Like a soldier's camouflage in dense undergrowth, they are hard to spot among their student peers. With only a handful studying here, they're easy to overlook on campus. As of fall 2008, the Office of Academic Records reported 83 students who were or are still active in the armed forces and collecting veteran educational benefits such as the GI bill while studying at Cal Poly.

Psychology senior Chris Alcocer is one of those using his veteran educational benefits to pay his way and he is the only student combat veteran currently in the campus Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). A combat veteran is someone who has been involved in combat operations while in the service.

When his initial veteran educational benefits ran out after three years, he decided to put on the uniform again to cover the rest of his college expenses. He joined the Cal Poly branch of the ROTC to earn commission and serve as an officer in the National Guard.

"Serving your country, there is nothing like it. The soldier is still alive in me, and in the National Guard I can be a part-time soldier," he said. He credits his experiences in the military for his choice of major at Cal Poly. "Serving in Iraq motivated me to study Psychology. I realized how good we have it here and I wanted to help people understand that," Alcocer said.

Other than his veteran status, Alcocer said he is no different from other students. "Most people, when they find out I'm a veteran, thank me for my service," he said. "It feels good I guess, but I'm just a college student like them; I'm not any different!"

The veteran found it difficult to get back into study habits after spending four years out of the classroom when he started his pursuit for a college degree at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Calif. "Freshmen" might have a little more advantage enrolling in college right out of high school," he said.

Prior to enlisting in the Army at the age of 17, Alcocer aspired to become a chef, but couldn't afford culinary school or college.

In the Army, he worked as cook before attending airborne school and serving in the 52nd Airborne Division. Six months before he was scheduled to be discharged, he was deployed to Iraq. While in Iraq he switched jobs and became part of a scout platoon where he was a spotter for snipers. At Cal Poly, programs specifically aimed at aiding a veteran transition back to school are few, but student veterans have the same access to programs designed to help all Cal Poly students succeed, such as tutoring, advising, counseling and disability services.

"I expect, that there will have been any significant changes (since the last test)," Baton said. "They were our best location so they should have the same quality." Beaches with bacteria levels exceeding health requirements are posted with warning signs telling people to avoid contact, but the budget lapse had allowed only emergency response services to contamination.

While non-profit organizations helped win this battle for testing in California's coastal communities, the larger issue is far from resolved.

"There are four bunch of surf spots that never get tested," said Colin Nicol, president of the Cal Poly chapter of Surfrider. "You just hope for the best when you go out without that protection. A lot of surfers get really sick for sure."

Nicol said that many people aren't even aware of the issue when they go in the water, attributing illness to other factors.

"For example, St. Anne's off of Spyglass Drive (in Pismo Beach) is a heavily used for surfing and is never tested," Nicol said. "Last time I checked, the county was saying that there was no official walkway down there and that it was too dangerous for them to send people down there."

However, he did say if a veteran needs specialized care for issues like war related trauma, it might be best to refer them to a Veteran Affairs center specially suited to deal with those veteran issues.

Issues can develop "during the transition to civilian life or the stresses of war," Bragg said.

But for Alcocer, the experience of war was moving and mormoning.

"When you're in battle all you think about is the guy next to you; it was an eye-opening experience. Culturally I was in shock," said Alcocer about his time in Iraq. (The see Diversity, page 2)
Diversity

continued from page 1

"I got a good feeling about the Iraqis. It's different from what you see in the media and what people think about when you hear the word 'terrorism' back here," Alcocer said. "I have a gun and kiss me on the cheek and said 'thank you for my freedom.'" he recalls. "Most of (the Iraqis) appreciated what we were doing while I was over there, and that made a world of difference.

After experiencing war, Alcocer said "coming back and having to hear people complain about the little stuff, like traffic, Halloween decorations, when there are people starving and the world was tough for them.

ROTC's assistant professor of military science Capt. Michael Stone's interest in the military was peaked by his desire to become a pilot. His ambition became reality when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1999 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as an armor officer/platoon leader for an M1A1 tank unit. He later transferred into aviation and became a helicopter pilot with the Army.

Now, he has his eye on attaining a third-year cadet and completing assignments handed down to him by the ROTC.

"Basically, what the professor of military science wants done, I get done," he said.

Although he is not stationed on a base, Stone said he considers his assignment "to be just like any other assignment he's had." As a Chikoo officer, he was assigned to provide relief for natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and an earthquake that rattled northern Pakistan. Later, he was deployed to Iraq as a pilot.

While carrying out these assignments, Stone said he formed a brotherhood with his units.

"It's a feeling that you get in just about every unit and it's just an interesting dynamic that goes on whenever you have a group of people working together on anything in a challenging situation," he said.

Upon completing his assignment here at Cal Poly, Stone will decide whether to make a career in the Army or stay for civilian life. Currently, he is lieutenant colonel.

Because of "the familiarity with the career field and the Army's need for people who are committed to this lifestyle," Stone said he could "see yourself putting that into practice at some point in the future."
Residents return to devastated LA mobile home park

Amy Taxin

Stacks of charred bricks, blackened shells of cars and burned tree trunks were all that remained of nearly 500 manufactured homes in Oakridge Mobile Home Park, where winds with hurricane intensity blew a wall of fire through nearly 500 manufactured homes and set them ablaze so quickly that even firefighters had to drop their hoses and run.

"It looks like a war zone — no trees, no buildings," said Michele Warneck, 54, who burst into tears after returning from the park. She had watched her two-bedroom house burn on the television news. "Everything that was porcelain was gone," she said. "I feel like I'm in a prison. Nothing. Nothing."  

A member of a search and rescue team walks through a fire-ravaged home in the Oakridge Mobile Home Park where 474 homes were lost to a wildfire in the Sylmar neighborhood of Los Angeles, Monday.

Suicide case: Cyberspace law or human drama?  

Linda Deutch

"They will conclude it's about the tragic death of a young girl," he said. "The jury is going to end up thinking that Lori Drew is being tried for the death of Megan Meier.

Not so, said Assistant US Attorney Mark Krause, but his memorandum presents a compelling narrative of neighborhood discord and death in the town of Darkside Prairie, Mo.

The saga began years ago when the Drew and Meier families were friends in the St. Louis suburb. Their daughters were the same age, attended school together and were friends.

Megan, who is referred to in court documents as M.T.M. because she was a minor, spent time with the Drews and traveled with them, the prosecutor said. "However, their relationship was, at times, rocky," the memorandum notes. "On..., occasions, M.T.M. fed on her daughter's daughter."

Megan's mother, Christina Meier, co-founded in Drew that she was concerned for her daughter's mental health and felt she was "particularly vulnerable," Krause said.

In one conversation, Megan's mother disclosed her daughter was suffering from depression and said she was considering reversing the locks on her bedroom door "so that she could not lock herself in and harm herself."

The U.S.-Iraqi security pact now poses a key test of confidence in the capabilities of Iraqi forces. The pact, overwhelmingly approved by the Cabinet, was read to the U.S.-Iraqi security pact now poses a test of confidence in the capabilities of Iraqi forces. The pact, overwhelmingly approved by the Cabinet, was read to

U.S.-Iraq pact poses test for Iraq's security forces  

Hamza Hendawi

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Bill. A vote on the pact, which allows U.S. forces to remain in Iraq through 2011, is scheduled for Nov. 2. It has a good chance of passing since al-Maliki’s Cabinet is made up of the same parties that dominate the 275-seat legislature.

If approved, it goes to President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, and his two deputies for ratification. If Talabani and Adel Abdul-Mahdi, his Shiite vice president, support the deal. The second deputy, Sunni Arab Town, Ahmed Hasib, has said he will vote to put it in a national referendum. He is unlikely to veto it if his longtime domestic political rival and main political chief for the Sunni Arab minority are not.

Aides to U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fawzy Zareh are on hand during a signing ceremony for a security pact between the United States and Iraq in Baghdad on Monday.

Charges unlikely for terror interrogators

Lara Jakes Jordan

Barack Obama’s incoming administration is unlikely to bring criminal charges against government officials who authorized or engaged in harsh interrogations of suspected terrorists during the George W. Bush presidency, if the president is re-elected.

Two Obama advisers said there’s little — if any — chance that the incoming president’s Justice Department will go after anyone involved in authorizing or carrying out interrogations that preceded worldwide outrage.

The advisers spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans are still tentative. A spokeswoman for Obama’s transition team did not respond to requests for comment Monday.

Additionally, the question of whether to prosecute may never become an issue if Bush issues pre-emptive pardons to protect those involved.

Obama has committed to reviewing interrogations on al-Qaida and other terror suspects. After he takes office in January, Obama is expected to create a commission modeled after the 9/11 Commission to study interrogations, including those using waterboarding and other tactics that critics call torture.

The panel’s findings would be used to ensure that future interrogations are unconstitutionally legal.

“I have said repeatedly that America doesn’t torture, and I’m going to make sure that we don’t torture,” Obama said Sunday on CNN’s "60 Minutes." "Those are part of and an effort to regain America’s moral stature in the world.”

Obama’s most likely supporters are split on whether he should prosecute Bush officials.

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Obama, who has criticized the use of waterboarding and has given institutional scholars and human rights groups to investigate possible war crimes by the Bush administration.

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Josie Gollan

Last week during a Vermont Public Radio interview if Bush administration officials would face war crimes, Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy flatly said, “No.”

No。“Things are not going to happen,” said Leahy, D-Vt.

Robert Litt, a former top Clinton administration Justice Department prosecutor, said Obama should focus on moving forward with anti-torture policy instead of looking back.

“Both for policy and political reasons, it would not be beneficial to spend a ton of time looking up people before Congress or before grand juries and going over what went on,” Litt said at a Brookings Institution discussion about Obama’s legal policy.

“To arrive at an extent we can say the last eight years are over, now we can move forward — that would be beneficial both to the country and the president, politically,”

But Michael Ratner, a professor at Columbia Law School and president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, said prosecuting Bush officials is necessary to set future anti-torture policy.

“The only way to prevent this from happening again is to make sure that those who are responsible for the torture program pay the price for it,” Ratner said. “I don’t see how we regain our moral stature by allowing those who were intimately involved in the torture programs to simply walk off the stage and lead lives where they are not held accountable.

In the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the White House authorized U.S. interrogations to use harsh tactics on captured al-Qaida and Taliban suspects. Bush officials relied on a 2002 Justice Department legal memo to assert that its interrogations did not amount to torture — and therefore did not violate U.S. or international laws.

That memo has since been rescinded.

At least three top al-Qaida operatives — including 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed — were waterboarded in 2003 and 2004 because of intelligence officials’ belief that more attacks were imminent. Waterboarding creates the sensation of drowning that has been traced back hundreds of years and is condemned by nations worldwide.

Bush could take the issue of criminal charges off the table with one stroke of his pardons pen.

Whether Bush will protect his aides and interrogators with a pre-emptive pardon — before they are ever charged — has become a hot topic of discussion in legal and political circles.

The administration’s waning days. White House deputy press secretary Tony Fratto declined to comment on the issue.

Under the Constitution, the president’s power to issue pardons is absolute and cannot be overturned.

Pre-emptive pardons would be highly controversial, but former White House counsel Arthur L. Feldstein Jr. said it would protect those who were following orders or otherwise trying to do their jobs.

“I know of no one who acted in reckless disregard of U.S. law or international law,” said Catlinhouse, who served under President Ronald Rea.

“I think if I were a lawyer for the intelligence community and the defense community to have people in the field, under exigent circumstances, being told these are the rules, to be exposed months and years after the fact, I would have said it was over.

The Federalist Papers discourage presidents from pardoning themselves. It took former President Gerald Ford to clear former President Richard Nixon of wrongdoing in the 1972 Watergate break-in.

“Yeah, I think so. Everywhere that there is a garbage can there is a recycling container. I don’t know if it is pushed, but the opportunity is there.”

-Ryan McDowell, communication studies sophomore

“I think they have a lot of oppor

“Yeah, I think they have some good programs. I think if one student put recycling is something that everyone knows how to do and one student makes it convenient by putting bins everywhere.”

-Blair DeBar, biology sophomore

“I think they have a lot of opportu

“Yeah, I think they have some good programs. I think if one student put
Local roasters serve Central Coast with fair trade organic coffee

Jennifer Titcomb
STAFF REPORT

"Have the day you want." The motto of Central-County based JoeBella Coffee Roasters, conveys the business desire to maintain an ethic of social responsibility in the midst of the competitive world of coffee.

JoeBella Coffee Roasters sells both organic and Fair Trade coffee in San Luis Obispo County. Husband and wife owners Joseph and Isabel Gerardis got their start six years ago when they moved to Atascadero from Santa Barbara.

Joseph said he got his start in the coffee industry because of his love for the drink. "I am a big coffee drinker; I tend to have a pound of coffee a week," Gerardis said. "I was looking for quality coffee and I found out through research I could roast my own coffee."

His subsequent research on coffee and roasting made him aware of global issues regarding unfair business practices. "I discovered more about the problems with the countries where coffee is being grown and all the producers and the coffee crisis around the world," he said.

Joseph said that was when he and his wife made the commitment years ago to have higher standards when they started their own coffee business. "All of our coffee is organic and almost all of our coffee is Fair Trade," he said.

JoeBella Coffee Roasters is certified by TransFair USA as being Fair Trade. Certification shows that TransFair USA guarantees that strict standards are met regarding the production and trade of the agriculture product. Fair Trade includes fair prices and labor, direct trade and sustainability of the environment in which it is grown.

As the Gerardis do not travel often, they rely on Transfair USA to keep an eye on their coffee. "Basically for us, since we aren't able to travel, we don't have the resources to travel to the countries of origin and see what is going on first hand," he said. "We rely on and our customers rely on the certification process."

Fair Trade coffee doesn't just taste good; it also differs from regular coffee houses because of how it makes a person feel when they brew or buy fair trade coffee because they know everyone has been treated fairly, Joseph said.

Once it is roasted, JoeBella Coffee is sold wholesale to businesses and individuals. Some San Luis Obispo businesses that carry JoeBella Coffee include Linnaea's Cafe and the Palm Theatre.

Marianne Orme, owner of Linnaea's Cafe on Garden Street, said that when she first found JoeBella Coffee Roasters, she liked that they were local, Fair Trade and organic. "Then I tasted their coffee and their coffee is wonderful," she said. "It is rich and full of flavor; it's a medium roast so it is not overpowering but very full flavored."

Being designated as Fair Trade is important to Orme. "I think everything should be Fair Trade," she said. "There should not be the giant middle man that is making a lot of money."

JoeBella Coffee Roasters also has their own coffee house in Templeton where they serve their brews to guests.

"It's one of the few coffee houses where you can sample and taste coffees from various origins and it is freshly roasted," Joseph said. "One of the cool things we have besides the espresso bar is we have a drip station where you can individually brew any coffee you have," he said.

The actual coffee house is also environmentally friendly. "The store was built of recycled lumber and sustainable building materials, it is a cool place," Joseph said.

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New generation pays tribute to Leonard Bernstein

Marvin Steinberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Leonard Bernstein was as much a teacher as a conductor and composer. Now, his musical grandchildren have taken the stage, and perhaps just in time for classical music.

This weekend, two young sons of the po­
dition — men about to take on the awesome re­
sponsibility of leading orchestras in the nation’s
two largest cities — paid tribute to Lenny with
Carnegie Hall concerts celebrating the late ma­
est’s 90th birthday season.

On Friday, the 41-year-old Alan Gilbert led
the New York Philharmonic in a commemor­
ation of the 65th anniversary of Bernstein’s first
major triumph with the orchestra he went on to
lead from 1958 to 1969. On the same stage on
Nov. 14, 1943, the 25-year-old Bernstein created a
renunciation — and front-page news the next day —
by falling in for the ailing Bruno Walter in a
national radio concert.

On Sunday, the 27-year-old Venezuelan
Gustavo Dudamel led the Israel Philharmonic in
two works by Bernstein, plus one of Bernstein’s
favorite symphonies.

It’s too bad Bernstein, who died in 1990 at age
72 — wasn’t around to witness this juxtaposition
of masterful young talent. Gilbert was 5 when the
last of Bernstein’s “Young People’s Concerts”
was televised in 1972. Dudamel wasn’t even born
to witness the iconic series that brought classical
music to the baby-boom generation.

Gilbert, chief conductor of the Royal Stock­
holm Philharmonic for the past eight years, is
now, his musical grandchildren have taken the
stage, and perhaps just in time for classical music.

In this Nov. 14, 1943 file photo, 25-year-old
Leonard Bernstein, assistant conductor of the
New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orches­
tra, is shown at the piano at Carnegie Hall in
New York.

Pop stars, fans say
goodbye to MTV’s ‘TRL’

Nekesa Mumbi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Carson Daly chatted with Eminem,
Beyoncé gave a show-stopping performance, girls shrieked
at the sight of Justin Tim­
berlake and hundreds of fans lined up outside in
Times Square for a glimpse
at superstars.

For few hours, it
seemed like old times at
MTV’s “Total Request
Live” — back when the
show was not only music’s
most powerful force but a
dominant part of pop cul­
ture. Unfortunately, it took
the studio’s demise to make
it relevant again.

MTV pulled the plug on its most influential
franchise Sunday night following years of declin­
ing ratings, but not before marking the occasion
with celebration and nostalgia, as some of pop’s biggest
stars paid respects to the show that helped launch their

careers.

“I feel like they’re kinda tearing down my house,”
Eminem said via phone as he and Daly, “TRL’s” first
and most famous host, commemorated during the live,
three-hour broadcast from the show’s headquarters.

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” Diddy, the show’s most fre­
moving from Sweden’s east coast to his home
town next fall to become the New York Philhar­
monic’s music director.

Dudamel, who has been music director of the
Gothenburg Symphony, goes from Sweden’s
west coast to the US West Coast and takes a
position with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

They face great challenges — more immedi­
ately than the Bernstein generation.

“Carl is optimistic,” Gilbert told a small group of
journalists last month. “The thing that has made
it possible for me not to dwell on the onerous
challenge is the fact that ... I’ve been asked to be
myself ... I’m idealistic. I do think that essentially
all these things need to flow from the essential
quality of the music making and the playing that
the orchestra does on stage.”

On Friday night the music flowed with pow­
er and sensitivity. Gilbert led an all-Bernstein pro­
gram featuring the Symphonic Suite from “On
the Waterfront,” “Semilude (after Plato’s Sympo­sium)” with Glynis Hayes as solo violinist and
eight songs from “West Side Story” with soprano
Ana Maria Martinez, tenor Paul Groves and the
New York Choral Artists.

“Waterfront” was filled with the violence and
romance of Elia Kazan’s 1954 movie starring
Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint in a story
about an ex-boxer’s fight against union corrup­tion,
Jumping and with big sweeping gestures,
Gilbert ratcheted up the tension to near frenzy.

He stabbed the air with his baton during in con­
servative punches, and when the music got sud­
denly quiet, he collapsed into a crouch. By the end his dark straight hair was spiking above his
forehead.

Dudamel performed effortlessly in the Ser­
enade, and Groves and Martinez captured the

see Bernstein, page 7
Death bites the dust in Nobel winner's latest

Death is usually not the most comfortable topic to think about, or, say, talk about, with friends. It just isn’t. Death can be traumatic and sad, and if you were forced to put your finger on exactly what death is, the definition may elude you. Death is when some-thing ceases to live; the act of dying, according to the dictionary. What is death itself?

In Nobel Prize-winning author Jose Saramago’s latest work of fiction, “Death and Interruptions,” the definition of death is not what one would expect. The novel begins with an impossible idea: “The following day, no one died,” and although impossible, it is interesting to imagine a day when absolutely no one, even those involved in accidents and incidents, is able to die. Through the witness of our unnamed narrator, and the setting of our unnamed country, we meet our unnamed bride and groom in the people when they are informed that they will not have to face the dreaded, uncome- mo- ment of death at their door. Unity and love, even life, lie within the coun- try. The style is perfect in honor of their new exception.

But with most good things, they must come to an end, and here the positive attitude toward the lack of death is rather quickly marred when the people realize that they haven’t enough room for everyone living and unexpectedly stick around.

In this book, the thing about not dying is that, while it sounds like a marvelous idea at first glance, there are other things to consider.

Imagine being mangled in a car accident, lying on your deathbed, only to find that you simply cannot die. You are a vegetable, stuck in a kind of limbo in which those near and dear to you are forced to fight for your ac- commodations.

With the onslaught of death not an option, funeral homes take a backseat as life insurance com- panies. They actually form a policy that requires the age of “dying” to be 80, and people are therefore required to pay up until that age. They can take out an additional policy if they choose, and perhaps a third if they wish. They can also choose to be buried or cremated, but this option is less than popular.

The news of the ill-fated lovers Tony and Maria in the 1967 war. With its mix of dissonance and tonali- ty, the music depicts the horrors of war and the craving for peace. The soloist, Eyal Ein-Habar, burst and quietude, the music depicts the horrors of war and the craving for peace. The soloist, Eyal Ein-Habar, played the difficult and almost nonstop part with techni- cal dexterity and great sensitivity.

Next was “Jubilee Gaters,” which Bernstein com- posed 22 years ago for the Israel Philharmonic — which he often led, perhaps most memorably in Beirut during the 1948 war and on Jerusalem’s Mount Scopus after the 1967 war.

As an orchestra member told the audience: “Jenny was one of us. . . . We knew in us and out, and ‘Jubilee Gaters’ is as — noisy, undisciplined, energetic and unpredictable but also sincere, intimate and profound.”

That’s an ideal script for Dudamel, who stood the pot of chaotic cacophony, his long curly locks bouncing as he pounced on the podium. He danced his way through jazzy sections and brought out the introspective parts with cabaret and soul-searching.

The final piece was Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony. Dudamel led a galloping account of the work, one of the war horses of the repertoire. He wielded the baton as if it were a matador’s sword. At times it was hidden behind his back, moving slightly as he conducted with his head and shoulders. His dance steps traced the full body in sub- mission. At the resounding conclusion, the audience howled in delight and jumped out of their seats. In three curtain calls, Dudamel counseled the Israeli musicians to take their well-deserved bows, but they demurred — directing the cheers to him.

They played two encores — the intermezzo to Puc­ cini’s “Maracon Lescat” and the popular Latin crowd- pleaser “Two Trees.”

For classical music, at least, this weekend at Carnegie Hall was the best of all possible worlds.
Climate change is a complex issue with many factors contributing to its impact. Some believe that the situation is dire and requires immediate action, while others are more skeptical and believe that solutions will come in the future. This editorial discusses several scenarios for dealing with climate change and highlights the importance of considering all options in order to make informed decisions. It also emphasizes the need for continued research and innovation to address this global crisis.
Marijuana isn’t just a hipie thing

Cannabis should be decriminalized for medical testing

Eric Kittleson
UC BERKELEY

UC Berkeley is famous (or infamous) for a few things. One would be deeply depressed nerds bawling over their latest midtern — a stereotype I see a great deal (in the mirror). Another may be the amazing scientific research that goes on in the laboratories all around campus, or the infectious activist spirit, the large homeless population, a fantastic academic environment and last, but certainly not least, marijuana.

Yes, everyone from Berkeley has almost certainly come in contact with Cal’s favorite plant somehow, most likely by walking down Telegraph Avenue. I never really enjoy it, because I want to get caught up in the legalities involved. The federal government, marijuana is lumped in with drugs like heroin and LSD. Some also feel that the criminalization of marijuana — that’s kind of strange, nothing really.

The bigger problem is cannabis products are much more based on political fear than any sort of objectivity or science. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against state medical marijuana laws in 2001, furthering the war on drugs declared in the 1980s under the Reagan and Bush (Sr.) administrations.

Another unpleasant side effect of the federal government’s ban is the lack of testing that can be done with can­nabis and its derivatives. New research in other countries has suggested that marijuana products can be applied to shrink tumors and even reduce neurological damage done by AIDS and Alzheimer’s. Drugs derived from cannabis are in late clinical trials in Europe and one drug is already on the market in Canada, according to an article on slate.com.

We have to ask ourselves if an age-old stigma is blocking serious research into curing the diseases of potentially millions of people.

The United States, however, is making far less headway into curing the diseases of potentially millions of people. I assure you I’m not advocating any sort of mass legaliza­tion of marijuana — that of course would have the horrible consequence of well, nothing really.

But I digress. My main point is simply that we must decriminalize marijuana at least a little bit, just down to a level where we can legally test it for medical applica­tions. You hear that, right-wing nut jobs? Just a little bit of decriminalization, that’s all! The idea that THC/cannabis/marijuana has no medical purpose is absurd and consistently shot down by scientific studies across the globe. The negative effects of the drug, while definitely real, are also greatly exaggerated.

In fact, the history of cannabis products is much more based on political fear than any sort of objectivity or science. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against state medical marijuana laws in 2001, furthering the war on drugs declared in the 1980s under the Reagan and Bush (Sr.) administrations. This is why, in the eyes of the fed­eral government, marijuana is lumped in with drugs like heroin and LSD. Some also feel that the criminalization of marijuana earlier in the 20th century emerged from racism toward African-smoking immigrants when they started to take jobs away from Americans during the Great Depres­sion. Yet again, no one seems to care at all about facts, sci­ence or being rational.

Folks, people in hospitals around the globe have to take morphine for pain, one of the most addictive substances known to mankind. This is accepted and legal, yet we can’t even try some hard drugs to develop an alternative drug for our all? That’s pretty unjust, man. If only we had some way to make you more relaxed.

Eric Kittleson is a columnist for the Daily Californian at UC Berkeley.
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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Why Thor Avoids Superhero Public Restrooms

Across
1 Rolling Stones drummer Charlie
2 Netting
10 One of the 5's in U.S.
14 Water (racing trouble)
15 Publisher Roger
16 Sandwich
17 Nancy Drew
author Carolyn
18 Y's gear
19 Epps of TV's
"House"
20 Win 150 Across, highway that
goes through the 15 places
elected in the state of Oregon
north to south
21 Ice Capades
23 Kind of deck for a fashionable
American woman

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

WHOO!! WHAT WAS THAT?! GOD OF THUNDER IS RIGHTFUL!!

24 Asset in answering the question "Does
does this dress make
me look fat?"
26 Bruce or Kravitz
29 Traditional Christmas
sentiment
33 Coins opposite
36 "Dueling"
39 Declares openly
40 Longines
"S.L.
50 Cole Porter's
31 Mrs Dithers in
the high side,
32 Catch sight of
33 Cheryl of TV's
34 C n  the high side,
35 Couch
36 Every 12 hours
37 Con s opposite
41 Make a knight
45 Phoenix eager
47 Harsh Athenian
lawgiver
49 Use a towel
50 Cole Porter's
51 Biscotti flavoring
53 Butcher's
55 Small egg
58 Neighbor of
Rome
59 See 26 Across
60 Carps, carps,
Switz.
66 Movie lioness
68 The Boy Who
Skedaddles
69 Halt of an E .P A
agency
70 Before, once
71 Seabirds

Down
1 User-edited
2 Concerning
3 Letter before cita
4 Copier additive
5 Unsaturated
6 Convene
7 Jazz's Fitzgerald
8 Old West
lawyer
9 Online health
info site
50 Cove Potter's
"Well, Did You ?"
51 College town
near Bangor
52 Final Four org.
53 Butcher's
546-1990 OR email steve@slohomes.com
55 Small egg
56 Minute part of a
58 Neighbor of
Rome
59 See 26 Across
60 Carps, carps,
Switz.
66 Movie lioness
68 The Boy Who
Skedaddles
69 Halt of an E .P A
agency
70 Before, once
71 Seabirds

Questions to Ponder during Basebal-40's Off-season

WILL A-ROD AND MADONNA STILL BE GOING STRONG COME SPRING TRAINING?
WHAT DO YOU THOUGHT AND TAKE A HELICOPTER TO A BEACHSIDE
RESTAURANT IN THE HAMPTONS AND THEN TAKE MY JET TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE FOR DESSERT

Buy one drink, get second of equal or lesser value
50% OFF
Bring this coupon.

MUSTANDAILY.NET
announced their position was nonme­

togatulux in the next four-year BCS

cumtract, regardless of which net­

work ends up signing on the dotted

line. Current BCS chief John Swit­

ford repeated that stance in response

to Obama's remarks Sunday night:

"For now, our constituencies — and I

know he understands con­

stituencies — have settled on the
current BCS system, which the ma­

jority believe is the best system yet
to determine a national champi­

on while maintaining the college

football regular season as the best

and most meaningful in sports," 

Switford said.

He goes on to list the four BCS

"primary objectives," namely pre­

serving the drama of the regular

season, protecting the bowl system,

keeping football a one semester sport

and doing what's best for the

student-athletes. "We certainly respect

the opinions of president-elect

Obama," Switford concluded, "and

welcome dialogue on what's best for

college football.

The brief statement is wrong on so many levels, it's hard to know

where to begin. Let's start by noting his "constitu­

encies" don't include the fans, since polls have shown that roughly nine

out of 10, as well as most players and

coaches, want a playoff.

As for changing the regular season, the BCS took care of that

itself a long time ago. Despite tweaking its rules and

pulls a half-dozen times, it's man­

aged to exclude at least one worthy

contender from the championship
game nearly every season and on

several occasions, two.

While it's a little easier for a

school from outside the six power

c Conferences to quality for one of

the top-dollar BCS Bowls, it's harder

than ever for those same mid-majors
to earn a spot in the title game.

As for limiting the season to one

semester and looking out for the

student-athletes, even an old-school authority like Pete Starr of

Paterno quit loving that time long ago.

"I think the college presidents al­

lowing the BCS thing is a real, real

shame. Whenever the task force has

having some kind of a playoff, you

can't miss classes and yes, we've already got NCAA playoffs (in every other college sport) and

everything else. "I mean, who's kidding who?" Paterno added. "They've got to try figure out a way to get rid of it and the hypocrisy of money, money, money.

When the Switford says he and his

crew is convinced they've got ev­

erything covered, regardless of which net­

work wins the bidding for the right
to air the title game nearly every season.

"They've got to try figure out a way to get rid of it and the hypocrisy of money, money, money."

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"They've got to try figure out a way to get rid of it and the hypocrisy of money, money, money."
Mavs owner charged with insider trading

Marcy Gordon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators on Monday charged Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban with insider trading for allegedly using confidential information on a stock sale to improperly gain an advantage.

Cuban avoided losses exceeding $750,000, the SEC said in its lawsuit. On June 30, the first trading day after the announcement, Mamma.com shares opened at $11.89, down 9.3 percent from the previous day’s close of $13.10.

Cuban, 50, and a multimillionaire, is a tech entrepreneur who sold his Broadcast.com to Yahoo! Inc. in 1999 at the height of the dot-com boom. He bought the Mavericks in 2000 and spent heavily to improve the roster.

He is the best known figure to be accused by the SEC of illegal insider trading since in June 2004, Cuban was invited to get in on the coming stock offering by Mamma.com Inc. after he agreed to keep the information private.

Cuban owned 6.3 percent of Mamma.com’s stock at that time and was the largest known shareholder in the search engine company, according to the SEC. The agency said Cuban knew the shares would be sold below the current market price, and a few hours after receiving the information, he told a broker to sell all 600,000 shares before the public announcement of the offering.

By selling when he did, Cuban avoided losses exceeding $750,000, the SEC said in its lawsuit. On June 30, the first trading day after the announcement, Mamma.com shares opened at $11.89, down 9.3 percent from the previous day’s close of $13.10.

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