Despite Obama lead, Calif. expects record turnout

Juliet Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Even as Democrat Barack Obama is expected to have California's 55 electoral votes in the bag, voters are projected to turn out in record numbers Tuesday as they weigh in on a long list of contentious and costly races.

A measure to amend the state Constitution to ban gay marriage has drawn the most attention and inflamed passions across the state just as the presidential race has done nationally.

That initiative has raised a record $73 million in donations for a social measure, with much of the money coming from out of state. Polls have shown it to be a virtual tossup, as the campaign for and against same-sex marriage have flooded the airwaves with contentious spots about what its passage might mean for California.

Voters in several legislative and congressional districts also have been bombarded as Democrats see opportunities to gain seats in the state Legislature and perhaps even some in Congress.

see California, page 2

Got organic milk? Win awards

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

The organic food industry has soared in popularity in recent years as shown by the grocery stores entirely devoted to health food products.

And one Cal Poly student is leading the way for organic food processing to become the norm. "Organic has started to become a big thing," said agricultural business sophomore Colton Brodt.

Brodt, who is minorning in dairy science, was one of four nationwide recipients of the Horizon Organic Producer Education (HORSE) Scholarship for 2008. Horizon Organic is one of the nation's largest producers of organic milk and was the first certified organic brand in the U.S.

The certification state's that they make all of their dairy products including milk, cheese and yogurt to meet the strict organic standards set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural business sophomore Colton Brodt won the Horizon Organic Scholarship for the second year in a row.

While the overall number of early votes was unknown, statistics showed more than 29 million ballots cast in 30 states and suggested an advantage for Obama. Democrats voted in larger numbers than Republicans in North Carolina, Colorado, Florida, Texas and Iowa, all of which went for President Bush in 2004.

Democrats also anticipated gains in the House and in the Senate, although Republicans battled to hold their losses to a minimum and a significant number of races were rated as tossups in the campaign's final hours.

By their near-non-stop attention to states that voted Republican in 2004, both Obama and McCain acknowledged the Democrats' advantage in the presidential race.

The two rivals both began their days in Florida, a traditionally Republican state with 27 electoral votes where polls make it close.

Obama drew 5,000 or so at a rally in Jacksonville, while across the state, a crowd estimated at roughly 1,000 turned out for McCain.

The two rivals both chowed up on the campaign's final day as they told a crowd in North Carolina of the death of their grandmother from cancer. Maj. Lynne Dabrowski was 96.

"She died peacefully in her sleep with my sister at her side," he said of the woman who had played a large role in his upbringing. "And so there is great joy as well as tears. I'm not going to talk about it too long because it is hard for me to talk about."
If winning it all was that simple, the race would be a toss-up. McCain, leading in the polls, set out on a grueling run through several traditional Republican states that he has targeted: Florida, Virginia, Indiana, New Mexico and Nevada. Early voting in those states and in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Colorado — where the once-demure but outspoken Democrat in 2004 where he still nursed hopes of a come-from-behind American victory — was a bone-chilling reminder of the long path, past midnight, when he was a one-time leader in both Pennsylvania and Ohio and in the much-hyped television commercial in Arizona in the campaign's final days.

The same campaign strategies included Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democrats and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for the Republicans. Both lost races for their party's presidential nomination earlier in the year, and both could be expected to try again if their ticket loses the White House.

Not so, President Bush.

Deeply unpopular, the man who won the White House twice was out of public view, an effort to help McCain.

Pals was racing through five Bush states Monday — Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado and Nevada — in an effort to boost conservative turnout for McCain. The Alaska governor has been a popular draw for many GOP base voters, and already there was speculation about a future national campaign should Republicans lose in 2008.

Joe Biden, Obama's running mate, campaigned in Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania. "We're on the cusp of a new brand of leadership," he announced.

Biden didn't say so, but he was close to guaranteeing a victory as a political phenomenon in America. Whatever the fate of the Democratic presidential ticket, he was heavily favored to win a new Senate term from Delaware on Tuesday.

Proponents of an alternative to the two-party system argue that it would be a huge step forward in political reform, but opponents warn that it could lead to political gridlock and instability.

As the election draws near, both candidates are focusing on key battleground states like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, where the margin of victory could be razor-thin.

In Ohio, the state that decided the 2000 election, Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, waited as long as three hours in line to deliver his state to Obama. U.S. Inc., took the day off to vote because "I think the country needs this," he said.

"This is happening all over the state," said Cleveland radio personality Ted Guv. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, trying to deliver his state to Obama.

Obama hoped so, after more than a year building an elaborate get-out-the-vote operation, first for the primary campaign, now for the general election.

The Democratic ticket from Florida to North Carolina to Virginia, all states that were Republican in 2004, but heading home to Chicago on Election Eve.

Twenty-one months after he launched his campaign, he allowed, "You know, I feel pretty peaceful. I got my head in the game."

On a radio program taped on the day before the vote, he said, "I love where we are, but we also want it done," he added. "And I hope that our supporters want it done, because I think the country needs it."

The company offers small farmers around the country to produce high-grade products.

"This is a huge victory for family farms, over 400 of which have herds of fewer than 100 cows to produce our products," Vice President of Industry Relations and Organic Stewardship of Horizon Organic Kelly Shea said.

Horizon Organic created the HOPE scholarship in order to reward members of those small family-run dairy farmers who are pursuing higher education. Breck, who is the grandson of Horizon Organic producer partners Jimmy and Bonnie Walker, also won the scholarship in 2007.

"We were always a conventional dairy," Breck recalls of the family pasture in Ferndale, Calif. "It has been in the family since before I was born. But the transition to organic was an easy one."

Horizon Organic is hoping that the transition is one that more families are willing to take when patterning milk.

"We want to ensure that smaller family farms continue to thrive and supply the best milk possible," Shea said. "Every year, there is a better health choice so it has become more popular over the years," Breck said.

While he is glad that organic farming promotes a healthier lifestyle, it has other positive effects on the environment.

"Our company's farming efforts have kept more than 17 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions out of the environment," Shea said.

Still, in tough economic times, a move toward organic and other types of "green" farming can be tough for organic dairy farmers like Breck.

"The transition makes it really hard for us big guys to make a big move," Breck said.

Eight of the 12 propositions on the statewide ballot ask voters to invest millions or billions of dollars in state money on everything from a high-speed rail system to a bond to help build children's hospitals.

All could be a gamble for voters, who have been battered with bad news about the economy and are fed up after months of partisan bickering over California's budget deficit, said Mark Baldassare, president of the Public Policy Institute of California.

"I think that all of this will factor into not only the way people are weighing their own money, but how they're approaching spending in a more general sense," he said. "The case will have to be made by the 'yes' side that (spending) is not only prudent and necessary but that somehow it's going to be an economic stimulus, somehow going to lead to a greater economy."

In addition to their division over same-sex marriage, voters appeared split on another attempt to require parental notification for minors seeking to buy prescription drugs.

California

Organic continued from page 1

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Word on the Street

“What is the most important issue for you this election?”

“Healthcare because we’ve got one of the costliest healthcare systems.”

-Robin Connick, music junior

“I think the energy crisis because I think it’s important to stop polluting and start using cleaner energy.”

-Grace Wetmore, animal science senior

“Energy because (we) need a way to get cheaper, more efficient energy.”

-Zack Newman, music junior

“How the president is going to be rebuilding the economy.”

-Danielle Cain, communications sophomore

State

MADERA, Calif. (AP) — Authorities said Monday they have positively identified some of Steve Fossett’s remains: two large bones found a half-mile from where the adventurer’s plane crashed in California’s Sierra Nevada.

Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said DNA tests conducted by the state Department of Justice positively identified the bones as the remains of the millionaire aviator who disappeared last year.

Anderson has declined to say what bones were found, saying he didn’t want to cause the family further anguish.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — One day before Election Day, state highway authorities are removing political signs from freeway overpasses and pedestrian bridges.

They want voters to focus on the road, not politics.

While it’s legal to stake political signs and banners in most places, they are considered a public nuisance on overpasses.

The California Highway Patrol says the signs could distract motorists.

In Sacramento, officials pulled political signs from pedestrian overpasses on Interstate 80 and Highway 50 Monday morning.

State law allows the Department of Transportation, the CHP and local authorities to take down the signs without notice.

Briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government, raising cash to pay for the array of financial rescue packages it plans to borrow $580 billion in the last three months of this year — and that’s just a down payment.

Treasury Department officials also projected the government would need to borrow $368 billion more in the first three months of 2009, meaning the next president will confront an ocean of red ink.

The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Budget estimates all the government economic and rescue initiatives, starting with the $1.68 trillion in stimulus checks issued earlier this year, will total even more — an eye-popping $2.6 trillion.

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's no coincidence President Bush has been out of the public’s eye in recent days — that’s the way the Republican Party wants it.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said Monday the incumbent’s invisibility is by design — because “the Republican Party wanted to make this election about John McCain.”

The president knows there are people in this country who want change and are looking for something new, Perino said.

“We’re realistic about the political environment that we are in,” she said. “What keeps him going is knowing that he’s done the right thing.”

International

KIBATI, Congo (AP) — Refugees who haven’t eaten for days cheered when the first humanitarian convoy in a week arrived Monday at their camp, but the jubilation turned into anger when U.N. workers dumped soap and jerky cans instead of food and spread on rebel lines.

U.N. officials said hunger at the Kibati camp, where tens of thousands of refugees have sought safety, is dire but say their first priority is reupplying clinics hooked by retreating government troops.

“They are supposed to eat this!” asked Boniface Ndayumujinya, an elderly man who waved a bundle of spring onions delivered by a friend. He said he was with eight family members who had had nothing to eat in five days.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan on Monday urged the American general taking charge of the war in Afghanistan to halt military attacks on militant targets in its border badlands to avert a backlash against the U.S. in this vital ally in the war on terrorism.

Gen. David Petraeus met President Asif Ali Zardari, army chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and other officials on his first international trip since taking over U.S. Central Command three days earlier.

Petraeus, who now oversees the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, told CNN he had heard criticism over U.S. attacks on militant targets in the Pakistani side of the border with Afghanistan.
Man with gun and flag shuts US 101, then gives up

Erica Werner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A masked man waving an American flag and a revolver on a Highway 101 overpass near Santa Barbara brought traffic to a halt for more than three hours Monday before he surrendered peacefully to police.

Crisis negotiators coaxed Edward Van Tassel, 28, to give up. After dropping the weapon, Van Tassel asked for a Barack Obama campaign sign, which authorities provided and he attached it to the overpass along with the flag, police said. The gun was found to be unloaded.

Van Tassel, an Iraq veteran from Santa Barbara, was taken into custody without incident, said police Sgt. Lorenzo Duarte. The sergeant said Van Tassel had been in the Army, but he did not have any details of his Iraq service.

As for the man's motive, Duarte said, "The reason appears to be anti-war, but I don't know the specifics."

The freeway, which was shut down in both directions during the morning rush hour, was reopened after the arrest.

Police continued to investigate a duffel bag and the man's car at the scene but "we have no credible threats or any threats of explosives," Sgt. Jim Pleging said.

Pleging said Van Tassel would receive a mental health evaluation.

Police also arrested a second man, Aaron Levy, 33. Investigators alleged Levy drove Van Tassel to the scene and "was aware of what was going to happen," Duarte said.

Van Tassel was booked for investigation of possession of a concealed firearm, possession of an illegal weapon, conspiracy, resisting arrest, brandishing a weapon, disturbing the peace, wearing a mask for the purpose of committing a crime and allowing an unlicensed driver to drive.

Police investigating the standoff also alleged that Van Tassel carried a weapon into a local radio station last week. He was booked for investigation of burglary, brandishing a weapon and possession of a concealed weapon in connection with that incident.

Levy was booked for investigation of conspiracy, possession of a dangerous weapon and driving on a suspended license.

Van Tassel, wearing a ski mask and brown fatigues, held the flag in one hand and the gun in the other when officers arrived on the La Cumbre Avenue overpass shortly after 7 a.m. in Santa Barbara, 90 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

During the hours-long negotiation, a police special weapons and tactics team and a crisis negotiation team used a bullhorn to communicate with Van Tassel.

Nearly three hours into the siege, Van Tassel put the revolver down, asked for an Obama sign, which was delivered by a bomb squad robot. Van Tassel later walked backward to officers, who took him into custody shortly after 10:30 a.m. No shots were fired during the incident.

Telephone directory assistance had no listing for Van Tassel. The freeway, a major route along the California coast, was completely shut down west of downtown Santa Barbara during the incident and the Highway Patrol reported at 10 a.m. that traffic was backed up at least three miles in each direction.

Motorists stuck on the freeway got out of their vehicles and chatted or waved at media helicopters.

The La Cumbre overpass links the exclusive Hope Ranch and La Cumbre Golf & Country Club on the south to the La Cumbre Plaza shopping mall and State Street to the northeast.
This past week I had the pleasure to read a truly beautiful collection of short stories, "Karma and Other Stories" by Rishi Reddi. It is a delicately written look into the Indian culture and the struggles and triumphs one community faces in their American lives. Set mostly in Boston, with the exceptions of Kansas and Hyderabad, India, the native land of the characters, the seven stories have the common theme of balancing traditional ways and values with the demands of a sometimes ruthless America. The collection is comparable to Jhumpa Lahiri's Pulitzer Prize winning collection, "Interpreter of Maladies," mostly because of the indirect dramatic tone of the prose and the ability to convey the richness of a novel in the presence of a short story.

By far my favorite story of the collection was the first, "Justice Shiva Ram Murthy," which also appeared in "The Best American Short Stories 2005" begins the book with the tale of two men who have been friends, "once we were small boys growing up in Mozambique Market." Justice Murthy repeats several tunes when he speaks of his friend Manu. Both men have moved to America to live with their grown children after becoming widowers in India. In Indian customs it is not uncommon for an elderly parent to live with their children, which in modern times, can mean moving out of one's comfort zone. Murthy and Manu have a routine of walking to a meeting spot, and then taking lunch together. The old men find a familiarity within their constant bickering with each other, and through the eyes of Murthy, we see a situation unfold that causes both men to access their relationship. Full of vivid imagery, the old men lead us through a story, sad at times, of love, loyalty and the upkeep of tradition.

Reddi has a mysteriousness to her writing that makes each thumbnail sketch of these interconnected lives seem so real. The stories themselves are not full of action, in fact many times nothing truly significant comes from the tales. However, I love when stories read like this, with their seductive veil intact. Sometimes less is certainly more, and this grouping of stories is an excellent testament to that idea. At the end of many of the stories, I found myself longing for more information. In "Karma," I wanted to know what was going to happen to the main character, far beyond the confines of the last line. Usually I am content to forge my own ending, but on this one I really felt like I was robbed. It was undoubtedly an intricate tale of class discrimination within a family, which I had never read about before in this collection or in any other like it. The brothers find that their difference in merits and jobs wedges an irreparable void in their relationship, ultimately ending in a separate existence in the same foreign town. It was heartbreaking and oddly inspirational all at once. But, as I said, I wanted more from it. Perhaps it was because it is so easy to become immersed in the beauty in Reddi's writing, and a sudden ending is like someone ripping a lollipop from your mouth after you are halfway finished. In any case, it was still a gorgeous story and worth reading.

In "The Validity of Love," I found the traditional struggle of a modern Indian American woman vying for her own ideas of true love, while struggling against the confines of her family's expectations of an arranged marriage. The story was a standout in the collection, namely because I believe it to be the most in-depth look at the inner workings of a character's thoughts and feelings. It was not a happy story, but rather a story of a lesson learned the hard way. It was at times frustrating, paralleling with the acquisition of knowledge of a culture. It is so interesting to see what goes on in the mind of a quiet woman trying to respect her family. Ultimately, her respect becomes her worst enemy.

Reddi's stories work so many themes into each story that they come out as a patchwork of intricate issues and the fight for independence. The difficulties of adjusting to America are so clear in these stories, that after reading this book, I have a new view of my own ways and traditions. There wasn't one story that I disliked in this collection. At times I wanted more evident connections between the characters, and I thought much of the connection was no more than a reorganization of names from story to story. Still, the book was honest and offered no reserve. I would recommend, "Karma and Other Stories," to anyone, of any age. With each story capturing a segment of a different age and stage of life, there is, for lack of a better phrase, something for everyone.

Palin takes prank call from fake French president

Charmaine Noronha ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Sarah Palin unwittingly took a prank call Saturday from a Canadian comedian posing as French President Nicolas Sarkozy and telling her she would make a good president someday.

"Maybe in eight years," replies a laughing Palin.

The Republican vice presidential nominee discusses politics, the perils of hunting with Vice President Dick Cheney, and Sarkozy's "beautiful wife," in a recording of the six-minute call released Saturday and set to air Monday on a Quebec radio station.

Palin campaign spokeswoman Tracy Schmitt confirmed she had received the prank call.

"Governor Palin was mildly amused to learn that she had joined the ranks of heads of state, including President Sarkozy and other celebrities, in being targeted by these pranksters. C'est la vie," she said.

The call was made by a well-known Montreal comedy duo, Marc-Antoine Audette and Sebastien Trudeau. Known as the Masked Avengers, the two are notorious for prank calls to celebrities and heads of state.

Audette, posing as Sarkozy, speaks in an exaggerated French accent and drops ample hints that the conversation is a joke. But Palin seemingly does not pick up on them.

He tells Palin one of his favorite pastimes is hunting, also a passion of the 44-year-old Alaska governor.

"I just love killing those animals. Mmm, mmm, take away life, that is so fun," the fake Sarkozy says.

He proposes they go hunting together by helicopter, something he says he has never done.

"Well, I think we could have a lot of fun together while we're getting work done," Palin counters. "We can kill two birds with one stone that way."

The comedic jokes that they shouldn't bring Cheney along on the hunt, referring to the 2006 incident in which the vice-president shot and injured a friend nearby.

"It was on him that day," the fake Sarkozy says.

"I'm sorry, we lost him," replies Palin, laughing.
Beyond the stereotypes
Native American Culture Month

Samantha MacConnell

During the month of November, Cal Poly's Multicultural Center, along with the American Indian Student Association (AISA) and American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) will celebrate Native American Heritage Month in hopes of educating other students on campus about their culture.

"One of the purposes (of the month) is to bring cultural awareness to the students who wouldn't necessarily know about what it means to be Native American or about Native American culture," said Renoda Campbell, coordinator of programs and services at the Multicultural Center.

While Native American Culture Month is relatively new at Cal Poly, the response from students who participated last year shows that the event is appreciated among the campus community.

"It was very well received by students," Campbell said. "A lot of students say they have a greater knowledge and greater appreciation of the particular culture for the events they attend."

AISA and AISES are two campus cultural clubs working together to volunteer and facilitate the upcoming events.

The mission of AISA, which is sponsoring two Native American Heritage Month events, is to help promote multiculturalism and educate students about Native America beliefs, culture and lifestyle. They are continually seeking new members regardless of their background. AISES focuses on providing opportunities for American Indians and Native Alaskans to study in science, engineering or technology fields.

"(Native American Heritage Month) benefits students because they will be able to understand how people lived before and how we live now in this dominant American culture," said Joseph Sanchez, aerospace engineering senior and AISA club president.

Students will get a real introduction to Native American culture and what it actually means to be a Native American in the USA and at Cal Poly.

The theme for Native American Heritage Month is Redeemed, because these events are hoped to redefine the Native American community.

"A lot of the time, people think cowboys and Indians and folklore," Campbell said. "We're trying to bring a contemporary spin to it."

"I think it's important and relevant because we live in Native American territory right here on the Central Coast and it is a particular culture that a lot of people don't know about," Campbell added. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of negatives towards Native Americans and we want to make sure that there are also positive images throughout the campus and throughout the community."

Native American Heritage Month will feature several events designed to include all students on campus.

The first event, Soup and Substance, will take place on Nov. 4. Soup and Substance is a monthly campus event designed to give the community an opportunity to discuss current world and local topics. This month's event will feature Michael Lucas, a professor from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, who will discuss Native American architecture, including reservations.

Soup and bread will be provided to visitors as they listen and participate in the discussion. It will take place University Union Room 220 at 12 p.m.

On Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m., an interview with Dr. Ines Talamantez will take place University Union Room 221. "Imprint" is a feature full-length thriller that won best picture, best actress and best director awards, according to the AISA club director.

On Nov. 20, a screening of the film "Imprint" will bring an end to the Native American celebrated events. "Imprint" is a feature full-length thriller that won best picture, best actress and best supporting actress at the American Indian Film Festival. The film brings contemporary Native American issues to light.

"Imprint" will be shown in the Science Building Room E27 at 7 p.m.

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Native American Cultural Month Calendar of Events

Soup and Substance
University Union 220
Tues., Nov. 4, 12 p.m

Storyteller
Allan Salazar
University Union 221
Wed., Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m

Native American Literature discussion with Dr. Inez Talamantez
Building 8, Room 123
Tues., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m

Film Screening of "Imprint"
Building 52, Room E27
Thurs., Nov. 20, 7 p.m

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American community.

"I'll be a careful shot," responds Palin.

"Playing off the guy's macho-mocked comment in an early television interview that she had insights into foreign policy because "you can actually see Rania from land here in Alaska," the caller tells her. "You know we have a lot in common also, because... from my house I can see Bering Strait."

She replies: "Well, see, we're right next door to different countries that we all need to be working with, yes."

When Audette refers to Canadian singer Steph Carve as Canada's prime minister, Palin replies: "Well, he's doing fine and yeah, when you come into a position underestimated it gives you an opportunity to prove the pundits and the critics wrong. You work that much harder." Canada's prime minister is Stephen Harper.

Palin praises Sarkozy throughout the call and also mentions his wife Carla Bruni, a model-turned-songwriter.

"You know, I look forward to working with you and getting to meet you personally and your beautiful wife," Palin says. "Oh my goodness, you've added a lot of energy to your country with that beautiful family of yours!"

The Sarkozy impersonator tells Palin her husband is "so hot in bed" and then informs her that Bruni has written a song for her about Joe the Plumber entitled "Du range a letras sur une cocoonche," which translates as "Lipstick on a Pig."

"Governor Palin was mildly amused... in being targeted by these pranksters,"

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Prank continued from page 5

"It's a cop show," says Palin, referring to the show. "Playing off the guy's macho-mocked comment in an early television interview that she had insights into foreign policy because "you can actually see Rania from land here in Alaska," the caller tells her. "You know we have a lot in common also, because... from my house I can see Bering Strait."

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"Governor Palin was mildly amused... in being targeted by these pranksters,"

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Tracy Schmitt
Palin spokeswoman

"Ohhh. havin' a field day," Palin answers. "Barack Obama is probably going to lose."

"I'll be a careful shot," responds Palin. "Playing off the guy's macho-mocked comment in an early television interview that she had insights into foreign policy because "you can actually see Rania from land here in Alaska," the caller tells her. "You know we have a lot in common also, because... from my house I can see Bering Strait."

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"Governor Palin was mildly amused... in being targeted by these pranksters,"
Local gardens serve as community’s backyard

Emilie Egger
MUSTANG DAILY

Two streets from downtown, in between a church, a park and two rows of houses, lies the Emerson, Community Garden. With its various wind chimes, bird baths and tool benches, and an occasional scarecrow and pumpkin thrown in for fall, the gardens function as a sort of backyard for a city whose narrow streets leave much to be desired in terms of growing space.

The San Luis Obispo Community Gardens, which operate under the city’s parks and recreation department, provide planting plots for local residents who don’t have enough space at home to grow their flowers or produce. Located on the corner of Nipomo and Pismo streets, on Laurel Lane and North Broad Street, the gardens are a convenient option for downtown residents, as well as those who have to come from farther away.

The gardens began as an Eagle Scout project over a decade ago and were designed to provide available growing space for the community. The annual $24 rent covers all the water required throughout the growing season. While gardeners are expected to maintain their plots, there are no strict rules as to what can or cannot be grown. “As long as it doesn’t cast shade on someone else’s garden…they have the ability grow anything they’ll like,” said Amy Voorhies, of the San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department.

While the plots average 10-by-10 feet in size, each space is unique in terms of shape and harvast. Some are rectangular slices of earth featuring neat rows of vegetables, while others are horseshoe-shaped areas overflowing with seasonal wildflowers.

The demographics of the approximately 70 gardeners who have plots at the three locations vary. “I have college students who have plots. I have families, I have seniors,” added Voorhies.

For many, the gardens serve as a main source of produce. Christine Wallace, who works for the parks and recreation department and oversees the operations at the gardens, said that the majority of the gardeners see use their plots to grow food. “In my opinion, it’s primarily vegetables to supplement their table.”

Speaking of the garden’s benefit to those with smaller incomes, Wallace added, “Some folks that come are low income or fixed income. They’re eating what they grow.”

San Luis Obispo resident Janet Santacqua has had a plot in the Community Gardens for three years. She and her husband who live nearby don’t have room at their residence to grow produce.

Santacqua’s extensive plot contains mostly vegetables, although she also has a few flowers. “I’m growing kale now, I have broccoli planted and cabbage and strawberries,” she said, pointing to her plot at the Emerson Garden. For Santacqua, the sense of community among the gardeners is another valuable aspect of using the gardens.

While acknowledging that some gardeners are “more involved than others,” she said that, over time, she and her husband have gotten to know many of the people who grow in the neighboring plots. “We have potlucks in the summertime,” she said. “You learn about other people.”

The locations are frequented by many members of the community, even non-gardeners. Cayucos resident Gail Martin says she visits the Emerson Garden when she comes to San Luis Obispo to do errands. “I just meditate and look at all the beautiful things,” she said. “I like all of it, the arches, sitting here with the water; the little birds.”

The gardens have become impacted as more people become aware of them, causing many would-be gardeners to put their plans on hold. “We have ridiculously long waiting lists,” Wallace said, citing the garden’s popularity among downtown residents, the majority of whom have small yards. Voorhies added that the average waiting time is about a year.

Although there are no specific plans to expand at this time, Wallace says that the parks and recreations department is always looking for new sites. “We’re in the process of identifying and investigating some additional locations,” she said.

FROM THE WRITING DEPARTMENT OF DONNA DARKE

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Nov. 5th
at 7:00pm
Come celebrate the end of election season

817 Palm Street downtown
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**Guest Commentary**

**What does “marriage” actually mean?**

I must take issue with Angela Kramer’s column (Oct. 7). “The (un)constitutionality of Prop 8?” By expressing a dissent in discussing the definition of marriage and focusing on the “threat to equal protection,” Angela effectively refuses to take an overt position on the central issue of the debate but then proceeds on the assumption that her implicit position is an established fact. While refusing to state a position undoubtedly reduces the effectiveness of counterarguments (“You can’t challenge my claims, because I didn’t claim anything”), it is not rational to refuse to state a premise and then base the rest of the argument upon that premise. The definition of marriage is undoubtedly at the center of this debate.

Roughly, marriage is either between a man and a woman, or it is between two people, gender irrelevant. If it is simply between two people, then gays have been denied civil and equal protection — along with straights, who were also prevented from marrying someone of the same sex. If marriage is between a man and a woman, then the term “gay marriage” servers rather to deceive than to enlighten, for it is not marriage at all. And if it is not marriage, then is.

“Trick or treat?” I asked myself on Halloween night. I could trick out to the holiday festivities, or treat myself to a little civic participation four days before the election. Fully equipped with door hangers informing voters to choose a candidate that supports green jobs, climate justice, and clean energy, I embarked on a late night dorm storm. The goal was to shift undecided on-campus residents to vote. Four or five buildings later I realized that almost every student I encountered told me they had already cast their ballot. “This must be a holiday gag,” I thought, because student don’t vote. And this was true.

This election has certainly defied all notions of the expected. An elaborate electoral system is now called to get involved with using two-way media and online networks. Perhaps the Facebook generation has put their technology to good use. Whichever way the election goes, civic engagement has ultimately proven the greatest lesson in this race.

So what’s next? America will decide its new leader, and now is our chance to push issues forward that have remained dormant in the national level for far too long. At Cal Poly, we learn our respective trades well enough to join the workforce out of college, but we are entering at a time when the job market affects a greater portion of society. Concurrently, we have the international science community warning us of impending doom from climate change. Are these two competing issues at all? Marrying a straight partner, or organs, affecting more sectors. Concurrently, we have the international science community warning us of impending doom from climate change. Are these two competing issues at all? Marrying a straight partner, or organs, affecting more sectors.

I think that’s true — but it is irrelevant. The truth of a statement does not depend on whether it justly reflects reality. If it is not the name that matters, but reality. If I were to call myself President of the United States, would I therefore be entitled to veto power over $700 billion bailout bills? Indeed not. “But we’re both called ‘president,’ and I’m as good as he!” Perhaps so, but it’s not the name that matters, it is the reality that matters. If marriage is between a man and a woman, then the term “gay marriage” serves to deceive than to enlighten, for it is not marriage at all. And if it is not marriage, then is.

What matters here is not motive, wish or preference. What matters is truth. If marriage is truth, then it is not marriage, and the Rock of Gibraltar, or whether it is some piece of truth that we just made up and can alter at any time, so that is simply the way it is. If not, then that is the cross, the heart of the matter, and it is the topic that deserves our focus.

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.
Those offended by intolerant acts should stand up for their values

We, as the on-campus affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), acknowledge the First Amendment rights of all American citizens. It is unconstitutional to punish for the use of protected pieces of free speech. However, hanging a noose, at all, demonstrates the intent to intimidate. Louisiana state law users that a noose, "historically used in execution by hanging, symbolizes racism and intimidation." Louisiana is the third state, after Connecticut and New York, to ban the noose.

This brings into question the display of the noose in context with the alleged sign and Confederate flag witnessed at Cal Poly. Does this incident qualify as a misdemeanor federal hate crime (U.S. v. Munsen, 2007)?

We like many of you, are both dismayed and appalled by the recent actions of certain members of our campus. The words and imagery that were posted are beyond acceptable. They are a horror, shameful reminder of our nation's history of prejudice. It is an unfortunate fact that some members of the Cal Poly community share their odious views. It must not be tolerated.

It is important that, as citizens of these United States, we denounce threatening acts of hatred whenever they arise. Unfortunately, this mentality of ignorance and malice is still present in the 21st century - even in California and our own university.

We write this letter not to those who posted the sign, Confederate flag and noose but to the majority of our community who are infuriated by the intent to intimidate. We must not sit silent in our anger. We must live by example. Each and every time we are confronted by bigotry, racism and hatred, we must not stand idle but denounce it.

We must embody our values. Too often the opinions and comments of bigots are left unchallenged. Let the actions of these individuals not be a blight on our campus but let this be a rallying point for our community.

These events will be remembered by a positive and overwhelming response from the majority of Cal Poly, rather than the vile acts of a few. In order to end racism, we must teach the truth of acceptance. We must come together and make the world that we desire to live in a reality.

The Civil Liberties Alliance is the affiliate club at Cal Poly for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Sarah Palin will rock D.C.

As a 77-year-old re-energized foot soldier I can only say that Sarah Palin is a breath of fresh air to the country. She has electrified Louisiana and New York, to ban the noose.

"Sarah Palin is a breath of fresh air and New York, to ban the noose."

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How to play the Daily Dots

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

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

CHECK OUT THAT TALL GIRL, MARSHALL. SHE'S SO TYPE NAR, I'M GONNA MIX IT UP.

I WANNA MEET THAT SHORT BRUNETTE INSTEAD.

WHY IS MARSHALL TALKING TO THE BRUNETTE INSTEAD OF THE TALL GIRL? HE'S GOING WITH ORANGE VERSUS EXPERIENCE.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0930

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18 Loc-al
19 Keeping the eyes and ears open
20 Particle-detecting device
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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

"The victim is Lauren Conrad from The Hills, so we're not sure if this homicide is real or fake."

su do ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Buy one drink, get second of equal or lesser value 50% OFF

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Maryland duo stands on sides of election

Maryland quarterback Chris Turner (10) throws a pass during a 27-24 win over North Carolina State on Oct. 25 in College Park, Md.
Money from Wisconsin game could fund locker room, field upgrades

Alex Kacik
MUSTANG DAILY

Wisconsin’s offensive linemen outweigh Cal Poly’s defensive counterparts by about 60 pounds each, and the three-time Rose Bowl champion Badgers lured 81,746 fans per home game last season compared to Cal Poly’s 9,644.

Many have inquired why Cal Poly will face Wisconsin on Nov. 22 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison, Wis. Aside from competitive spirit, it’s all about the money.

Wisconsin paid an average fee of $500,000 to Cal Poly.

It was the highest amount ever paid by a Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) school to Cal Poly, a Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) program.

"They do that because they have upwards of 80,000 seats and the revenue they would generate from that home game far exceeds what they are paying us," Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone said. "They don’t want to go on the road, they want to be at home and it’s hard to get home games.

Not only are the Badgers looking to gain revenue, but they are "looking to buy a win," Cone continued. "We take great pride in up­setting that.

Cal Poly, which experienced difficulty trying to fill out its schedule with FCS teams because of the program’s recent success and the lack of fellow FCS teams in the West, used the money to fund two of its "guaranteed games," Cone said.

Cal Poly paid Idaho State and North Carolina Central a total of $260,000 to venture to Alex G. Spanos Stadium, she said, and traveling to Wisconsin will amount to approximately $130,000.

About $50,000 from Wisconsin, Cone said, went to upgrading technology, helmets, shoulder pads, gloves, cleats and sideline communication with improved headphones.

The remainder will be used to fund improvements to either the team's locker room or practice fields.

"We are hoping to roll some of the money to the locker rooms in the gym," Cone said.

The Mott Gym locker room facility is in the transition of going to Crandall Gym, a Football Bowl Subdivision media relations director Brian Thurmond said.

"They split locker rooms between Mott and Crandall Gym," he said. "Without question, (improvements will help) because when you have a better locker room facility, it will boost team morale and help recruiting.

Although Cone said the team’s practice fields haven’t caused any injuries, they’re also in need of a makeover, and she stressed that players’ safety is the highest priority.

Yet there is not enough money to renovate both the locker rooms and practice fields ade­quately, so she’ll negotiate with the program to determine "how good we can get the field if we don’t put money into it.”

Depending on a marquee match-up can be a risky strategy, she warned.

"I don’t want to build a budget around that kind of game because that is not a game you can get every year," Cone said. "If you start building your operating budget around those games and don’t get them, you are in trouble.

With the state’s recent budget cuts, money is scarce throughout the university, and Cal Poly’s athletic department is no exception.

"Athletics has the same list of needs that academics does," Cone said. "We all have our laundry list of needs, and ours is really lengthy.

New pool a watershed for Cal Poly

Jennifer Tziccomb
MUSTANG DAILY

The day when the Cal Poly swimming and diving team can compete on campus in an Olympic-size pool is finally becoming a reality.

Anderson Pool, located behind Mott Gym, is being replaced with a new pool that will meet Division I regulations.

Construction on the new pool was originally planned for January 2008, but the entire process took longer than expected, head coach Tom Milich said.

Now, with construction under way, the pool is planned to open in May 2009, although Milich said the contractors believe they are ahead of schedule and could actually finish in April.

The total cost of the project is expected to be $2.39 million. The money was allotted to Cal Poly from the state for the replacement of the natatorium at Crandall Gym.

Nothing will be torn down to make room for the pool, which will double in size.

"It basically fits in the same footprint of the existing pool area," Milich said. "It’s just that the pool will take up pretty much the entire pool area.

The new pool will be 80 feet, 60-meter lanes, or if lane lines are put in the other direction, 18-25 yard lanes. It will be the same depth throughout, allowing diving and swimming to take place at the same time at opposite ends.

Team workouts have been altered due to con­struction.

This season’s home meets will be at Simshener Park.

The team practices at the Rec Center’s pool in the morning and takes to the weight room in the afternoons and takes to the weight room in the afternoons and takes to the weight room in the afternoons and takes to the weight room in the afternoons.

"You had to make sure you weren’t going to get run over or run someone over," he said.

As if that weren’t enough, the pool had no lines or course on the bottom to let the swimmers know where they were. The markings are critical to swimmers going into their flip turns in order to know their distance to the wall.

"It was very difficult to get the work in that you needed to do because there were so many people in one lane," senior swimmer Amy Speer said.

"I was so much wake from everyone else,”

Fellow senior Brent Summers agreed.

"You had to make sure you weren’t going to get run over or run someone over," he said.

The site of the Cal Poly swimming and diving team’s on-campus pool, shown Monday, is in the process of being retrofitted.

The program is now actively recruiting Olympic Trials swimmers to add depth.

"I am excited to see it is what it is going to do for this program," Summers said. "We are finally going to be able to bring in recruits and it will be a nice facility, and we will be able to compete with some of the other schools that have nice facilities."