Cal Poly students share their stories about lowering everything from bar tabs to clothing tags

Cal Poly communications senior Steven Wolf stood astounded in an aisle of the textbook section of El Corral bookstore. He could not believe the text he browsed for his speech communications class cost $72.75.

As the shock faded, Wolf remembered that the week before he had seen the same book on Buy.com, a subsidiary of eBay, where users can buy and sell textbooks.

He dashed into the University Union, sat down at a computer, and logged into his eBay account. He located the last available copy on the Web site and, without hesitation, clicked the red buy button. Less than a week later, “Reading on Argumentation” arrived at his front door for $20 less than he would’ve spent on campus.

“It’s so easy to price shop; I can check like four places at once so I am confident that I am getting the best price at the time,” he said.

With the price of rent, transportation, clothes and even food climbing, college students are finding new and more convenient ways to purchase the necessities of collegiate life—without breaking their budgets. Wolf, like other students, seeks alternative ways to save time, effort and money while shopping.

Whether it is buying and selling items on eBay.com, zzstar.com or Craigslist.org, ordering textbooks on Amazon.com or Half.com, shopping for electronics on Buy.com, securing local thrift store sales and take racks for the best deals, or taking the bus to get there, many students are making adjustments to their shopping habits.

In addition to saving money, benefits such as convenience and customer service are drawing more and more students into online shopping.

Rachel Moore, a forestry and natural resources senior, said she uses Amazon.com to order her textbooks because the value the convenience of online shopping.

With Amazon it’s like three clicks and you’re done,” she said.

Wolf also said he was pleasantly surprised with the customer service he experienced online. He recently purchased two ink cartridges on eBay, but one arrived smashed from shipment. He emailed the seller whom promptly sent out a replacement, free of cost, and paid postage packaging to send the damaged cartridge back in.

“I’ve found the customer service to be outstanding,” he said.

Wolf’s online shopping habits are not unusual for the average student.

Ian Nachreiner, an agricultural sciences senior, said he prefers to shop online because “I don’t have to trouble with sales people and most of the time, I get a good deal.”

He recently bought a camera on eBay after trying it out at Costco. Although it cost the same in store, the camera ordered online came with extras including a tripod, a memory card and free shipping.

“I tested it out over at Costco, but when I saw the deal online I thought ‘Gee I have to jump on that,’” Nachreiner said.

Nachreiner also recommended Buy.com for specific electronics purchases. He said he saved 70 percent off the price by purchasing an external hard drive for his computer on the Web site. According to Nachreiner, one advantage of online shopping is that students can use it as a tool to prevent bad spending habits. “Avoid impulse buys. Go home, think on it, get online and shop around to make an informed decision,” he said.

For students trying to conserve cash, making informed spending decisions is crucial, according to Lauren McDonald, Cal Poly’s associate director for admissions, recruitment, and financial aid. She said the first step students watching their spending should take is to develop and strictly adhere to a budget. The financial aid office’s nine-month student expense budget offers itself as an useful guide.

McDonald cautioned that this budget does not factor in unexpected expenses like car repairs. Due to the surprise costs that often come with cars, she suggested that more students, especially freshman, should try to avoid bringing a vehicle to school altogether. Moore is one of a growing number of students who started

see Budget, page 2

If you don’t need it, then don’t buy it.

—Ian Nachreiner

agricultural sciences senior

Calif. Supreme Court to take up gay marriage ban

Lisa Left

SAN FRANCISCO — California’s highest court agreed Wednesday to hear several legal challenges to the state’s new ban on same-sex marriages but refused to allow couples to resume marriage before it rules.

The California Supreme Court accepted three lawsuits seeking to nullify Proposition 8, a voter-approved constitutional amendment that overruled the court’s decision in May that legalized gay marriage.

All three cases claim the measure abridges the civil rights of a vulnerable minority group. They argue that voters alone did not have the authority to enact such a significant constitutional change.

As is customary when it takes up cases, the court elaborated little. However, the justices did say they want to address what effect, if any, a ruling upholding the amendment would have on the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that were sanctioned in California before Election Day.

Gay rights groups and local governments petitioning to overturn the ban were joined by the measure’s sponsors and Attorney General Jerry Brown in urging the Supreme Court to consider whether Proposition 8 passes legal muster.

The initiative’s opponents had also asked the court to grant a stay of the measure, which would have allowed gay marriages to begin again while the justices considered the case. The court denied that request.

The justices directed Brown and lawyers for the Yes on 8 campaign to submit arguments by Dec. 19 on why the ballot initiative should not be nullified. It said lawyers for the plaintiffs, who include same-sex couples who did not wed before the election, must respond before Jan. 5.

Oral arguments could be scheduled as early as March, according to court spokeswoman Lynn Holton.

“This is welcome news. The matter of Proposition 8 should be resolved thoughtfully and without delay,” Brown said in a statement.

Both opponents and supporters of Proposition 8 expressed confidence Wednesday that their arguments would prevail. But they also agreed that the cases present the court’s seventh opportunity for whom voted to review the challenges, with complex questions that have few precedents in state case law.

Although more than two dozen states have similar amendments, some of which have survived similar lawsuits, none were approved by voters in a place where gay marriage already was legal.

Neither were any approved in a state where the high court had placed sexual orientation in the same protected legal class as race and religion, which the California Supreme Court did when it ruled in 4-3 decision that made same-sex marriage legal in May.

Opponents of the ban argue that voters improperly abrogated the judiciary’s authority by stripping same-sex couples of the right to wed after the high court earlier ruled it was discriminatory to prohibit gay men and lesbians from marrying.

“If given effect, Proposition 8 would work a dramatic, substantive change to our Constitution’s
Budget

Egelad, too, said she saved a significant amount of money by shopping online with local sellers. She bought all of her bedroom and kitchen furniture for less than $1000. She also said that she found a used bicycle for $100 and used it to save money on gas. Moorse eats on grocery costs. He said he saves one-third of a tank of gas without using a waitlist to shop for non-perishables, produce, and frozen meats.

There are also options for those who want to save money on food. Moose uses coupons on groceries, buying three 20-egg cartons at the Cal Poly Poultry Unit for $2. Egelad keeps her food budget under control by limiting herself to bureaucracy groceries and using a shopping list when she stocks up on non-perishables, produce, and frozen meats at Costco, spending an average of $200 a week.

Moores says that he doesn’t worry about saving money, especially with items that are not considered absolute necessities. Egelad said she avoids shopping as a way to pass time and instead tries to purchase clothes when they are on sale. She also said she saves time and effort.

The key to saving money is defining between needs and wants, Egelad added.

For those who enjoy recreational shopping, thrift stores and garage sales can be a great alternative to brand name retailers by finding specific items such as shirts, sweaters, and jackets. Matt Reyes, a sales clerk at the local second-hand shop Goodwill, said that Goodwill is an ideal place to shop for fun items such as Halloween costumes.

For jeans and other items that require a specific fit, Moores said he shops at discount retailers such as Koss. When he does visit brand name retailers, he buys items like 1 Halloween costumes.

Nachreiner said he peruses local garage sales and thrift stores for items he does not need immediately, like power tools and furniture, and only buys clothes when they are on sale. Egelad said that he uses his money in the end.

For beer drinkers, assistant and other oddball items, shopping craigslist and a little creativity proved advantageous for biochemistry senior Andy Hooper. He found a free refrigerator on the Web site and spent about $200 for low or no cost.

Marriage

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WORD ON THE STREET

“What do you do to save money?”

“I buy whatever's on sale at Albertson's. Mostly frozen pizzas.”
- B.J. Thompson, psychology junior

“I don't drive as much as I used to and I stopped going to movies. I only see them every once in a while.”
- Lindsey Margoles, civil engineering junior

“Til go to the grocery store and then I'll cook instead of eating out all the time. I won't go downtown as much so I don't spend a lot of money at the bars.”
- Natalie Rhyne, psychology senior

“I just skip eating meals sometimes. I just don't eat for days. I don't go downtown when my roommates go downtown. We pre-party.”
- Koea Torres, journalism senior

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Briefs

State

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Anglers and salmon lovers beware: Some of the state's most prized native fish could disappear by century's end, according to a new report by the advocacy group California Trout. Without a renewed effort to restore ailing waterways, nearly two-thirds of the state's salmon, steelhead and most species will go extinct within the next 50 to 100 years.

- Sean Dinnebbee kicked out the driver's-side window of his sub­merged Pontiac Grand Am on Tues­day, and helped 13-year-old Joshua with 3-year-old Dylan on his back, authorities said.

- Trout.

- A man whose car slid off a snowy road and into a 12-foot-deep pond saved the two sons he had been driv­ing home but could not save himself, police said.

M A N C H E S T E R, N.Y. (AP) — A teen whose car did off a coun­try road and into a 12-foot-deep pond saved the two sons he had been driv­ing home but could not save himself, police said.

International

JERUSALEM (AP) — Leaders of the world's biggest media organi­zations filed a protest with Israel's prime minister Wednesday criticizing the government's decision to ban journalists from entering the Gaza Strip for the last two weeks. The protest was the latest in a chorus of international criticisms of Israel's Gaza closure, tightened after a five-month truce began unraveling about two weeks ago.

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- Employers: Check out company profiles, link to company websites, and save employers/ companies that interest you in your “Favorites.”
- Interview: View a record of all interview appointments you have requested or scheduled, and cancel or change interview appointments.
- Events: View job fair information (including participating employers and related job descriptions), company networking sessions, and other career-related workshops and events.
- Calendar: Keep track of your interviews and other event entries.

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Officials say family had suicide pact

Amy Taxin  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five members of a Turkish-American family whose decomposed bodies were found in an upscale home in Orange County earlier this year apparently died in a suicide pact, a sheriff's investigator said Wednesday. No explanation has been found for the mysterious act, in which a husband and wife, their 21-year-old twin daughters and a grandmother all died wearing black clothing in their home in a gated community.

The twins and the grandmother died from lethal doses of prescription drugs, said Dan Salcedo, an investigator for the Orange County Sheriff's homicide unit.

Endangered species laws that protect sea otters and other endangered species may change before January.

Tina Kreisher, an Interior Department spokeswoman, could not confirm whether the rule would be published before the deadline, saying only that the White House was still reviewing it. But she said changes were being made based on the comments received.

"We started this; we want to finish it," said Kreisher. If the rules go into effect before Obama takes office, they will be difficult to overturn since it would require the administration to begin the rule-making process. Congress, however, could reverse the rules through the Congressional Review Act — a law that allows review of new federal regulations.

It's been used once in the last 12 years, but some Democratic lawmakers want to use it to block the endangered species rules and other midnight regulations.

"The House, in consultation with the incoming administration and relevant committees, will review what oversight tools are at our disposal at ways to overturn the endangered species and other midnight regulations," said Drew Hammill, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the House will be looking at ways to overturn the endangered species rules and other midnight regulations.

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Youth Ballet takes Cal Poly stage

The dancers of American Ballet Theatre II will sashay their way onto the Performing Arts Center's stage tonight.

ABT II prepares young dancers ages 16 through 20 to enter the professional world of ballet, whether it be within the American Ballet Theatre or another renowned company.

"We are the minor leagues," artistic director for ABT II and former principle dancer for the American Ballet Theatre Wes Chapman said. "Getting the young dancers ready for their big professional careers.

Chapman will also contribute personally to the Cal Poly dance program by teaching a master class for the department on Thursday.

"Teaching ballet is an art form within itself," Chapman said. "It takes expertise."

The 14 dancers of ABT II will not be performing a full ballet at the Performing Arts Center, but a variation of dances in the repertoire of the American Ballet Theatre.

The selection for Thursday's performance will include The Russian, The Dying Swan, Allegro Brillante, Pas de Deux from Swan Lake (Act II) and new works, Sokus and Barbara.

"We are doing a variety of work...it's not just a classical ballet program, there is a variety of work."

Wilt said ABT II can bring the same ballets performed by The American Ballet Theatre to Cal Poly for a more affordable price.

"ABT II helps develop new talent," Wilt said. "It allows your audience to see the work of the choreographer, but not at the same prices as the main company."

Before the performance, Cal Poly's emeritus dance professor at Moore Ja Minn Suhr will be giving her 25th pre-concert lecture in the gallery level lobby at 7 pm.

Suhr will discuss both ABT II and The American Ballet Theatre, the structure of the evening's performance. She will also give a brief lecture focusing on Swan Lake Act II, Pas de Deux.

"I feel it is important for the concert goers to be educated and informed. Dance is beautiful to understand what's happening on the stage," Suhr said.

"We will be presenting repertoire that is of a national standard," Chapman said. "These dancers aren't perfect, they are in training still, but they are some of the most important young talent in the world and they are going to get out there and go for it."

The show begins at 8 p.m. tonight and general public tickets for the performance are $38 to $44. Student $10 rush tickets may be purchased at the door for seats still available one hour before the performance. Faculty and staff will receive a 20 percent at-door-discount on available seats.

A PolyCard is required for all rush tickets.
And the show goes on:
San Luis Obispo Little Theatre continues to delight

Alex Kacik
MUSTANG DAILY

With 62 years of production, the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre (SLOLT) is one of the oldest continuously running community theatres in the nation. And although it may be small in size, the theatre has a giant impact on the community.

Since 1947, more than 400 productions have been staged in more than 30 locations around the county, said president of the SLOLT Board of Directors Marilyn Blake. The theatre began with two to three shows a year, to first at the Fremont Theatre where volunteers were pulling veterans and cowboys off the streets to fill the audience, she added.

"This is fun, we have been here forever because of the fun of it," said SLOLT development director Mary Meserve. "We have done the grinding work; it's 400 volunteers, 11 (volunteer) board members, two full-time staff and four part-time staff. It's the volunteer machine that keeps it going, and that's the beauty of it."

The theatre, which was converted from a country library about 15 years ago, runs eight shows a year — five season shows and three to five special events. The season shows feature an array of comedies and dramas while special fundraising events such as the Legends Series include musicals that honor famous musicians, which generate much of the revenue. These shows offer Martini Night, where the audience enjoys dinner and drinks before the event.

"Many of the recent plays provide satirical venues to highlight racial issues regarding the nation," she said. "Daughters of the Lonestar State," is an upcoming comedy that portrays a small club of white Texas women that argue the need to let African Americans join the group.

Meserve described the play that premieres Nov. 21 as "Steel Magnolias" meets "Driving Miss Daisy."

"One of our mission statements is to provide diversions," she added. "If you just did what the public wants tickets for, it would be music in all the time."

Highlighting controversial issues may deter some, but it also raises social awareness, Blake said.

"If you don't have something to lift you up or make you think about social issues it's a problem," she said. "These are some of the avant-garde things that people don't necessarily want to see, but they make you think."

Aside from season shows and special events, the SLOLT also offers the Academi Theatre, which features a simple reading of recent theatrical works as well as lesser-known original plays, Blake said.

They allow the theatre to experiment with new directors and depict commercial issues, she added.

As far as youth involvement, the Academy of Creative Theatre (ACT) provides students of all experience levels year-round theatrical training that is designed to inspire young performers and technicians.

The Little Theatre prides itself on its ACT Acting Out! camp that urges children from first to sixth grade to participate in a week of theatre games, improvisation and character work. It concludes with a family-oriented performance.

"We do play a vital role in the community because the schools do cut back the arts and they already have," Blake said. "So we play that role for the community and the children to have a place to take care of their interests."

Yet, each show requires significant fundraising from royalties to advertising. Ticket sales only account for 25 to 35 percent of the funding and the rest comes from donations, Meserve said.

Supporters are encouraged to donate to The Show Must Go On Fund that aids the SLOLT via tax-deductible donations.

"We have been here for 63 years, I don't think we will be shutting down," Blake said, referring to its own economic hardship. "I do think that we will have to make some changes within the organization but I believe we will always be here and provide live theatre to the community. We will have to seek more private donations and we will have to look more volunteer-based help."

College students are encouraged to volunteer not only because they get free tickets to shows, but because it offers a unique experience, Blake said.

"If they (students) are a theatre major and they are into performance or set building, it's a great hands-on experience to add to their resume," she said.

Live theatre is an indispensable privilege that allows people to lean into their worries at the door, Meserve said.

"It is such a treat for the community because you look at downtown, what live entertainment can you go to weekly?" she said. "As far as downtown live theatre in this kind of 100-seat intimate setting, it's a gem — it's a real treat."

As in general show the health of a community, Blake said.

"When we (the SLOLT) are in the quality of the life of the community can start to perish also," she added.

Tickets for the "Daughters of the Lone Star State" are on sale, costing $22 for general admission and $19 for students.
Don’t let his age fool you: That Ghost hits home with new album

Recall, if you can, your youthful days of high school. Remember the way you wasted your life in your home-room, your sexual frustration during lunch break or when your parents just didn’t understand how you could be failing algebra for the second time. You remember, don’t you? Remember how you kept a notebook of poetry and short stories that spilled out your teen angst in a poorly spelled inky mess instead of taking notes.

Now let me assure you that your musings were probably incredibly dull and shameful. At least this is my case. Elaboration time! That Ghost is actually 18-year-old Ryan Schmale who has already self-released three full-length albums. His fourth release, “Young Fridays,” explores all the shit you put up with in high school. Now, there are a lot of people that there who dismiss the album because they seem to think that his songs are distant, cold, lack musicianship and have an overall amateur sound.

To that, I say, “No shit, Sherlock.” That kid IS and you are some snooty critic for some bullshit college radio station who hasn’t produced anything of value.

That Ghost, on the other hand, surpasses those who he seems to imitate, building on his influences and reminding me of he Strokes if they didn’t really suck.

The first track, “When There’s No One Else To Sing To You Sing To Yourself,” is one of the best on the album and one of my favorites of the month. As he sings “If I ever had control of my life, than it’s gone tonight” in a way that reminds almost every KCPR 19 of the Parental Advisory Girls, I can’t help but spatially wiggle my legs and loudly nod my head (admit­tedly a standard dance move of mine) and feel justified for being incredibly lame and self-conscious.

His subject is often that of an external figure that he loves but can’t have for various reasons, which ranges from personal defects, such as the inconsistency of a teenage heart, to girls who just don’t like him that way. But instead of going to Taco Bell and gorging himself on Fully Folded Nachos in an unattractively tight t-shirt, he gets drunk “to make sure that things don’t get too dull” in his song “Top Shelf” that drills it’s hooks right into your head.

The best part is that the album has just the right amount of emo, unlike my high school writing, which was over saturated with un-ironic self-pity and hyperbolic con­tessions that never succeeded in making girls think I was a good and sensitive man. Instead, his songs downplay his angst without bottling it up and highlights his ability to get back up and do a cool little dance in spite of it all. The kind of dance that he would like to do with you.
Welfare states bail out irresponsible businesses

Yesterday, the Dow dropped below 8,000 points. On Tuesday, the executors of the Big Three automobile manufacturers pleaded for a $25 billion "lifeline." Months ago, the American people were sold the idea of a $700 billion bailout to buy the "bailout" of traditional businesses in the market. In these increasingly challenging economic times, I ask, what happened to our sensibility?

This country was founded on equal opportunity, where anyone of any means had the same opportunity to succeed as the next guy if they just had determination and put in the hard work. But that concept has slipped into a welfare state. In a welfare state, if you were irresponsible and agree to a loan you can't afford, you look to the government to bail you out. If you are an irresponsible railroad or railroad company, or have a bad year, you practically hold the nation hostage until the federal government assumes your debt. If you are an irresponsible manufacturing company, you fly to Washington D.C. on a private jet and give a speech and demand how tens of thousands of jobs will be lost if you don't get an emergency line.

I understand why the Big Three have been having business problems. The United States is one of the most restrictive nations on manufacturing industries in terms of federal regulations. We have environmental and safety standards that dramatically raise the cost of business, and a fair trade policy to boot. The United Auto Workers isn’t helping things to plod along either. Massive pension plans and protected wages are just another straw on the camel’s back. I’m not saying that unions are the issue and I’m not saying that we shouldn’t have regulations.

Don't punish yourself

Concerning the crops house incident, the overwhelming support of the majority of the campus community to exonerate the student involved is both illogical and foolish. As Americans, we are taught that we all possess certain inalienable civil rights and liberties. Further, these rights are guaranteed regardless of how misguided or perverse a particular viewpoint might be.

If these fundamental rights were to be reserved for only those who held the majority opinion, then the fundamental system that grants us "freedom" would be wholly jeopardized. In other words, once we cede that line and begin restricting the rights of a few, it becomes infinitely easier for the powers that be to mercilessly suppress all minority viewpoints — however well founded they might be. Protect yourself by practicing the fundamental civil rights and liberties of others. Censoring student involved in non-criminal, racist incidents may appease the sentiments of the masses, but it will not be sufficient to remedy the complex issues of racism and discrimination. Rather, moving to forcibly restrain a conflicting viewpoint merely serves to drive that viewpoint into a dark realm where purposeful confrontation becomes utterly impossible. How are ideologues expected to evolve if intellectual contact is suppressed?

The easiest method for dealing with a difficult situation (avoidance) is seldom the best. I am surprised that a majority of the administration/faculty, with their vast accumulations of power, have not realized this. One would think they would strive to create and maintain — rather than subvert — an atmosphere conducive to intellectual growth.
Obama is reinventing the spirit of the New Deal

In my last column, I was particularly negative toward the Republican Party’s trickle-down economics tax policy. I have been asked to explain how increasing taxes on the wealthy and giving a tax rebate to those who are too poor to pay income tax is not socialism.

It is not socialism because the rich are helping the poor. The New Deal was a time of great prosperity and economic growth. It was a time when the government intervened to help the poor and the middle class. Roosevelt’s policies were based on the idea that the government has a duty to help those in need. This is a socialist philosophy.

According to the LA Times article, “McCain seeks to portray Obama as an extreme liberal. About 46 percent of workers do not make enough to pay income taxes. Obama argues that they deserve relief because they pay other levies, such as payroll taxes, which fund Social Security and Medicare.” The relief Obama will give these workers is a $1,000 tax rebate.

According to his Web site, Obama also plans to create jobs through investing in a green economy. He proposes to invest in renewable energy and clean car industries, creating 5 million jobs in environmentally conscious manufacturing — an industry so far left on the sidelines in America. This will not only help the job market, but also the manufacturing industries in America.

Obama’s policies more closely resemble the policies of the New Deal rather than a government control of the market or redistribution of wealth.

Obama’s Web site further explains his job stimulus plan, noting he will also create a National Reinvestment Bank to rebuild America’s “national transportation infrastructure — its highways, bridges, roads, ports, air and train systems — to strengthen user safety, bolster our long-term competitiveness and ensure our economy continues to grow.”

Obama’s Web site predicts that his plan could create up to 2 million new direct and indirect jobs, as well as generate up to $33 billion per year in new economic activity.

I don’t see anything socialist about Obama’s economic proposals. His view of government is the same as FDR’s; that it’s the government’s job to help offset the adverse affects of economic downturns and raise the quality of life in America.

This renewal of hope and energy is what America needs in order to undo the negative view of government that has been built into our generation by the policies of the Bush administration, and it will take an new ambitious overhaul of Bush’s economic policies not seen since the New Deal.

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

Send your opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailypinions@gmail.com

All published letters must include author’s name, year and major, and are subject to editing for grammar, style and spelling.

The Liberal Lens

by Stephanie England

In my last column, I was particularly negative toward the Republican Party’s trickle-down economics tax policy. I have been asked to explain how increasing taxes on the wealthy and giving a tax rebate to those who are too poor to pay income tax is not socialism.

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How the American Economy Works

Across
1. Joshua's companion in the Old Testament
2. Historic mansion in Newport, R.I., with "the"
3. Untighten
4. Pre-Roman
5. Affairs, slangily
6. Buggy field?
7. Wacko
8. Playwright
9. Division of Islam
10. Stone at a stream crossing
11. Piece among the Board of Directors
12. Unwanted
13. So last week
14. Done to death
15. Flood survivor
16. Former currency
17. Curl the hair of
18. Hello, Richie. I heard you recently made about $700,000,000,000 in bad investments. Well, I represent the government, and I'm here to help.
19. What some use to ply their craft?
20. Some Cubans in Texas?
21. Beverage brand whose logo is a "w"
22. "Part of a price: 15% off arts supplies"
23. Take a dip
24. Western end of 1-101 near I-280
25. Where hot fi(azz
26. Purple Heart recipient
27. "Would ___?
28. River below the Boyoma Falls
29. Silver topper?
30. Put one's foot
31. "Falling star" poet
32. Untighten
33. Have at
34. Billy, e.g.
35. They may be<br>36. "The emerald of Europe"
37. "Day is Dying in the West"
38. "Heartbreak"
39. "Across so to speak"
40. Pull back (in)
41. Up
42. Put in order
43. Broadway deli offerings?
44. Japanese immigrant's child
45. Down
46. Kind of whale
47. "The American economy works 100% with square units"
48. "Day is Dying in the West"
49. Dis
50. Prefix with
51. "I'm ___you'
52. Unught
53. Desiccated
54. Without
55. How some quarterbacks go
56. Flotted downstream in a way
57. "Day is Dying in the West"
58. "The emerald of Europe"
59. "I'm ___ you'
60. "Greeting in an in-box"
61. "Don't do it, don't do it"
62. Health
63. "Zero out"
64. "Part of a price: 15% off arts supplies"
65. "Put it out: 15% off arts supplies"
66. "Time is money: 15% off arts supplies"
67. "Always and forever: 15% off arts supplies"
68. "The American economy works 100% with square units"
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Down
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4. Pre-Roman
5. M�ns, strangely
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7. Weaks
8. Playwright
9. Corney
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11. Place among the Board of Directors
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16. Two lizards whose logo is a "w"
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19. Famous by Doug Bratton
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"It's just speculation," Field said of the honors. "If I'm named to something at the end of the year, then that will mean something. But I've got to go out there and prove it."

Offensive line coach Bill Tripp has seen some talented linemen in his time at Cal Poly, including Dan Loney, who has started at center for the Arena Football League's San Jose SaberCats. Tripp sees similarities between the two.

"Size-wise and strength-wise, they're both comparable," Tripp said. "They're both competitive, and they're both great players at this level."

"He's like having another coach on the field," Tripp said. "He recognizes the defenses and he helps the younger players. He sorts out all the problems out there. It's just an added dimension to his ability."

Noble admitted that when he gets in the huddle, he knows exactly what to expect from the offense's captains.

"He's got that senior leadership," Noble said. "You know, he's going to come out hard on every play and he's not going to let you down."

While the 22-year-old Field keeps himself busy on the field, his wife, Stephen and I, are both at the buffet or something," Field joked. "If anything, it's kept me more focused — more grounded. My wife makes sure I'm doing my academics when I get home and doing my homework.

When not doing homework or playing football, Field, like most offensive linemen, likes to eat. The linemen go out to dinner once a week as a unit in order to bond.

"I always want to be a part of this sport," Field said. "It offers so much, and I've gotten so much from it in my life."

Editor's note: For a preview of the Cal Poly football team's Saturday game at Wisconsin, please see Friday's Mustang Daily.

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Champion is ranked 19th nationally heading into the West Regional, and Conover said the team's goal was to try to surpass its ranking and get another top-15 finish. The Mustangs finished 19th last year.

"Anything can happen," Conover said. "That's the beauty of the national championships. There's so much on the line and having that precious experience will help a lot."

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Field of dreams

If you thought your life was hectic, try living stephen Field's.

The agricultural business senior, who is nearing the end of his time at Cal Poly, was recently married and coaches throwing for the track and field team at Arno Girado High, his alma mater.

It already sounds like a busy life.

But his commitment as an offensive lineman for the Cal Poly football team takes up the majority of his time.

"I have expectations for myself," Field said. "I want to be the best player I can be. I want to be the best leader I can be for this team to help us get to our goal."

The goal according to Field is simple — a national championship.

With a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) playoff spot virtually locked up heading into the final week of the regular season against Wisconsin, the third-ranked Mustangs (8-1) are on the right track.

A key member of an offensive line that has helped lead the Mustangs to the No. 1 offense in the FCS in both yards (4,937) and points (464) per game, Field has played multiple positions this season.

Field has helped Cal Poly average 303.6 rushing yards per game, third in the FCS. "Offensive linemen in general, they love the idea of running the football and dominating the running game," Field said. "I'm no different. I love being a part of that. I do very much take pride in our running game."

One of the many beneficiaries of the offensive line's performance has been senior running back James Noble.

"With his 23rd career rushing touchdown against North Carolina Central on Nov. 8, Noble broke the school's mark formed by Loun Jackson. "Basically, everything I do is from the offensive line," Noble said. "It all has to start somewhere, and it starts up front with Stephen and those guys."

The Cal Poly passing attack has also benefited, as Field has allowed just 89 sacks per game — 10th in the subdivision.

With ample time to throw, senior quarterback Jonathan Dally has become the highest-rated passer in the FCS. Dally has thrown a touchdown pass to senior receiver Ramos Harden in 18 consecutive games, breaking the FCS record set by former Mississippi Valley State star Jerry Rice, who, ironically, was one Field's favorite players growing up.

"I was a 49ers fan, so obviously Jerry Rice was my favorite player," Field said. "He wasn't the fastest guy and he wasn't the biggest guy. I remember seeing a documentary on him when I was young about how hard he worked. I think that was really important to me."

Field admitted he isn't the biggest or strongest player himself, but working hard like Rice has driven him. He hopes that his hard work will allow him to play at the next level.

"I realize that I'm not prototypical of what the NFL is looking for," said the 6-foot-1, 290-pound Field. "If I would somehow make a team, I would be the smallest lineman in the whole NFL."

"I think that was real important to me."

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"I realize that I'm not prototypical of what the NFL is looking for," said the 6-foot-1, 290-pound Field. "If I would somehow make a team, I would be the smallest lineman in the whole NFL."

But I still am striving for it. I'm going to work my butt off after this season, do what I can and leave it in God's hands."

After last season, Field was named a second-team All-American by The Sports Network and a third-team All-American by the Associated Press. Prior to this year, he was selected as a preseason first-team All-American by both The Sporting News and Phil Steele's Magazine.

The Cal Poly men's cross country team will travel to Terre Haute, Ind. for the third straight year as the NCAA Championships after receiving an at-large bid Sunday.

"We're relieved and excited to get to go back," said Mustangs head coach Mark Conover, who has taken the team to the national meet six out of the last nine years.

The Mustangs finished seventh at the West Regional on Saturday and had strong enough finishes at the Bill Dellinger Invitational and the Pre-National Invitational earlier this season to be awarded a wild-card spot in the national meet, which begins at 7 a.m. Monday.

Cal Poly was one of only 13 teams to get an at-large bid.

"(Getting to nationals is) obviously our goal before the season starts, and we felt that with the returning members of the team and the addition of Daniel Gonia, the top J.C. transfer, we had a good shot at it," Conover said.

Gonia placed ninth with a time of 29 minutes, 23.39 seconds at the West Regional meet at the 10K Stanford Golf Course. He was the top finisher for the Mustangs, followed by Evan Anderson in 25th (29:49.18), Tyler Swirsky in 43rd (30:35.27), Andy Wright in 52nd (30:39.53) and Joe Gaed in 56th (30:44.37).

"As with every year, the west region is a very tough region, so things had to line up throughout the year for us to make the return appearance," Conover said. "We had to go see Championships, page 11