Engineering college reaches out to women

Samantha MacConnell

The College of Engineering at Cal Poly has seen an increase in the number of female students, which has reversed a trend of declining enrollment of women in engineering.

Omar Sanchez

When Jessica Gregory began pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering in 2004, freshmen women only accounted for 11.8 percent of the entering class. She was often the only woman in her major courses. However, due to several programs focusing on increasing female enrollment in engineering, Gregory's experience may no longer be the norm.

For the past decade, the percentage of women studying engineering has seen a nationwide decline, a trend that holds true for Cal Poly. However, Cal Poly has seen a steady increase in the number of freshmen women enrolled, something that could be credited to outreach programs funded by the private sector and donations.

The increase was clearly apparent from 2005 to 2007, when the number of female enrolling into the College of Engineering increased by 22 percent, according to the Cal Poly Institutional Planning and Analysis fact book.

"It's significant because for the past eight years the percentage of women in engineering nationally has been on the decline," said College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori.

"So we have essentially been able to reverse this trend."

However, not all departments have seen this increase. Biomedical engineering, with women accounting for 32 percent of 338 students, and environmental engineering with women accounting for over 35 percent of 128 students, are the most popular fields for women studying engineering.

Mechanical engineering, Cal Poly's largest engineering department with over one thousand students, is less than 10 percent female for the past decade. In the second largest department, civil engineering, 19 percent of the students are women.

"In a way it makes me more competitive because I want to be as good as the boys," Gregory said about being a mechanical engineering student.

The ratio of women to men in the College of Engineering reflects the national trend that Noori said the college is turning around. In 1998, women represented 18.1 percent of undergraduate students of a 3,785 total enrollment in the college of engineering, and as of fall of 2007, that number has declined to 13.6 percent out of a total enrollment of 5,304.

This means that over the past decade, the enrollment of men has increased at a disproportionate rate compared to women by 8-to-1. But Noori emphasized the progress of female freshmen enrollment as it notably increased from 14.8 percent in 2005 to 15.6 percent in 2007.

Enrolling in engineering is one thing, graduating with a engineering degree is another. An additional accomplishment in the Cal Poly engineering program has been its ability to award bachelor degrees to a high number of women.

In 2005, the American Society for Engineering Education published that Cal Poly was 23rd in the nation in number of degrees awarded. Since then Cal Poly's ranking has risen to 16th nationally out of 300 engineering programs in the country.

Noori credits these increases to the cooperation between the outreach programs the college has created to diversify.

"Just last year alone we had 600 kids from elementary to high school who were brought here for a day or two for project activities. We had programs for the parents, especially for first generation students," he said.

"We started a summer camp two years ago with only 20 students. This past summer it increased to 100 students, mainly women and minorities. We also started an aggressive scholarship program. When I came here we only had $24,000 for freshmen scholarships; we have gone up to $350,000," Noori continued.

These programs are funded by people who see Engineering, page 2

University budget crisis continues

Samantha MacConnell

California's deteriorating economy and budget crisis continues to affect Cal Poly faculty and students as administrators wait to receive the Chancellor's Office evaluation of the 2009-10 operating budget.

Next year Cal Poly expects a budget cut of at least $500,000 if Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal is approved by the legislature.

"We're still waiting for action from Sacramento," said Cal Poly Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Robert Koob. "Some actions have been taken to preserve money."

Each academic college had a 2.5 percent budget reduction last year, which led to fewer teaching positions and course sections. In an attempt to save money, the administration is limiting travel, equipment and supply purchases as well as the hiring of some teaching positions.

Cal Poly has endured two budget cuts since the operating budget loss of $3 million at the start of this year. The first and one-time cut of the 2008-09 fiscal year was $1.6 million and the second was $3.5 million, a reduction to the base budget, which is a portion of the budget needed to keep the university prepared each year.

"We started the year with a shortfall and the budget has been cut twice since then, so we are really in a very difficult situation."

see Budget, page 2

Afghan president: US forces killed 16 civilians

Jason Straziuso and Rahim Fazaei

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — President Hamid Karzai condemned a U.S. operation that he said killed 16 Afghan civilians, while hundreds of villagers denounced the American military during an angry demonstration Sunday.

Karzai said the killing of innocent Afghans during U.S. military operations "is strengthening the terrorists."

He also announced that his Ministry of Defense sent Washington a draft technical agreement that seeks to give Afghanistan more oversight over U.S. military operations. The same letter has also been sent to NATO headquarters.

Karzai in recent weeks has also demanded the immediate withdrawal of NATO forces from the area, where they claim the civilians were killed.

Afghan villagers burn a U.S. flag during a protest rally against the U.S. and Afghan governments following a U.S. operation in their village, in Moshman, capital of Uruzgan province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009.

see Protest, page 2

see Engineering, page 2
Engineering
will benefit the most from having a diverse population of engineers in the engineering industry.

"All these programs I mentioned are funded through external funds," Noort said.

"There are no state budgets to support those activities. Our corporate partners in the industry [including Stacey Breitenbach's operation (Society of Women Engineers) every year have an evening with industry and raises a lot of money for scholarships]."

He stressed the importance of the programs, emphasizing the fact that women make up 50 percent of the population but few are in the engineering industry.

"It's a deep-rooted problem, because of the image that is portrayed about engineering overall. It's changing a little bit, it's getting better. So we are trying to change that image through outreach activities," he said.

It's not just women Cal Poly wants to recruit. Noort said including women as well as minority students in engineering is essential at a time when other countries are heavily investing in engineering.

"The United States has been a leader in innovation because of engineering," he said. "If we lose that, we can become a third-world country."

The dwindling economy is not helping state schools like Cal Poly as it recovers to recruit more women. Budget cuts have forced the college to reduce freshmen enrollment this academic year by 450, Noort said. As a result, admission is more competitive.

As fees continue to augment, Noort said that the extra money can facilitate hiring more faculty resulting in more students and possibly more women and minorities.

"If you want to sustain the growth in engineering, you have to promote and recruit more students from those populations because that is the future," he said.

Budget

Continued from page 1

increasingly laid out at his Western offices over the issue of civilian casualties, even as U.S. politicians and a top NATO official have publicly criticized Karzai for the slow pace of progress here.

The back-and-forth comes as the new administration of President Barack Obama must decide whether to support Karzai as he seeks re-election later this year as part of the United States' overall Afghan strategy.

Karzai's latest criticism follows a Saturday raid in Laghman province that the U.S. says killed 15 armed militants, including a woman with an RPG, but that Afghans officials say killed civilians.

Two women and three children were among the 16 dead civilians, Karzai said in a statement.

In Laghman's capital, hundreds of angry demonstrators denounced the U.S. military Sunday and demanded an end to overnight raids. U.S. military leaders, victims' relatives and Afghan officials — including two top Karzai advisors — met at the government's compound to discuss the issue, Gov. Latifullah Mashal said.

"The U.S. military said 'We are sorry for this incident and after this we are going to coordinate our operations with Afghan forces.'"

Protest

Continued from page 1

ex."

"Mashal said.

Civilian deaths during U.S. operations have been a huge source of friction between the Afghan government and U.S. and NATO militaries. Many of the deaths happen on overnight raids by U.S. Special Forces who launch operations against specific insurgent leaders.

A U.S. investigative team that had planned to travel to the village — 40 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of the capital, Kabul — was canceled Sunday because of bad weather. U.S. military spokesman Col. Greg Julian said American officials hoped to visit the site on Tuesday, weather permitting.

"We do want to find out what the bottom line is, and we're kind of in a hands-tied position until we can get out there," Julian said.

"And even when we get out there, it's based on what people say rather than being able to do a full forensic-type investigation," Julian said that the U.S. military has photos showing militants fighting the U.S. coalition forces, but that the photos cannot be released to the public. He said the photos would be shown to Afghan officials.

Karzai last week told parliament that the U.S. and NATO have not heeded his calls to stop airstrikes in civilian areas. Karzai has recently sought to have more control over what kinds of activities U.S.

and NATO forces can carry out. According to a copy obtained by The Associated Press, the draft technical agreement Karzai's government sent to Washington and NATO headquarters calls for:

- The deployment of additional U.S. or NATO troops and their location carried out only with Afghan government approval.
- Full coordination between Afghan and NATO defense authorities "at the highest possible level for all phases of military and ground operations."
- House searches and detention operations to be carried out only by Afghan security forces.

Civilian deaths are an extremely complicated issue in Afghanistan. Afghan villagers have been known to exaggerate civilian death claims in order to receive more compensation from the U.S. military, and officials have said that insurgents sometimes force villagers to make false death reports.

But the U.S. military has also been known to not fully acknowledge when it killed civilians.

After a battle in August in the village of Arzabad, the U.S. military at first said no civilians were killed. A day later it said about five died, and eventually a more thorough U.S. investigation found 33 civilians were killed. The Afghan government and the U.S. said 90 civilians were killed.

The university should not be an obstacle for (student's) graduation.

—Dave Christy
Dean of the College of Business

Center for Science have already been impacted. Construction and planning is stopped for now, which costs the university since they will have to return to revenue projects. The administration is working to make sure classes are available so students can progress towards graduation. To do so, the university is raising college-based fees.

"The university should not be an obstacle for their graduation, so we're going to make every effort to make certain that students can get out of here on time," Koob said.

No budget resolution could lead to fewer college graduates. Cal Poly would be able to serve more students if enrolled students graduated in four years.

"I think that the students we admit to Cal Poly are able to graduate in four years, as far as academic capability and we should urge them to do so and create incentives that promote that goal," Christy said.

find out what our reporters & editors are thinking.
State

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Police in Torrance have non-fatally shot a shoplifting suspect after an officer was struck by her getaway car.

Sgt. Bernard Anderson says security guards at a Marshalls store called police around 8:30 p.m. Saturday to report two shoplifters.

Officers arriving at the scene saw two women trying to leave the store with merchandise.

One woman was arrested, but the other got into a waiting car driven by a third woman who struck the officer with the car while driving away.

Anderson says at least one officer opened fire, striking one of the suspects.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators marched on this city's waterfront, vowing to continue to fight vehemently for their beliefs in spite of a new president who supports abortion rights.

The protesters on Saturday spoke out against the 36-year-old president-elect, saying they will continue to fight for their cause.

The protesters, who gathered at the foot of Market Street, said they will continue to fight for their beliefs, including the ban on abortion.

International

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A gunman opened fire outside an under-21 nightclub in Portland, Ore., killing two girls and wounding several other people in an apparently random attack, police said.

Six victims were exchange students going to The Zone club to celebrate a birthday.

The man did not have any known relationship to the victims beforehand, and he didn't appear to have been in the club or a nearby bar before the shooting Saturday night, police Detective Mary Wheat said Sunday.

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator-designate Kirsten Gillibrand pledged Sunday to combat gun violence while protecting hunters' rights, saying "there's enormous space for common ground" on issues that she differs from fellow New York Democrat.

Gillibrand met Sunday with Gov. David Paterson, senator-elect Charles Schumer and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose vacant Senate seat Gillibrand was appointed to fill Friday.

Marina Shorestein, a spokeswoman for Paterson, said the governor's office delivered paperwork in Washington on Sunday formalizing Gillibrand's appointment to the Senate.

Gillibrand, a second-term congresswoman who worked on the former first lady's 2000 Senate campaign, said Clinton "has always been a mentor of mine and someone I've always admired."

JERUSALEM (AP) — Special legal teams will defend Israeli soldiers against potential war crimes charges stemming from civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip, the prime minister said Sunday, promising the country would fully back those who fought in the three-week offensive.

The move reflected growing concerns by Israel that officers could be subject to international prosecution, despite the army's claims that Hamas militants caused the civilian casualties by staging attacks from residential areas.

The state of Israel will fully back those who acted on its behalf," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. "The soldiers and commanders who were sent on missions in Gaza must know that they are safe from various tribunals."

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Rwandan and Congolese troops pushed deeper into zones in Congo held by Rwandan Hutu militants Sunday in a joint military operation designed to crush armed groups that have destabilized central Africa, a military spokesman said.

Rwanda and Congo have been enemies for years, but the two neighbors suddenly changed tactics and began cooperating last week to disarm groups each nation had previously backed as proxies.

Eastern Congo has been wracked by violence since Rwandan 1994 genocide spilled war across the border. Hutu militias that participated in the massacre of more than 500,000 mostly ethnic Tutsis, primarily sought refuge in Congo.

“Maybe change the image. There are stereotypes that you have to stay in a cubicle, work and throw your hands up. Make it more fun.”

— Allan Park, computer science senior

“Better use of technology. I think initially women didn't get into engineering because it was physically laborious. Technology, like moving things that are heavy, would facilitate women in the industry.”

— Danny Shaw, psychology senior

“Just have more programs in either high schools or middle schools that get more women interested in the engineering programs in colleges.”

— David Roberts, electrical engineering sophomore

“Maybe if mathematics were more of a focus. If it is pushed more that (women) can do those things and that it's just an idea that field is for men. As women ... we can do anything that we want.”

— Alicia Hunter, animal science freshman

Compiled and photographed by Samantha MacConnell

“Maybe mathematics were more of a focus. If it is pushed more that (women) can do those things and that it's just an idea that field is for men. As women ... we can do anything that we want.”

— Alicia Hunter, animal science freshman

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY SAMANTHA MACCONNELL

Day one and the journey's just begun

Day one. It's what you've been waiting for. When your career starts to take shape. Caring, challenging training and support. When your skills are developed through experience tailored to you.

And when your success is driven by individual coaching, mentoring and development. Remarkably, we're committed to helping you achieve your potential. Should your career take you further.

What's next for your future? Visit ey.com/us/eyinsight and our Facebook page.

ERNST & YOUNG

Quality in Everything We Do
Bolivians back new constitution

Obama ushered in a new era for the United States, making front-page headlines all over the world and capturing the attention America's global adversaries.

Some global enemies ready to give Obama a chance

Paul Haven

In his inaugural address, President Barack Obama signaled conciliation to America's foes by using the metaphor of an outstretched hand to an unclenched fist.

But there are signs that some of those foes were listening, sensing an opening for improved relations after eight combative years under President George W. Bush. Fidel Castro is said to like the new American leader, and North Korea and Iran both sounded open to new ideas to deflate nuclear-tinged tensions.

Unclear is what they will demand in return from the untested American statesman, and whether they will agree to the compromises the U.S. is likely to insist on in exchange for warmer relations.

Are the Castro brothers really willing to move toward democracy? Can Russia and the West heal their widening estrangement? Will Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez stop being a thorn in America's side?

Analysts say they see many bright opportunities amid the perils and complexities.

"In this dangerous world, in a world where America's leverage has either been expressed as not being as strong as the rhetoric implied or where it is simply diminishing, I think Obama's approach is exactly what America needs," said Ruben Niblett, the director of Chatham House, the London-based think tank.

"We need an approach that gets others to show their hand, that makes others have to think harder about their diplomacy, rather than just to react to rather strident and fixed American positions," see Obama, page 5

Dan Keane

Bolivian voters embraced a new constitution Sunday that promises more power for the long-suffered indigenous majority and grants leftist President Evo Morales a shot at remaining in office through 2014.

The charter passed easily in a country where many can still recall when Indians were forbidden to vote. But it sometimes vague wording and resistance from Bolivia's mestizo and European-descended majority stymied all of those across the nation.

"People will go to vote for the possibility of dreaming for a better country — but a country for all of us," said Ruben Cortas, opposition governor of the eastern state of Santa Cruz. "We should all be part of this change."

The proposed constitution was backed by 56.8 percent of voters and opposed by 43.2 percent, with more than 90 percent of precincts reporting, according to a quick count by a private polling company. The result was similar to two exit polls by private TV stations that showed 60 percent of voters backing the charter.

Sunday's vote went peacefully, a relief for a nation where political tensions have recently turned deadly. In 2007, three college students were killed in anti-government riots, and 13 mostly indigenous Morales supporters died in September when rioters seized government buildings to block a vote on the proposed constitution.

The proposed document would create a new Congress with seats reserved for Bolivia's smaller indigenous groups and eliminates any mention of The Roman Catholic Church, instead recognizing and honoring the Andean earth deity Pachamama.

The charter calls for a general election in December in which Morales could run for a second, consecutive five-year term. The current constitution permits two terms, but not consecutively.

At the heart of the proposed constitution is a provision granting autonomy to 36 indigenous "nations" and several opposition-controlled eastern states. But both are given a vaguely defined "equal rank" that fails to resolve their rival claims over open land in Bolivia's fertile eastern lowlands, whose large agribusiness interests and valuable gas reserves drive much of the country's economy.

With an eye to redistributing territory in the region, the constitution also limits future land holdings to 5,000 (12,000 hectares) or 10,000 hectares, depending which voters choose. Current landholders are exempt from the cap — a nod to the east's powerful cattle and soy industries, which fiercely oppose the proposal.

Morales, an Aymara Indian, has allied himself closely with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in what they call "21st century socialism."

Elected in 2005 on a promise to nationalize Bolivia's natural gas industry, Morales has increased the state's presence throughout the economy and expanded benefits for the poor.

Sharing Chavez's anti-U.S. sentiment, he has also hosted Bolivia's U.S. ambassador and Drug Enforcement Administration agents after claiming they had conspired against his government last year. Washington has denied the allegations.

Morales' reforms remain wildly popular, winning him 67 percent support in an August recall election. But his biggest project neared failure in 2006, when an assembly convened to rewrite the constitution broke apart along racial lines.

In an October deal, Congress approved holding the referendum only after Morales agreed to seek one more term instead of two.

---

Your designated door-to-door buyer for fast, WIDE CHOICES! SPECIAL EVENTS.

Let us get you there.

ANYONE...ANYTIME...805-541-8747

MONDAY MADNESS

FREE Pizza!

Buy Any X-Large Pizza w/1 or More Toppings & Get a Free Medium Cheese Pizza

Valid All Day. Not Good with Other Offers.

Student 20% Off

An X-Large Pizza w/1 or More Toppings

Special

Late Night Deal

X-Large Pizza $14.99

Offer valid 10:00 to 6:00 am. Offer valid w/other offers.

NEW & IMPROVED!

Check out our new remodel.

1000 higuera st • (805) 541-4420 • woodstockssl.com

---

Monday, January 26, 2009
Democrats: Stimulus plan no quick fix for economy

Stephen Ohlemacher
ASSOCIATE PRESS

The White House warned Sunday that the country could face a long and painful financial recovery, even with major government intervention to stimulate the economy and ease financial institutions.

"We're off and running, but it's going to get worse before it gets better," said Vice President Joe Biden, taking the lead on a theme echoed by other Democratic officials on the Sunday talk shows.

At the end of the Obama administration's first week, the party in power at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue sought to lower expectations for a quick fix despite legislation expected to pass by next month that would pump billions of dollars into the economy.

Democrats also opened the door for even more government aid to struggling banks beyond the $700 billion bailout already in place.

Congress has given President Barack Obama permission to spend the second $500 billion of a Wall Street bailout package even though lawmakers have criticized the Bush administration for the way it spent the first half. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she is open to additional government rescue money for banks and financial institutions. But she said taxpayers must get an ownership stake in return.

Biden said Obama's choice for Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, will recommend whether more money is needed for the banks. Geithner could be confirmed by the Senate as early as Monday.

Congress is working on an $825 billion economic recovery package that dedicates about two-thirds to new government spending and the rest to tax cuts. Separate proposals making their way through the House and Senate would combine tax cuts for individuals and businesses, help for cash-strapped state governments, aid for the poor and unemployed, and direct spending by the federal government.

"The goal is to infuse money directly into the economy in the hope of bringing the nation out of recession, while creating 3 million to 4 million jobs. It would be largest economic recovery package ever enacted," the White House says.

Obama administration officials have said the new president wants to see job creation in his recovery plan, which will be discussed at the White House on Monday.

With the latest Middle East fighting still raging, Obama appointed George Mitchell, mediator of peace in Northern Ireland, as special envoy to the Middle East.

While the task is daunting, some see room for Obama to maneuver.

"Syria, which has returned between rival factions and potential peace partners, has indicated that it seeks no further quarrel with Washington, even saying it would like the new administration to mediate stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks," said a White House official.

If Obama helps Syria in from the cold, analysts say it could have far-reaching benefits. Syria has great influence over two of Israel's main enemies - Hezbollah and Lebanon, which leaders in Damascus and Ashdod also would help pressure Syrian ally Iran to take a more measured stance.

Another striking sign of change on Obama's first full day in office was an article in The New York Times written by Libyan President Mouammar Gadhafi.

In it, Gadhafi recognized the Jews' long history of persecution and said they "deserve their homeland." His solution - a binational Arab-Jewish state, as a nonstarter to Israel, but still his conciliatory language, marked a striking turnaround from the terror-sponsoring Gadhafi of old.

Howdy, won't see hope for progress in the frustrating on-again-off-again talks with North Korea.

With the first summit between Bush and Kim Jong Il's successor still months away, it's a hopeful sign for the new administration.

Another striking sign of change on Obama's first full day in office was an article in The New York Times written by Libyan President Mouammar Gadhafi.

In it, Gadhafi recognized the Jews' long history of persecution and said they "deserve their homeland." His solution - a binational Arab-Jewish state, as a nonstarter to Israel, but still his conciliatory language, marked a striking turnaround from the terror-sponsoring Gadhafi of old.

Still, the differences between the two nations are deep - U.S. suspicions about Iran's nuclear program, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats to annihilate Israel, and Tehran's support for militias in Iraq - and analysts say that baby steps are all that can be hoped for, at least in the short term.

Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, said the country had doubts that Obama's Mideast policy will be different from the Bush administration's, as he television reported Saturday.

And diplomacy has its limits. Some experts feel the Islamic nation is committed to developing nuclear weapons, whatever the cost.

Obama may think "he can convince Iran to give up its nuclear program, but this is a red line for Iran," said Saudi political analyst Khalid al-Dakhil.

Israel and the Palestinians present the new president with one of his greatest challenges, and he has been quick to demonstrate his interest.

With the latest Gaza fighting still reverberating around the world, Obama appointed George Mitchell, mediator of peace in Northern Ireland, as special envoy to the Middle East.

While the task is daunting, some see room for Obama to maneuver.

"Syria, which has returned between rival factions and potential peace partners, has indicated that it seeks no further quarrel with Washington, even saying it would like the new administration to mediate stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks," said a White House official.

If Obama helps Syria in from the cold, analysts say it could have far-reaching benefits. Syria has great influence over two of Israel's main enemies - Hezbollah and Lebanon, which leaders in Damascus and Ashdod also would help pressure Syrian ally Iran to take a more measured stance.
Feed your future

See the difference 100
PwC interns made in Belize.

Begin at www.pwc.tv
Have something to say? Let us hear it.
mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Crazy Jays
767 Higuera Street
Downtown SLO
All Clearance Merchandise
$19.99 or LESS!
New eatery brings Arabic spice to SLO
I don’t have one particular religion. I can’t say I’m Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, or Muslim. You could say I have experimented with the idea of belief. I’ve tried several (poetic) religions. But I guess if I had a gun to my head, I would have believed in putting myself into the retail god of materialism. He is a god who demands fear and respect and has several names. Some call him/her Fendi, some Isaac Jacobs. I call him Marc Jacobs.

Suffice to say, this Thanksgiving I expected the sales to top any preceding year. I thought that this would be my salvation. In such a poor economy, I had not set foot into a store in awhile. I imagined designer shills for $10, punes for pennies. iPods for less than a $1995 Somo Wolkman. I scoured the flooded Las Vegas strip for the perfect sale, and all of the inexpensive items I had dreamed up. Sadly, Black Friday was more gray than black. I felt with nothing to show for a full day of shopping in heels. I prayed to Marc Jacobs every night in a desperate wish to make up for this Thanksgivings’ pitiful excuse for Black Friday. Finally, this month he answered my prayers. I have never seen so many store windows lit up with red signs announcing not just a small sale, but in some cases, all of the store is on sale.

I perused Higuera Street wide-eyed, jaw-dropping, I felt like a kid in a candy store, like a shop-a-holic at a Bloomingdale’s end of season sale. Where would I go first? Then it set in: euphoria. I saw signs with words as tall as me ushering in shoppers with the promise of “60 percent off all sale merchandise” and all I could think was, “This is not the American way.” I shopped around, spending a whole lot of money that I don’t actually have on every corner. Of course, at times I was plagued with guilt, but those moments passed. I mean, do I need a new Marc Jacobs purse? No. Do I want a new Marc Jacobs purse? Is that even a real question? I doubt that there is a person left in this town who hasn’t seen a store go out of business, downsized or offer a too-good-to-be true discount. Are we all being blessed by the materialism gods, or is something less divine at work here? I mean, maybe it’s all a coincidence and it’s just that Marc Jacobs listened to my desperate prayers, or maybe the businesses in San Luis Obispo are seeing the drawbacks of the failing economy. Either way I’ll be there, worn-out credit card in hand, and if it is the latter of the two, you can rest assured that I will be downsizing my everything I can to help our struggling businesses.

Rachel Newman is an English junior. “That’s What She Said” takes a fresh and light-hearted look at stores at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo.

by Rachel Newman

Hope is not an empty message

In regard to Ian Nachreiner’s column on January 22: You speak from the most uneducated platform, and I don’t mean as an agricultural major, but as a close-minded individual who cannot swallow his pride to hope for a better tomorrow.

“I am referring to latching on to an empty message of hope” you state in regard to Obama and his presidency Are you kidding me?

Where is this grounded? Where do you find the evidence to say such a thing as to fling the hope of America across your shoulder and let it slump to your feet? I hope the hope sticks to your feet as you let it fall across your brow, because America will not fall into your pit of “poor-me-mma-yell-and-do-it-immediately.” But instead it will surely grow until you have suffocated yourself in your own misery. You testify that “the notion that America needs remaking is a faulty one and it is empty rhetoric that leaves the perception that America is not on sound footing.” Yes, you might be right, or it might be that the economy is struggling through the worse recession since the Great Depression... hmm, one of those you also say “that people will largely be disappointed with Obama’s record when it comes time to reelect him...” So I think it is safe to say you are a skilled fortune teller with a degree in crystal-glass-readings, or this is another oubter to your pesimistic attitude that finds fruition within all your columns. But it’s not for me to latch onto the former or the latter so I’ll leave that to you. I have joked that I would doubt myself if I were to write this column this day. I just wanted to thank you for this very necessary, positive closing in an already heartbreaking column.

Jason Lindo
English senior

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, that’s just a speck of the beauty of America. America is always going to be beautiful, only many have taken that beauty for granted. I think President Obama will, but please keep in mind he is a man. A man of flesh, blood and human nature... not a God (I already have one). Don’t wait for the wealth, because you will just wait. Come with the “American Way” and earn your dream, don’t expect others to provide it.

As historic as this may be, I seem to remember another bit of history. “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.” (Inaugural Address by John F. Kennedy—Jan. 20, 1961).

Response to “Today we inaugurate a man, not a God”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

The Mustang Daily is a designated public forum. Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper however the removal of more than one copy of this paper per day is subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue.

CHRIS SHARRON may edit letters for grammar; profanities and class standing. Letters must come as attachments. Please limit to 250 words. Letters should include the author’s name, address, and phone number. Letters to the Editor are not responsible for the views expressed. Letters do not represent the views of Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
John Nadel

LOS ANGELES — At age 37, Shane Mosley’s better days appeared to be behind him following a narrow loss to Miguel Cantu in November 2007 and an unimpressive victory over Ricardo Mayorga four months ago.

That all changed with his domination of Antonio Margarito.

"Well, I did it again, right here at the Staples Center — the king of Cali,'" a giddy Mosley said after taking Margarito WBA welterweight title via a technical knockout at 43 seconds of the ninth round Saturday night.

"Everything that we worked on came to pass," Mosley said. "I wasn’t really expecting a knockout. It happened.

Did it ever. And in most convincing fashion.

The bout was Mosley’s second at Staples Center. He won a 12-round split decision over Oscar De La Hoya on June 17, 2000 in the first boxing match held at the downtown Los Angeles arena to win a version of the world welterweight title for the first three of times. He’s also been a champion in the lightweight and junior middleweight divisions.

All things considered, this triumph might have been more impressive.

"It was an amazing performance by Shane," said Richard Schaefer, the CEO of Golden Boy Promotions, who promoted the bout along with Top Rank. "A lot of people counted him out. He turned back the clock.

Margarito was coming off an impressive victory over the previously unbeaten Cotto six months ago to win the WBA welterweight crown and leave the 30-year-old stagger being touted as one of the world’s top pound-for-pound fighters.

But Mosley dominated the man known as the “Tijuana Tornado” from start to finish, handing him the first knockout of his career.

"I think my speed was too much for him," Mosley said. "I was fast. I have a lot of power in my punches. He’s very strong and powerful, he comes at you. I’m also powerful. People underestimate my strength. (Ricardo) Mayorga, (Fernando) Vargas, these guys are big. I’m able to knock them out. Margarito didn’t feel nearly as big.

Mosley said he’d love another shot at Cotto, but would take on all-comers. He also mentioned the possibility of meeting the winner of the Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton fight, scheduled for May 2 in Las Vegas.

A rematch with Margarito would seem to be a possibility.

"Right now, I’m the man to beat," Mosley said.

Mosley brought in Nazim Rich­ardson to train him for this fight, replacing his father, Jack. That move couldn’t have worked out any better. "I said before the fight I knew (Margarito) was something special, so we put a special game plan in," Richardson said. "Shane Mosley’s an excellent athlete. Shane Mosley is an excellent student."

Margarito, of Tijuana, Mexico, didn’t win a single round on one judge’s scorecard, one on another and two on the third before the ninth. The Associated Press had Mosley winning every round but one.

"If I feel OK, I was just getting caught over and over," said Margarito, who was taken to a hospital for precautionary reasons.

Margarito started down Cotto last July but came on to dominate his opponent before stopping him in the 11th round. He got off to another slow start, but Mosley made sure he wouldn’t get untracked.

Margarito fans at ringside, perhaps understanding their fighter was in trouble, began a pleading “Margarito, Margarito” chant as the eighth round began, and the Mexican boxer’s corner came to life when he landed his most solid blows of the fight to that point.

But Mosley stabbed the champ late in the round, and floored him with a barrage of punches in the round ended. Margarito wobbled to his feet to beat the count to 10, but looked like a beaten man as he sat in his corner.

Mosley continued to force the action in the ninth, and finally Margarito’s corner threw in the towel when the fighter was unable to defend himself. Mosley landed 18 power punches and 21 overall to none for Margarito in the final round.

Mosley, who weighed the maximum 147 pounds, raised his record to 46-6 with 39 knockouts. Margarito, who weighed 145.8 pounds, dropped to 47-5-2 with 27 knockouts.

“It was a great night for me," Mosley said. "Hopefully, there are many, many more.”
January 26, 2009

Joe Harden's 16 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

The victory.

recruit

The Mustangs won't expect to play until Tuesday night against Charlotte or during the Lakers' upcoming five-game road trip that begins Friday night in Minnesota.

"I've been feeling better for about a week now," he said. "I still had to go through a process to make sure I was OK. No pain, no swelling — it felt normal. I have been watching these guys play and I expect to be playing like this all the time. That's how I am. I work hard and I'm disappointed when it doesn't happen."

Jackson said before the game that Farmar was on the active list, but he wasn't sure he'd play the third-year pro.

"I was in his ear the whole time on the bench," Jackson said with a smile. "He would have had to deal with that if we had lost.

"I'm back, everybody falls into their natural positions and we are back clicking on all cylinders," Reserve Trevor Ariza scored 17 points to match his season high and Andrew Bynum had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers. Gasol was the only Los Angeles starter to play in the final period.

"A lot Dig," coach Phil Jackson replied when asked how important Farmar's return was to the Lakers. "It helps us a lot. Jordan obviously has attributes — the speed and the quickness. Those are things that we missed, that tempo change in our game."

Farmar wasn't expected to play until Tuesday night against Charlotte or during the Lakers' upcoming five-game road trip that begins Friday night in Minnesota.

"I definitely think I improved or helped myself, whatever you ever want to call it," Baden told KSMB- TV. "I got a chance to get out there and perform in front of people who hadn't seen me do so so far."

"My name's in a couple more people's notebooks and there's a couple more important people asking questions about me and who I am, where I came from and if I'll be a good fit for their team." Baden was the first player to represent Cal Poly in the Senior Bowl. He has been invited to the NFL Scouting Combine, scheduled for Feb. 18-24 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The NFL Draft will be held April 25-26 in New York.

Cal Poly senior guard Chaz Thomas hit two 3-pointers for 20 yards in the Under Armour Senior Bowl, scheduled for Feb. 18-24 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The NFL Draft will be held April 25-26 in New York.

The Mustangs return to the court at 7 p.m. Tuesday when they take on non-conference foe Cal State Bakersfield in the Icardo Center.

Cali Poly senior guard Chrish Thomas hit two 3-point field goals in a 30-second span down the stretch to give the Mustangs their second-consecutive Big West road victory on Saturday night.

After falling by as many as 22 points with just nine minutes remaining in the game, Thomas' first 3-point shot gave Cal Poly (5-12, 2-5 Big West Conference) its victory on Saturday night.

Backups, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches. Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches. Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.

Peppincling, boasting three of the nation's top-125 ranked players swopped all six singles matches.