intensity of the reaction was greater than he anticipated. Earlier in the afternoon, neighbors covered up the Palin mannequin with sheets, claiming a "friendly protest".

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The University of Minnesota thinks it has nabbed its way into the record books. More than 60 trained personnel dispersed 11,336 flu shots during a nine-hour period Tuesday in four locations around the campus in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

They hope that puts them in the Guinness World Records book for the most flu shots given in a single day. The record was 2,271, set in November 2006 in Sanford, Fla. The official number will be released on Wednesday. University students, faculty, staff and their dependents were eligible to receive the free vaccination Tuesday.

FBI arrests Sacramento man in anthrax scare

A FBI agent, left, and members of the San Diego Fire Department hazardous materials team examine evidence surrounding a package suspected of containing anthrax that was delivered to the San Diego Union-Tribune building Wednesday in San Diego. The package's mailer tested negative for anthrax.

Sudhin Thanawala
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI arrested a Sacramento man Wednesday suspected of sending letters labeled "anthrax" to over 100 state outlets, including at least one Congressman's office. Mark M. Keyser, 66, was taken into custody without incident at his home on charges of sending a hoax letter, the FBI said in a release.

The agency said Keyser sent over 120 envelopes containing a CD with a packet of sugar and the label "Anthrax Sample" along with an orange biohazard symbol. The CD was entitled "Anthrax: Shock & Awe Terror." So far the agency said none of the packages have tested positive for hazardous material.

At least some of the packages had Keyser's return address on them, said FBI agent Steven Dippo in Sacramento.

The letters were received Wednesday by two Sacramento television stations, The San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper and the San Antras, page 6
Hot-button social issues highlight state ballots

David Crary
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social issues so volatile that the presidential campaigns sidestepped them will be on the ballots in several states next week, including measures that would criminalize most abortions, outlaw affirmative action and ban same-sex marriage in California, one of only three states that allows it.

In all, there are 133 proposals on ballots in 36 states.

In Washington, voters will decide whether to join Oregon as the only state offering terminally ill people the option of physician-assisted suicide. Massachusetts has three distinctive measures on its ballot — to ban dog racing, ease marijuana laws and scrap the state income tax, a step that could unleash budgetary turmoil.

The main presidential rivals, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain, have rarely made proactive comments during the campaign about same-sex marriage or affirmative action — issues on which the public is deeply divided. Abortion also has seemed like an uncomfortable topic for them at times, although Obama makes clear he supports abortion rights and McCain says he would like to ban most abortions.

But in a half-dozen states, these three issues are front and center.

Florida, Arizona and California have constitutional amendments on their ballots that would limit marriage to a man and a woman. More than two-dozen states have previously approved such amendments, but none were in California's situation — with same-sex marriage legal since a state Supreme Court decision in May and thousands of gay and lesbian couples already wed.

The rival camps view the California vote in epic terms with the outcome of Proposition 8 having enormous influence on prospects for same-sex marriage rights in other states.

"If we lose California, if they defeat the marriage amendment, I'm afraid that the cultural war is over and Christians have lost," said Donald Wildmon, founder of the American Family Association. "California is a big dam, holding back the flood — and if you take down the dam in California, it's going to flood 49 other states.

Obama is expected to win easily in California, but the vote on Proposition 8 is expected to be close. Of keen interest to both sides is how churchgoing black and Hispanic voters — in general a pro-Obama constituency — will vote on the ballot measure.

Both Obama and McCain say they oppose same-sex marriage. But Obama, unlike McCain, opposes Proposition 8 and endorses the concept of broader rights for same-sex couples.

Gay rights also is an issue in Arkansas, where a ballot measure would prohibit unmarried couples from adopting or being foster parents. Conservatives backing the idea say it's aimed at same-sex couples, who are able to adopt and be foster parents in most states.

Abortion is a dominant campaign topic in South Dakota, which has an initiative that would ban the procedure except in cases of rape, incest and serious health threat to the mother. A tougher law without the rape and incest exceptions was defeated in 2006; a recent poll on the new version showed a dead heat.

Colorado has a "personhood" amendment on its ballot that would define human life as beginning at fertilization. It doesn't explicitly mention abortion, but activists on both sides in the campaign view it as a blunt challenge to abortion rights — so blunt that the National Right to Life Committee, Colorado's Roman Catholic bishops and some other anti-abortion groups have declined to endorse it on strategic grounds.

Some of those skeptical of the idea believe issues, page 6
Quake in remote Pakistan border region kills 170

Karak "Not a single house is intact."

After hours rattled the area throughout the day, including one estimated at magnitude 6.2 in the late afternoon. There were no reports of additional causes or damage. Karak said the death toll from the quake was 170, with 375 injured. Around 15,000 people lost their homes, he said.

Karak appealed to "the whole world" for help, but the head of Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority said an international relief effort would not likely be necessary.

In the village of Sofe, a reporter for AP Television News was the body of 17 people killed in one collapsed house and 12 from another. Dozens of residents were digging a mass grave in which to bury them.

"We can't dig separate graves for each of them, as the number of deaths is high and still people are searching in the rubble," said Naseem Khan, a village elder. Other survivors said 120 were killed.

In hospitals in the nearby town of Kayseri and the provincial capital, tourists, 150 miles away, were treated for injuries as dead and injured. One patient, Rizvi Mohammed, said he was awakened by the sound of his children crying before he felt a job.

"I cried toward them but the roof of my room collapsed and the main iron support hit me," he told an AP reporter in Quetta Civil Hospital. "That sound broke big and I am in severe pain but thank God my children are safe."

Famous Ahmed Khan, head of the disaster authority, said 2,000 houses were destroyed and that teams were scrambling to erect shelters for 2,500 to 3,000 people.

The main quake struck at 5:50 a.m. local time and had a preliminary magnitude of 6.4, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. It was a shallow 10 miles below the surface and was centered about 400 miles southwest of the capital, Islamabad.

Pakistan is prone to violent seismic upheavals. Wednesday's quake was the deadliest since a major 1935 earthquake devastated Kashmir and northern Pakistan in October 2005, killing about 80,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

A tremor of magnitude 7.5 hit Quetta in 1935 killed more than 30,000 people.

Obama continued from page 4
our better history."

The ad was a dashing display of Obama's fundraising prowess. He bought his way into millions of American homes just six days before the end of an exhausting 21-month quest for the presidency.

As a message, the ad was equal parts Americans, stump speech and quasi-presidential address.

The most formal scenes — Obama describing his government agenda — were filmed in a distinguished looking office with a flag and a backdrop not unlike that of the Oval Office.

Anthrax continued from page 4

the office of Republican Congresswoman George Radanovich in Modesto.

Dupree said it's likely that more mailings will be received over the next few days and said recipients should contact their local FBI office.

The investigation began after The Atlantic magazine received a letter Monday. Dupree said, The Charlotte Observer newspaper in North Carolina received an envelope the following day. The FBI has also confirmed that a package was received by a McDonald's restaurant in Sacramento.

Radanovich's office was evacuated early Wednesday after a staffer opened the mailing. Some employees went to a hospital for precautionary examinations and were released later with a clean bill of health.

Radanovich spokesman Spenser Pederson said the congressional meeting was a at a meeting in Fresno when the package was opened. Pederson said last Wednesday that the office had been cleaned as if the substance were anthrax.

One witness to The San Die­go Union-Tribune was closed for part of the afternoon after a large envelope labeled "anthrax" was opened in the newsroom.

Members of a hazardous materials team, all wearing full protective suits, went into the building to test the package. The Associated Press office in San Diego is in the building.

Anthrax mailed to congressional offices and others in 2001 killed five people and sickened 17.

Dupree said the arrest is not connected to another series of bogus mailings containing a white powdery substance that were sent to financial institutions and announced by the FBI last week.

Keyser is being held at Sacra­mento County Jail and is expected to make his first court appearance Thursday.

Obamas campaign said it would vigorously pursue law suits, went into the building.

"I rarely come to a meeting so nervous, I was dreading that the office had been cleaned as if the substance were anthrax."

The ad is a final summation of Obama's campaign. The former senator from Illinois, a 57-year-old Harvard-trained constitutional lawyer, said he had raised $700 million from ordinary Americans and was trying to better history.

The ad was a dashing display of Obama's fundraising prowess. He bought his way into millions of American homes just six days be­fore the end of an exhausting 21-month quest for the presidency.

As a message, the ad was equal parts Americans, stump speech and quasi-presidential address.

The most formal scenes — Obama describing his government agenda — were filmed in a distinguished looking office with a flag and a backdrop not unlike that of the Oval Office.

Issues continued from page 5

lieve it would run aground in legal challenges. Abortion-rights activists contend it would be unconstitutional — and potentially lead to the banning of certain types of birth control.

The measure would also authorize the sale of $9.03 billion in bonds to help fund a high-speed rail line between Los An­geles and San Francisco, where Proposition 111 was first introduced in 2001.

Among other issues on the ballot:

• Gambling-related measures would allow Ohio's first casinos in Cleveland and Akron and allow up to 15,000 slot machines in Maryland.

• A ballot question would propose to create nonprofit open primaries in Oregon, eliminate legislative term limits in Nevada and ban all forms of earmarking in the restricting process in California and Oregon.

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Cutie, Costa wow Poly crowd

Matt Costa opened the show for Death Cab for Cutie Monday night. The event sold nearly 2,500 tickets.

Ortnar Sanchez

Death Cab for Cutie put on a great show at Cal Poly Monday night, fans said.

“It was a good show for sure,” said history junior Chris Andrews. “I was afraid because we were going high up, that the sound was going to be bad, but the acoustics sounded excellent, the stage was done really well.”

Aerospace engineering senior Becky Holter had a similar account.

“It was really good. They played new stuff and old stuff from their latest album,” “Plains,” she said. “The encore was really good.”

Below the dome opened, thousands flocked from the Recreation Center to Mott gym. Some fans began lining up as early as 2 p.m. The concert opened with a solo performance by Matt Costa. His band members joined him after the first song to complete the five-person band.

The show started off slowly, but the crowd got going when Costa, a multi-instrumentalist, replaced his harmonica and acoustic guitar for an encore. They went on to perform “Take Your Time,” which was later followed by songs like “A Movie Script Ending.”

“Our first Death-Cab show and I think it’s a good deal for two acts,” said Raquel Ramirez, 20, of Santa Maria, who said she has been a fan of the band for four years. “I bought my tickets weeks ago,” she added.

While the crowd was large, the show did not sell out. Only 2,300 of 3,400 tickets were sold, a fact that surprised many who attended.

“That’s really sad, but I think it’s because a lot of people didn’t like the new album,” said Ramirez. “I liked it.”

Other fans were more outraged at the news.

“I’m shocked (I’m surprised), ” “Plains” was a No. 1 album and they actually have a legit opening act,” said communications sophomore Trevor Hagan, who found himself at the tail of the line.

The tuckers were $25 for Cal Poly students and $30 for non-students, like high school senior Jesse Ekeland, 17, of San Ynez Valley, who said the show was good deal.

“Thirty dollars for general admission for getting good seats for arriving early is not bad at all,” she said. Ekeland added that she was surprised that a big act like Death Cab for Cutie did not sell out, but the lack of publicity might have had something to do with it.”I would only be interested in it on Facebook,” she said.

Ryan Polli

Not your traditional trick-or-treat fun

During the time of witches and wizards and polishes and ghouls, Halloen presents itself as a masterpiece of disguise. It is a time to transform into something that is not your real persona, to take on a different character and to hide behind a mask, both literally and figuratively. For those few hours as a ballerina, a vampire or even a football player, you get to be someone else; you lose your inhibitions and insecurities and pretend to be people’s needs or that you can throw the 40-yard touchdown pass for your fake team.

But Halloween presents us with an idea bigger than bobbing for apples or going trick-or-treating. It shows us that playing a role dissimilar from your own and dressing up in costumes that typically don’t represent us can be liberating. So now it is time to take this idea with us away from the streets and into the bedroom.

In a completely informal poll of about six of my friends, we deduced a lot from the multitude of costumes down to the three top costumes for sex-related role-play for each partner. Not everyone is in a particular order because of the fact that in none of my research subjects could agree unanimously on what would be the least attractive to their partner. In out of ten cases it was the first role that people didn’t like in the new album,” said Ramirez. “I liked it.”

Only 2,300 of 3,400 tickets were sold, a fact that surprised many who attended.

“That’s really sad, but I think it’s because a lot of people didn’t like the new album,” said Ramirez. “I liked it.”

Other fans were more outraged at the news.

“I’m shocked (I’m surprised), ” “Plains” was a No. 1 album and they actually have a legit opening act,” said communications sophomore Trevor Hagan, who found himself at the tail of the line.

The tuckers were $25 for Cal Poly students and $30 for non-students, like high school senior Jesse Ekeland, 17, of San Ynez Valley, who said the show was good deal.

“Thirty dollars for general admission for getting good seats for arriving early is not bad at all,” she said. Ekeland added that she was surprised that a big act like Death Cab for Cutie did not sell out, but the lack of publicity might have had something to do with it.”I would only be interested in it on Facebook,” she said.

Ryan Polli

Not your traditional trick-or-treat fun

During the time of witches and wizards and polishes and ghouls, Halloween presents itself as a masterpiece of disguise. It is a time to transform into something that is not your real persona, to take on a different character and to hide behind a mask, both literally and figuratively. For those few hours as a ballerina, a vampire or even a football player, you get to be someone else; you lose your inhibitions and insecurities and pretend to be people’s needs or that you can throw the 40-yard touchdown pass for your fake team.

But Halloween presents us with an idea bigger than bobbing for apples or going trick-or-treating. It shows us that playing a role dissimilar from your own and dressing up in costumes that typically don’t represent us can be liberating. So now it is time to take this idea with us away from the streets and into the bedroom.

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Ryan Polli
Poly patch provides pumpkins education

Bridget Veltri
SENIOR WRITER

With all the abnormally hot weather, it may not feel much like fall. But that hasn’t stopped the Cal Poly crops club from selling pumpkins and letting the public pick their own right from the patch.

The seeds for the club’s largest fall fundraiser were planted in June. Now, every Tuesday and Thursday in October members of the crops club can be found selling pumpkins in front of the crops unit from 3 to 6 p.m.

“This is our main fall event,” said fruit science senior and crops club reporter Kristin Warda. “We look forward to doing this.”

You’ve seen pumpkins piled high in grocery store bins waiting for someone to give them a nice welcoming Halloween home. Now you get a chance to see exactly where those pumpkins come from.

Besides selling pumpkins, the crops club also teaching about them. This year, crops club members gave local kindergarteners and one pre-school class their first lesson in agriculture when they took a field trip out to the patch.

Imagine bus loads of kindergarteners traipsing through the patch carrying as many pumpkins as their little arms can carry for the bargain price of $1 each. The classes came out Wednesday and Friday mornings several weeks in October.

“It was a rough overview of how a seed grows and becomes a pumpkin,” crop science junior and crops club social chair John Molatore said. “We basically taught them that pumpkins don’t grow on trees, and then let them loose.”

The fields are normally closed to the public, and kindergarteners weren’t the only ones allowed to choose their pumpkins straight from the patch. The crops club held U-picks at the patch every Saturday, giving locals the opportunity to find the perfect pumpkin in the two acres at field 25 instead of a grocery store bin.

“U-picks has been great,” crop science senior and vice president of the crops club Dan Polla said. “We’ve had a lot of people that have been coming out and kids running around picking up pumpkins.”

Molatore is hoping that more people will make the pilgrimage to the Cal Poly pumpkin patch and make it a fall tradition.

“A lot of people don’t realize this is Cal Poly land and that the agriculture department does this,” he said. “Anybody can go to the store and buy a pumpkin but here at Cal Poly you can find your special pumpkin and cut it yourself straight from the patch.”

Pumpkin prices range from $3 to $7 and gourds are $1-$5.

Proceeds from pumpkin sales go to the Cal Poly crops club. The pumpkin patch is located in front of the crops unit on the corner of Mt. Bishop Road and Highland Drive.
Passion Pit: love songs gone right

During my freshman year, one of my resident advisors wrote a love song to a girl in my dormitory. He recorded it by himself using an acoustic guitar and presumably a computer microphone, burned it onto a CD, and gave it to her. Of course the CD got turned into an mp3 and shared on the network and we all got to hear it. It was by far one of the most embarrassing pieces of material I have ever heard and strongly relied on lyrics like, "When I see you the only letters I think about are L-O-V-E." Yes, lyrics so creepy that four years later they are still branded in my mind. People with horribly restrained sexuality should never try to write love songs. Additionally, writing a love song directly to someone is possibly the quickest road to artistic failure. Most people screw the pooch by filling the song with kitsch and clichés and avoid any sort of reality. Advice: buy her chocolates instead of taking a gigantic dump on her doorstep and thinking she'll swoon for you.

Unless you are Passion Pit, that is. I'd been listening to Passion Pit for a few weeks when I found out that the debut EP was initially a Valentine's Day present for lead singer Michael Angelakos' girlfriend. Immediately, I went from looey-dooey love to fear. When I heard lyrics like "You're the best damn friend that I ever had / You always smile on me when the season's bad / and I smile upon you too," I gagged. I questioned myself, my critical integrity and my sentiments about love. How can I look down upon music with such elation if I'm going to fall for someone's sappy love letter just because it sounds like lo-fi MUM with the Strokes? I doubted it could be true.

And then I listened to the album for another two weeks and realized that it's great because it's soooooo creepy and sad. I don't know if this is a coincidence but the band name is also the name of an adult movie from 1985 starring Tracy Lords and John Holmes (thanks IMDB). I'm deciding against coincidence because those are household names and because it's just what I want to believe. It's like buying a Valentine's card and taping a picture from goatse on the inside. Buying into the holiday and then slipping it under the door across the room in favor of realistic relationship drama.

Angelakos uses the album to completely reenact relationship drama and enlists a girl singer to bounce lyrics against. Let me tell you there is nothing better than portraying the start of a relationship for your girlfriend and using someone other than her as the female vocalist. And it's especially true when said vocalist is singing "Can you see me cry / Tears like diamonds / Down until they fly / Faster and faster like the speed of love." Yes, handing your girlfriend a CD where the girl is an overdramatic wreck desperate for love and telling her you recorded it for her for Valentine's Day is amazing. The album is littered with relationship drama reeased with a cliché statement of love, which runs sound like it's an uneven piece of crap. Instead, it comes off as a real statement of love and thankfully, it's perfectly sculpted for the dance floor.

So, what have we learned? Stalking a girl and writing her a masturbatory song filled with kitsch and clichés? Bad. Writing your girlfriend a Valentine's Day dance-song about relationship difficulties filled with overdramatization, clichés about love and naming it (possibly) after a porn? Good. Way good.

Passion Pit: love songs gone right

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Jim MoiUeilli

I like zombies. No, I take that back. I (frankly) love zombies. Ever since I saw one when I am George A. Romero's 1968 black and white cult classic, "Night of the Living Dead," on my uncle's tiny TV, I've been hooked. (In the way, all of Romero's zombie films are great, even the remakes.) I mean, the best Christmas present I have ever received was the "Zombie Survival Guide" by Max Brooks, which changed my life for more than one account. Also, I'm also pretty frickin' obsessed with comics. So could there possibly be a better way for me to revel in my zombies than the wonderful comic series by Robert Kirkman, "The Walking Dead?" Nope.

Now, before diving into this wonderful comic, I must say a few words on zombies. There are a lot of different schools of zombie thought out there, some very narrow and others that are more inclusive. However, through all of these there run a few common trends.

A zombie is a re-animated corpse, which by some processes has regained some of its bodily functions after dying, namely, the basic use of its brain and muscles. Zombies have a primal function to feed on the flesh of the living.

To kill a zombie, one needs to destroy its brain.

I make this point here to distinguish certain books or movies that play with zombie themes, but do not actually involve zombies, such as "28 Days Later" (which is a great movie, but the creatures in the movie are not zombies, but rather crazies, in that they did not die and come back to life, but rather are infected with a virus, called rage, that makes them, well, crazy. And they stare, too. Didn't you people see the end of that movie? Dead bodies don't stare.)

Anyway, back to the issue at hand: "The Walking Dead!" This book is awesome. It's been going on for quite a few years now, with over 50 issues collected in eight trades. That's a whole heck of a lot of zombies, considering how a lot of horror comics don't often work out so well. Now, we must ask, why do so many people love this comic?

To start answering this question, Kirkman is a great writer. For any piece of genre fiction to be truly worthwhile, except for a certain niche of dorks, it has to transcend those genre boundaries by actually talking about something that relates to a little piece in all of us. "The Walking Dead" is unlike many other horror stories in that the background of the story are zombies, through and through, but more importantly the story is about the living, the survivors of this terrible post-apocalyptic world and how they now must act to merely survive even one more day. Kirkman makes no qualms about screwing with his characters—physically or emotionally. No character is really safe to the comic.

To put even more icing on the cake, this comic is check full of brain-decaying action. It would seem that there are only so many ways to kill a zombie, and that it would eventually become trite or banal after so many zombie heads have exploded from a well-placed shotgun blast, but you know, I still have no complaints, except that new issues only come out once a month.

I know that deep down we all would like nothing more than to fight off a horde of zombies, armed with nothing more than a shotgun, a few shells and our wits. But failing that, I guess you could just go read "The Walking Dead," which is probably the closest thing we could come to that dream. My suggestion would be to start with the first trade, "Days Gone By," and if you don't enjoy that, then obviously there is something seriously wrong with you.

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**Wednesday Comic Book Release**

**Compiled by Jim MoiUeilli**

**Dark Horse:**
- GHOUL OMNIBUS TP VOL 1 *0
- HELLBOY IN THE CHAPEL OF MOLoch (One-shot)*
- SPEAK OF THE DEVIL HC
- SOLomon KANE *2 (Of 5)*
- STAR WARS LEGACY *29 (Vector Part 10 of 12)*
- JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
- AMERICAN DREAMS
- STAR TREK BATTLE BEGINS
- IMAGE:
- ATTOUNDS WOLF-MAN *9
- PROOF *13
- SPAWN *186
- ZERO G *2
- MARVEL:
- AMAEING SPIDER-MAN *675
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL *1
- AVENGERS INITIATIVE *38
- IMMORTAL IRON FIST *19
- NOS *18
- SECRET INVASION THOR *3
- THOR *11
- WOLVERINE ORIGINS *29

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**UCSB Associated Students Program Board presents**

**Tepe Flas-o**

**Nov. 10 at the UCSB Events Center**

**8:00 General Pre-Sale**

**$30**

**Door Price $35**

**Tickets available**

at the A.S. Ticket Office or by phone 805-893-2064

**Parking $3**


Conservative voter guide

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Editor in chief: Marilize van Romburgh
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

www.mustangdaily.net

Truth, Justice and CONSERVATIVE WAY

by Ian Nachreiner

Proposition 7 – NO

As a free-market conservative, I believe in choice. While I am a fan of renewable energy, this proposition would force an abortion into consumption. Most estimates show that this will cost more for the consumer to purchase power under this initiative. Our national economy is bad enough as it is, without increasing energy costs at home. Vote no.

Proposition 8 – YES

This is the most charged issue of this election season. It would eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry. Here is my conservative stance on the issue: marriage is a religious institution between a man and a woman. I am not saying that two people who love each other should not be able to be together, or should not have “rights.” The problem is that marriage has become a government institution. Really, what people should be pushing for is that the government stays out of marriage and also religion. Then whoever wants to get married has that choice. However, until that occurs, I have to say on religious grounds: yes on Proposition 8.

Proposition 9 – YES

Since the Criminal Justice System Victims’ Rights. Parole Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute is assessed currently as not being an undo fiscal burden on the state, I am supportive of this measure. It would improve the parole process and establishes victim safety as consideration in determining bail or release on parole,” according to the voter guide.

Proposition 10 – NO

As with Proposition 7, the Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bond Initiative is a costly measure that forces a behavioral change on consumers. I have no problem with having the choice between a alternative fuel vehicle and a conventional fuel vehicle. But that choice should be left to the consumer and stop telling me what to do from the government pulpit.

Proposition 11 – Yes

Redistricting has been an issue that keeps emerging in recent years. I am in favor of just about any redistricting measure that is available to voters because it creates a fair system for determining legislative districts. Also, rather than have the people who have a vested interest in the process, the legislators who represent those districts, this measure would increase impartiality.

Proposition 12 – No

I would love to vote yes on the Veterans’ Bond Act. However, this is one of the many issues that would increase an already tight state budget. When we have the money lefts comes to it and vote yes. For now though, a no vote is the only one I can give as a conservative.

Ian Nachreiner is an agricultural science senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Equality” for “all”

Brilliant! Why should any two people be denied the “right” to marry? Of course, it is their right to marry or not marry; but why should they be denied the right to engage in sexual relations with whomever they choose? It seems just as natural for a man and a woman to choose each other as it is for two men or two women. 

It naturally follows that once you change the definition of marriage and legalize same-sex marriage, polygamous and incestuous relations will want the same “right.” Wouldn’t it be just as healthy for the economy and children as homossexual marriage? To be bluntly honest, these are sickening and disgusting. Reproving of incest�� come from families with more than full siblings and these laws would love to sanction their multiple marital bliss. Are you willing to support their cause for “equality”? By your own admission, you consider marriage for “all?” No! Marriage is the most important of all values in our society. It guarantees a stable family and establishes future citizens. Would it be okay to impose this on all citizens? No. We have to protect marriage, and protect their children.

Let’s hope that thisrazy old man can’t marry a 12-year-old girl. And that is why your own admission, you “father” cannot marry his daughter. Check Kennedy’s databases and see what is healthy for children. Is Massachusetts doing so well? Is Connecticut? Read Canada’s Letter of Apology (10/7) and their regret for allowing same-sex marriage. What say you, should “anyone” and “all” be allowed to marry?

Caution Loomis

Liberal Studies junior
Choose the road toward the future of hope

For the past few days, the media has been proclaiming victory for Barack Obama. I heard one pundit say that the election is over and there is no way John McCain can win. I think it's a vote for turning back from the crooked, dark path America has been on for the past eight years and choosing a new path - the path of hope.

This election also calls into question the extent of the Senate Democratic majority. It is possible that the Democratic Senate gains 60 seats this election, which would give the Democrats a filibuster-proof majority. While this prospect excited me at first, it left a lingering sense of unease.

I am a firm believer in the two-party system, and I think that throughout history, the choices have come from a Senate and Congress where both sides share in the exchange of ideas. The serious economic crisis sliding into a deep recession, and the issues facing us with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will require our legislators to seriously evaluate possible solutions - and this is most effectively done when there is a strong opposing party to raise questions.

But this election season is about even more than the presidential election or congressional elections. It's also about the propositions up for vote - most heatedly in contention, Prop 8. I think anyone who has been to Farmer's Market lately can attest to the importance of that proposition to many people, and I would like to applaud PAL President Anissa Kramer's thoughts on Prop 8 in Monday's Mustang Daily. Prop 8 infringements upon people's constitutional rights under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. The essence of the proposition is to legislate one section of the population's moral beliefs onto everyone else. But, as Kramer suggested, go to Farmer's Market and hear both sides of the Prop 8 debate and the answers you get at the booths will be more convincing than you are likely to hear from 24 hour polls or any issue this election.

I also recommend taking this at the opportune moment before everyone votes, to experience the wonder of America at work. The road to Mrs. Obama, and your First Amendment in action.

Stop along Highway to watch the supporters boldly flashing their signs, marching amidst the average public and listen to the music of the '70s' bop from the amplifiers of aspiring politicians. Why? Because it is important to experience the wonder of America at work. It is a lesson that has permeated every speech Barack Obama has given in the past week, Obama has been giving his closing argument in key battleground states across the United States. Monday in Pennsylvania, Obama gave a speech about unity titled "One Nation.'" "In one week, you can put an end to the politics that would divide a nation just to win an election. It's a proposition up for vote that asks us to fear at a time when we need hope," he said.

For Obama and his followers, this election is about more than partisan ideology. It's about the road not taken. It's about a fresh perspective that includes people across the political spectrum. A vote for Obama is not merely a vote for a Democratic politician. It's a vote for turning back from the crooked, dark path America has been on for the past eight years and choosing a new path - the path of hope.

The Italian Christians illustrated the presidential race. They are a national leader and, most importantly, he stridently opposes abortion. In fact, his position is much stronger, purer and more sincere than that of both McCain and Palin combined. Is this the star candidate Christians have been waiting for?

Yet, I'm afraid this 2008 election will not allow you to express your enthusiasm for such a supportive candidate. For that opportunity, you oould return to watch Italy and vote for Benito Mussolini, as many Italian Christians regretfully did. Dare I ask whether Christians today are above repeating their Italian predecessors' folly?

The Italian Christians illustrated a bitter lesson about what happens when narrow political gains are sought to the exclusion of other principles. It is a lesson that has instructional benefits for all, regardless of religious or political affiliation. The relevant question to begin with is: how do Christians, lived by their Italian predecessors' folly?

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HOF continued from page 16

Scott Heaton

Heaton lived on the Cal Poly campus well before his years as a student. When he was a teen, his parents served as dorm caretakers while his father worked toward a master's degree.

During his time as a student, Heaton was a champion wrestler, ranking first in the nation his senior year (1979-80) as a 167-pounder. Heaton was 26-0 in dual meets in 1980 and still owns school records for most dual meet falls (12) in a season, most career dual wins (82), best career dual winning percentage (.878) and most overall career wins (136) and pins (55).

While Heaton credits his father for getting him into wrestling, it was his mother, a physical therapist, who led him to his present career helping chronic pain sufferers.

"It's tremendous work," he said. "It's very gratifying to know that you can take people off pain, that you can give people that are in chronic pain some relief, even if it's temporary. Some of it you can eliminate but some of these people that are in pain 24-7, if you just give them a couple of hours, it's huge for them."

Steve Yoneda

After 22 years as an athletics trainer at Cal Poly, Yoneda retired in 2002. He graduated from Cal Poly in 1970, when he began overseeing the sports medicine program along until he hired Kristal Slover in 1993.

Many athletes, including fellow inductees Childs and Heaton, remembered him fondly.

"I had a third-degree separation of my shoulder my junior year," Heaton recalled. "He was instrumental in helping me come back. The taping methods he used were extremely valuable. There was basically nothing else holding my shoulder together."

Yoneda, a member of the Hall of Fame's selection committee, remains humble about his place in the school's history.

"For quite a number of years, my whole feeling has been that there are still a lot of athletes who need to be recognized," Yoneda said. "There are still quite a few out there that are really deserving of the honor, and I'm going to do my best to get those people in."

Yoneda's former student trainers have gone on to work at other colleges as well as for NFL and Major League Baseball teams. He saw teams win 30 national championships during his tenure at Cal Poly and witnessed firsthand the school's evolution from a Division II powerhouse to a Division I newcomer in 1994.

"When I first started here, all the schools we're playing now were in the same conference," Yoneda said. "They moved up, and 25 years later we moved up. So it was déjà vu."

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students for all home Athletic events.
Mustangs picked to finish sixth, eighth in Big West polls

The Cal Poly men's basketball team was tabbed to finish sixth by Big West Conference coaches and eighth in a media poll at the Big West media day in Irvine on Wednesday.

Both polls selected Cal State Northridge to win the conference, with UC Santa Barbara as the runner-up in each.

The Mustangs also have two players on the preseason all-conference team in seniors Tremaine Townsend and Deon Tresvant.

Townsend, a 6-foot-9 forward, was the first player in six years to lead the Big West in both rebounding (9.8 per game) and blocked shots (1.3 per game). He also averaged 16.1 points per game.

Tresvant, who won conference sixth man of the year honors last year, averaged a team-high 13.9 points.

Also selected to the all-conference team were Cal State Fullerton senior guard Josh Akognon, Pacific senior forward Anthony Brown, UC Santa Barbara's senior forward Chris Devine and Long Beach State senior guard Donovan Morris.

Cal Poly returns three full-time starters from last year's 12-18 team that finished sixth in the Big West regular season before being eliminated by UC Riverside in the first round of the conference tournament.

Editor's note: For a full preview of the men's basketball season, see the Mustang Daily next week.
Hall of Fame class eagerly awaits induction

Camaras Frank
MUSTANG DAILY
What do a former NFL wide receiver, a volleyball All-American, a record-breaking NCAA volleyballer, a retired Cal Poly ethnicity and the former chairman of the Cal Poly Foundation Investment Committee have in common? They're all members of this year's Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame class.

Jimmy Childs, Ellen Baggioli-Ferreira and Scott Heath — distinguished athletes from Cal Poly's past — are being joined by outgoing Connie's High School, a middle blocker for the Mustangs from 1981-84, and two-time (1977, 1980) ESPN All-American.

Andrea Andrews served on a number of committees and boards in support of Cal Poly athletics and has been a lifelong member of the alumni association since she graduated from Cal Poly in 1959. She most recently served as chairman of the Cal Poly Athletics Foundation and used her skills as a retired investment broker to Col Poly's ad. serving as chairman of the Academic Senate and as the director of the Cal Poly Foundation Investment Committee before it was replaced by the Cal Poly Corporations. Andrews has a long personal history with the university going back to the days when the student body was 2,300 students, all male. He left Cal Poly after receiving his degree in social sciences but returned in 1969 to serve on the alumni association board of directors.

"The campus has certainly changed in the time since I was here," he said. "All for the better, I might add."