Gaza conflict comes to campus

Matt Fountain

Students gathered Thursday morning at the University Union Plaza to voice their opinions about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza.

The late morning rally, which was organized by the Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (SJPME), was in response to Israel’s air and ground offensive against Hamas dubbed “Operation Cast Lead” by the Israeli military. The operation was launched Dec. 27 in response to Hamas rocket attacks that have hit Israeli targets as much as 24 miles away from the Israeli-Gaza border.

The Israeli military has since shut down the Gaza border, and up until a brief ceasefire Wednesday, effectively blocked U.N. aid and foreign journalists from entering.

SJPME president Ara Kiri said prior to the demonstration, “We want to bring attention to the giant humanitarian crisis that’s going on in Gaza right now.”

“They’re running out of food,” she said. “They have no water, the hospitals are really limited in terms of supplies and space and everything. It’s just terrible what’s going on right now.”

The U.S. has given Israel a lot of money and weapons, and I feel that that’s partially my tax money and I don’t believe it should be used to go against (Gaza) people think that they can’t do anything about it, but we want to give them a forum.

To counter the roughly 40 SJPME demonstrators at the rally was a group of about 36 members and supporters of the Israel Alliance, a Cal Poly organization led by President Jacob Kory.

“We’re here to denounce Hamas terrorism,” Kory said shortly before the rally began. “I don’t think enough people realize Hamas is a terrorist organization. We’re really here to show our support for Israel.”

ewest news online

Walsh to replace Ellerson as football head coach

Former Army offensive coordinator spent 14 years as Portland State coach

The Cal Poly football team will name former Army offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Tim Walsh as its new head coach in a press conference at 10 a.m. today in Mustang Hall, the Portland Tribune reported yesterday.

Walsh would bring 18 years of collegiate head coaching experience to Cal Poly, including 14 years at Bowl Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) Portland State.

Walsh began his head coaching career at Sonoma State where he led the program to a California Collegiate Athletic Association championship.

After four years in Sonoma, Walsh was hired as the head coach of then-Division II Portland State in 1993.

Fatal police shooting sparks Oakland protests

Terry Collins and Terence Chea

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — In grinding cell-phone videos played over and over on the Internet, police officers force an unarmed black man to the ground and hold him face-down on a crowded train platform. Suddenly one of the officers draws his gun and fatally shoots the man in the back — then looks up.

The New Year’s Day death of 22-year-old Oscar Grant has led to angry street protests and allegations from the family’s attorney that some of the officers used racial slurs.

The officer remains free and has not been arrested with any wrongdoing. And some experts have questioned whether he fired his gun deliberately or mistakenly believed he was using his stun gun instead.

At a rally Wednesday attended by hundreds of people, Shawanda Thomas held a fluorescent yellow sign that read: “Oscar Grant: Murdered! The Whole Damn System Is Guilty!”

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums called for calm. "Even with our anger and our pain, let’s still address each other with a degree of civility and calmness and not make this tragedy an excuse to engage in violence," he said. "I don’t want anybody hurt. I don’t want anybody killed.”

Extra police were posted Thursday at Bay Area Rapid Transit stations after a group of angry demonstrators smashed storefronts late Wednesday, set fire to cars and clashed with officers equipped with riot gear and tear gas in downtown Oakland. More than 100 people were arrested.

Transit police officer Johannes Mehler was initially placed on paid leave. He resigned from the BART police force Wednesday, but officials say he has refused to speak with the transit agency’s investigators. He has not spoken publicly about the incident.

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums has directed the city’s police department to investigate
Protest

continued from page 1

and the actions they've taken.'

Although the two-party protest was peaceful and ended without incident, dialogue often became heated from members of the SLO chapter of Code Pink, a national group for women whose stated mission is to protest the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan— as well as the formation of all new wars which joined the Palestinian demonstrators.

"I was a little concerned to see the Code Pink ladies start to come within our ranks and yell at us," Kory said after the protest. "This was supposed to be a peaceful rally and I don't want anyone to get in any trouble. I'm not a representative of the event, but I think everyone wants to protest the situation," he said.

Despite many downtown protests, most demonstrations expressionist at the outside. KORY, one of the SLO protesters, went briefly ahead of the group and thanked everyone for coming.

"It went well afterwards. "It was totally out and a great day," he said.

"It was really agreed, "For the ones that both groups, that there was a peaceful solution and I think the point of the rally was served."

Calif. appeals court rejects lawsuit to block tax hikes

Judy Lin

SACRAMENTO (AP) — An appeals court has rejected a new lawsuit that sought to block tax hikes passed by Democrats in the state Legislature.

Citing separation of powers, the state's 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento ruled Wednesday it could not intervene because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger had not signed the bills into law.

"Absent the Legislature's passage and the governor's signing of such legislation, adjudication of its constitutionality and other matters raised by the petition are not yet ripe for judicial review," the court wrote.

Schwarzenegger vetoed the $8 billion tax hike, which includes higher income and sales taxes and plans to start closingize the state's $21 billion budget by cutting back on employee pay raises and health care for state workers. The governor also said the tax hike would be unfair to people who have worked hard enough to earn those pay raises and health care.

The lawsuit, filed in May, sought an interpretation that Schwarzenegger's veto, which the governor said he had been forced to agree to because Democrats didn't have a majority vote, would render the tax hike unconstitutional. The lawsuit, brought by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, was filed by Republican state Sen. Sam Blakeslee.

They argue the majority of the state's taxpayers are covered by the lawsuit which said the group is comprised of 1.5 million self-identified taxpayers and includes the majority of the state's voting population.

The lawsuit to the state Supreme Court and cause the vote violated the constitutional rights of the Republican and minority members.

"We are still looking at this case for potential appeals because we believe this issue needs to be resolved," he said.

Schwarzenegger vowed to sue if his veto was later overturned, as a provision in an agreement with the Legislature that allows the governor to take back changes he made to state laws, if any appeal succeeds.

"I think the courts should keep in mind that the constitution requires a majority vote," he said.

Wednesday, "It's a real shame and a great day," he said.

"It was really agreed, "For the ones that both groups, that there was a peaceful solution and I think the point of the rally was served."


Oakland

continued from page 1

Several protesters lie face down or on the ground at the intersection of Broadway and 3rd Ave., on Jan. 7, 2009, in Oakland, Calif.

Grant's killing as a homicide, and the Alameda County district attorney's office is conducting an ongoing investigation.

An attorney for Mehserle did not immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday.

Grant's family has filed a $2 million wrongful-death claim against BART, the San Francisco Bay Area's commuter rail system and relatives want Mehserle to be criminally charged.

"They want justice, but the don't want any more violence," said John Burris, an attorney for Grant family. "That officer hasn't been prosecuted ... That's why people don't have confidence in the system right now."

Local African-American leaders expressed outrage Thursday at the shooting. And some Oakland residents have alleged it was racial motivated. Burris said he does not have any evidence that Grant was shot because he was black.

"There were racial slurs made by other officers to the group that Officer Grant was with, but I have no evidence that this particular officer directed racial slurs toward Officer Grant," Burris said.

The shooting unfolded in front of dozens of train passengers who were returning home after New Year's Eve celebrations.

Police officers arrived shortly after midnight on New Year's Day at the Fruitvale BART station following reports of young men fighting on a train. Grant was one of several who were ordered off the train, questioned and then restrained by Mehserle and other officers.

Videos shot by onlookers show Grant being pushed onto his stomach shortly before Mehserle fired both of his guns at Grant's back. The bullets ricocheted off pavement and pierced his lung, killing him.

The video footage has led to debate over whether the officer knowingly shot Grant, as the victim's family alleges.

Reports of police officers using a stun gun on Grant were taken by a stun gun report, but not unheard of in 2009. A sheriff's deputy in Washington state was accidentally shot and wounded in a similar incident last month.
It's a religious thing. People are always going to believe what they're going to believe and I don't think a war or anything will end it.

-Peggy Francois, agriculture business sophomore

Israel may have second threat with Lebanese rockets fired

Residents of this northern Israeli town awoke Thursday to one of their country's worst nightmares: Rockets from Lebanon, and the possibility of a second front in a battle that has raged for two weeks in Gaza.

No armed group claimed responsibility for the two Katyusha rockets that lightly injured two Israelis. But the most likely suspects were small Palestinian factions operating in south Lebanon and known to possess Katyushas.

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which fought a 34-day war with Israel in 2006, denied it was behind the attack. But Hezbollah, which ignited the devastating war in the summer of 2006 that left swaths of Lebanon in ruins — has said it does not want to drag the country into another conflict.

The rockets were fired from territory under Hezbollah's de facto control. But Hezbollah — which ignited the devastating war in the summer of 2006 that left swaths of Lebanon in ruins — has said it does not want to drag the country into another conflict.

Backed by Iran and Syria, Hezbollah likely wants to avoid damaging its newfound standing as a credible player on Lebanon's political stage. After showing its military strength against Israel in 2006 and then again in May 2008 against its Lebanese rivals — when it took control of large parts of Beirut by force — Hezbollah is now a partner in Lebanon's government with veto power over all decisions.

Its leaders have been making do with fiery speeches.

One of the small radical groups in Lebanon allied with Hezbollah, the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, had warned it might open other fronts against Israel if the Gaza offensive continues.
Briefs

State

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of UC Santa Barbara students are getting copies of the Dalai Lama's book "Ethics for the New Millennium" before his April visit to the university.

Some 2,500 copies of the book will be given to students starting Jan. 21. The Dalai Lama makes his fourth visit to the University of California, Santa Barbara on April 24.

The 14th Dalai Lama Professorship in Tibetan Buddhism and cultural studies was established at the university in 2001.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A former vice president of Fry's Electronics Inc. who is accused of embezzling $65 million to pay off massive gambling debts has been indicted on federal wire fraud and money laundering charges that could send him to prison for decades if he's convicted, authorities said Thursday.

Aiaf Umair Siddiqui, a Ferrari-driving executive who often jaunted to Las Vegas on casino-complimented flights aboard private planes, was allegedly able to amass a fortune by forcing some of Fry's vendors to pay extraordinary rates to guarantee the electronics retailer would stock their products.

National

HOUSTON (AP) — Chevron Corp. said Thursday the huge drop in crude prices at the end of 2018 will be a big blow to its fourth-quarter earnings, a sharp reversal from the favorable market conditions that fueled record profits earlier in the year.

After peaking above $147 a barrel in July, oil prices spent the remainder of 2018 falling dramatically. When the fourth quarter began Oct. 1, crude was trading around $600 a barrel. Three months later, on Dec. 31, it settled at $44.60, a decline of nearly 60 percent.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will be distributing inauguration tickets to at least 330 Nevadans chosen by drawing numbers from a hat, his office declined to specify how many, but he has enough to pick 330 numbers from a hat, match them with names of some of the thousands of Nevadans who requested inauguration tickets, and hand out one or two tickets to each person selected. Reid plans to draw the first seven numbers himself in his Senate office Friday morning.

INTERNATIONAL

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Tiny bodies wrapped in white shrouds. The cherubic preschooler sticking out from the rubble of her home, sulking a wounded boy emergency room after a U.N. school.

Children, who make up more than half of the population, are the main victims of the war between Hamas and Israel. The Israel-Hamas war unleashed unprecedented aid. The campaign against Hamas, who have been among civilians.

A UNICEF report released in January 2019 said that 3.6 million children in Gaza were displaced from their homes due to the conflict, and that 1 in 5 children had experienced some form of trauma.

A girl's school backpack is seen during a visit by UNICEF to a school in Gaza on December 31, 2018.

Senior UNICEF official, said that the agency was providing emergency aid to children affected by the conflict and that it was working to ensure that schools remained open.

Most Senate offices got only 500-400 inauguration tickets apiece to hand out, but Reid got considerably more. His office declined to specify how many, but he has enough to pick 330 numbers from a hat, match them with names of some of the thousands of Nevadans who requested inauguration tickets, and hand out one or two tickets to each person selected. Reid plans to draw the first seven numbers himself in his Senate office Friday morning.

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"It's contagious"

Award winning slam poet Gina Loring performs as a part of "Type of Groove" Wednesday in Chumash Auditorium. She focuses on topics like music, politics and identity and her show is being at the end of the term. She is a slam poet who has residencies at the White House, and has been called as "textual rhymes." At Cal Poly students are often on the quilt with v. t. Cal Poly stu- staff, works, club members, team, Ch recs, cafeteria, etc. The quilt lends itself to being a part of the culture." That may not be right, but I resolve this anxiety and love more within reason. I am Spanish, accept the culture, don't judge it, but I like it. The resolutions are simple: eat Europeans, etc. I should be one to do new year's resolutions this year. I was broken about past mistakes. I have not resolved, so what may or may not accomplish this January. This January is the month I may not do. I will do it but not: turpentine?"

In February, I go on a bad diet.

- From Mustang Daily

The Mustang Daily staff prepares to report on campus and the surrounding community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

通知

《The Mustang Daily》是ESL学生的公共论坛。学生编辑会拥有全面的权利，确保所有内容的自由，避免审查或审查程序。《The Mustang Daily》是免费的报纸，对所有内容的审查不会在一篇报纸上，也不存在于出版物或网站。
I don't know if Islamic terrorists are foolish enough to actually believe they could achieve the "destruction of Western civilization" or not. What I do know is that you are foolish for thinking they might actually achieve such a thing. Their goal is to scare us into tearing ourselves apart and the fact that good folks like you are not condoning torture is sal evidence that they have achieved some measure of success. And, by the way, torture does not work; intelligence used to locate and incapacitate terrorist ring leaders has come overwhelmingly from rapport building and not harsh interrogation techniques. In addition, the majority of suspected terrorists captured over the past four years (college students from Darachafu, merchants from Saudi Arabia, flock herders from Pakistan) have cited U.S. torture of Muslims as the main reason they joined terrorist organizations. Plus, who knows how many innocent people were held (and are possibly still being held) or tortured out of mere suspicion? If the answer to that question is more than zero, all of us are soaked in shame, for we have allowed the terrorists to drag our great nation down to their level. It's not okay simply because we are the good guys and they are the bad guys. If we truly want to see "freedom and democracy" take root elsewhere in the world, we must lead by example. Our goal, therefore, should be righteousness — not SELF-righteousness. And you, Lisa, could start by expanding your field of vision beyond your current narrow ideology.

— Eric Boltarad

Response to "Appointment of Panetta is one giant leap in the wrong direction"

You claim, "Harming known terrorists in custody away from concentrations of civilians in one centralized location is a good thing." I don't think anyone would argue against this claim, but it seems obvious that many people in Guantanamo were in the wrong place at the wrong time. What really disturbs me is your claim, "Civil liberties shouldn't matter when it comes to terrorism if they are not citizens." Are you saying that domestic terrorists should get civil liberties but foreign terrorists shouldn't? More to the point, the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 in the case of Yick Wo v. Hopkins that constitutional protections apply to all persons within the U.S. and it's territories (yes, that includes illegal immigrants too). Who knew the War Court was packed with activist judges?

Sadly, torture in real life doesn't work like it does on "24." Many interrogators have said the most effective way to get information from someone is to build trust and common ground — something torture can't accomplish. The U.S. used to be able to claim moral superiority, but after the past eight years — and people who think like you do — we cannot claim this any more.

— Scott Grandi-Hill

Response to "Islamo-fascism: One of the greatest dangers facing America"

Editor's note: comments were slightly edited for length. View the original comments online at mustangdaily.net.

Marti Pillati is a public policy graduate student and the Mustang Daily’s new humor columnist. "Marti’s Word of the Week" appears on Fridays and will explore some of the more important vernacular of college life, one word at a time.

Marti Pillati
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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

The New York Times Crossword
Across
1 Way to flip out a form
6 Claim exclamation
10 __ "near"
13 They may run home, internally
14 Not at all
16 Mario Bros. brother
17 Requirement for some memberships
18 It's often framed
19 Some sister
21 Strike mark
22 Ren
24 Manages to add
26 Wellian race
27 Not like fire
28 Add... (from the start)
30 Red

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1205

PARKER STREET LAUNDRY SLO's FAVORITE COIN LAUNDRY OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK OPEN AT 8 AM

Girls & Sports by Justin Bors and Andrew Feinstein

The America's Cup
Across
33 Glistener on a variety
36 1989-90
38 Use a 21-
39 One not seen at start)
41 Certain hat
42 About
44 Hitchhiker's guide
47 Some laptops
49 Prepares to be
51 Somme sweet
53 Aviator's
59 Take off on
61 2 br 1 ba apt, kitch w/ fridge, stove, W/d, util paid $1150
62 Fradently cry

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1205

Puzzle by Joe Krum
31 Flight takeoff and landing spot
32 Inconsequential
34 Decoy
35 Take up enthusiastically
36 Use a 21-
37 1/16 in. profile
38 Letters of patent?

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Sudoku
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Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com
Bernie Wilson

SAN DIEGO — Words don’t come nearly as easily at yards and touchdowns do for Darren Sproles, the exciting little running back for the San Diego Chargers.

Yet in the moments and days after he helped carry the Bolts into the divisional round of the playoffs, there he was, facing wave after wave of reporters and cameramen and not backing down and right behind those linemen who are 6-5, 6-6, and he’s shorter than them. "You definitely can’t see him," Woodley said.

There have been questions about how Sproles will hold up if he keeps touching the ball as much as he has been.

Houston Texans defensive tackle Travis Johnson, though, remembers Sproles outfitting him and Shawne Merriman as the three worked out prior to the 2005 draft.

Johnson said he bench-pressed 365 pounds two or three times. He remembers Merriman — the Chargers’ linebacker who’s on injured reserve — doing six repetitions and Sproles, 13. "That was the craziest thing I’ve ever seen," Johnson said. "I was thinking, ’This guy’s small.’ I was in awe. It made me a believer. If he’s 5 foot 9 1/2, he might have been the first pick in our draft. No questions asked.”

Sproles will be an unrestricted free agent after the season and stands to make a lot of money.

“We would love to keep him here, and from what I understand he would like to stay here, so that certainly is a possibility," general manager AJ Smith said. If Sproles signs elsewhere, "We’d be extremely disappointed," Smith said.

Wichard, who said Sproles is simply doing what he did at Kansas State, last spoke with the Chargers in July and they decided to talk again after the season. "It was a kind of a year where I wanted to see what Tank was," Wichard said. "He’s a big, strong, physical player. He’s more than that that! Let’s let him get defined. It’s easier to negotiate understanding who he is, and fortunately we’ve had this opportunity now.

SPORTS

MUSTANG DAILY

Sproles working to put stuttering behind him

San Diego Chargers running back Darren Sproles scores the winning touchdown in overtime during an NFL AFC wild-card football game in San Diego.

There are times when he appears to getI just want to do it, ’ Sproles said. "It’s not really bad because they really don’t get a clean shot on me all the time,” he said. “It may look bad, but it isn’t really bad.”

Usually, defenders are too late. He’s a really make ‘em-miss style that allows him to survive in a game full of 300-pounders.

DENIS POROZ ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Gators win BCS National Championship

Florida defeated Oklahoma 24-14 to capture the BCS National Championship on Thursday night. Gators running back Percy Harvin (not pictured) rushed for 122 yards and a touchdown on nine carries. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow (not pictured) threw for 231 yards and two scores.

Cal Poly falls to Cal State Fullerton on ESPNU

The Mustangs (3-10, 0-3 Big West Conference) fell to Cal State Fullerton (7-8, 1-2) 86-82 in Mott Gym in a game that was nationally televised by ESPNU. Cal Poly senior guard Chaz Thomas led the Mustangs with four three-pointers, 13 points and four assists. Cal Poly senior guard Josh Akognon led all scorers with 26 points. Cal Poly returns to action at 7 p.m. Saturday night when they host conference foe UC Irvine. Go to mustangdaily.net for a full recap.