Poly students’ western show clip-clops into Paso

Cassandra Keyse

Shine those belt buckles and polish those boots, because Cal Poly’s Western Bonanza Livestock Show returns for its 25th anniversary on the Central Coast. The free event will be held at the Paso Robles Event Center Feb. 13 to 15.

Western Bonanza, the largest student-run livestock show in the country, started as a senior project before, and people that have been showing cattle or goats for years,” agricultural science senior and Westen Bonanza intern Shannon Aguilar said.

The management team begins planning for the show in the fall and is then joined by the students enrolled in Livestock Show Management, ASCI 212. The class contains students from all colleges and experience levels.

“We have a variety of majors — business, crop science, people that have never touched an animal before, and people that have been showing cattle or goats for years,” agricultural science senior and Western Bonanza marketing manager Megan Brownell said.

Western Bonanza intern and animal science senior Wyatt Scott agreed, saying that a major reason that students enroll in the class is to learn how a livestock show runs.

“To be part of Western Bonanza, you don’t have to be competitive and to be a part of the management team, you don’t have to have a background in any kind of livestock at all,” Scott said. “The whole point of the class is to learn these different programs.

There’s a lot of kids in the class who had never done it and they say ‘Wow, that’s pretty neat.’”

According to animal science sophomore Tricia Harlan, not only are there a variety of majors involved, but there are also numerous ways to be involved with Western Bonanza.

“It’s cool how the students get to be involved and how there’s such a big range of different opportunities in Western Bonanza that it’s kind of matches whatever you’re into,” said Harlan, who is the group’s media and publicity chairman. “If you were really involved in showing beef cattle, then you can be on the beef committee, but let’s say that you were never involved with animals at all and came from a city point of the class is to learn these different programs.

Sacramento (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders on Wednesday were trying to find a compromise to fix California’s massive budget deficit, as Democrat said they wanted to vote on a proposal by week’s end.

Democrats and Republicans indicated they were close to a compromise but noted that a few key details had to be worked out before they could agree on the plan to deal with a shortfall pegged at $42 billion through June 2010.

The state Senate leader characterized the negotiations in much the same way.

“There is no deal, but there is a common framework,” Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said Wednesday before a luncheon address to the Sacramento Press Club.

Any deal is likely to include a combination of tax increases, spending cuts, long-term budget reform such as a spending cap, borrowing and a provision for additional federal money through the stimulus bill being negotiated in Congress.

Friday will mark the 100th day since the governor called a special legislative session to deal with the state’s fiscal crisis. California has halted thousands of infrastructure projects, put a hold on tax refund checks and delayed payments to state contractors.

The Schwarzenegger administration also has instituted twice-a-month furloughs for some 200,000 state employees and has said it will begin a payroll process for some 10,000 state workers if no deal is reached by the end of the week.

Lawmakers have been at odds over how to close the gap through next fiscal year and the remainder of the current one. Democrats want tax increases with minimal cuts to social services while Republicans want a spending cap and business-friendly provisions in exchange for tax increases.

Judith Lin

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Chris Jagger

TOMORROW: Showers High 58/ Low 39

There’s more to Scientology than Tom Cruise’s antics on “Oprah.” Cal Poly students will have the opportunity to learn about the controversial religion from a leading Scientology’s spokesperson tonight.

Rev. Lee Holzinger from Santa Barbara will give a presentation and answer questions about the Church of Scientology at 7 p.m. in the Science Building North, room 215. The speech will focus on how Scientologists see the world and what makes Scientology distinct from other religions.

Holzinger is a leader of the Santa Barbara Church of Scientology and has been involved with the religion for more than 30 years. He will also describe Scientology’s origins and specific beliefs shared by its members.

“I think the presentation is well timed after all the recent debate over Scientology,” said religious studies program adviser Stephen Lloyd-Moffet.

Scientology has been the subject of intense controversy since its inception as a religion in 1952 by American science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. But in recent years, it has gained more notoriety by becoming popular with celebrities including Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Isaac Hayes.

The religion is based on the idea that people are immortal, spiritual beings known as Thetans who lived on other planets in the past but have now been reincarnated in human bodies.

Scientologists discover their inner spirituality through one-on-one counseling sessions with counselors. During these sessions, an “E-Meter” is used to locate troubled areas of the human psyche by pinpointing changes in electric currents running through the body.

These teachings are hard for some people to accept.

“It would be hard for this presentation to change my mind about Scientology,” said architectural engineering junior Dan Loesch. “I’ve heard that Scientologists need to donate a lot of money and in return learn about spaceships.”

Holzinger wants to explain these concepts as well as clear up other misconceptions people have about the religion.

“There are a lot of people who criticize Scientology but don’t know much about it,” said Lloyd-Moffet. “People should understand what the religion is all about before they judge.”

San Luis Obispo is a historically significant location for Scientology. According to Lloyd-Moffet, L. Ron Hubbard spent his last 10 years of life on a ranch in Creston, a community located in San Luis Obispo County. He died at the age of 74 in 1986 at Sierra Vista Medical Center in San Luis Obispo.

Theisms, a student club associated with the religious studies minor, is hosting the presentation. Each quarter Theisms brings in speakers from different religions to talk about their beliefs.
Budget
continued from page 1

"When all four leaders left last night, they said they're getting close but there's still more work to do," Sacramento, they said they're getting closer to the state budget, said one source close to the negotiations.

While few details were being made available, the tax measures under discussion are a temporary 1 percent increase in the state sales tax, a hike in the fee for licensing vehicles to $1.15 per month and an unspecified increase in the personal income tax.

The steps to boost revenue were expected to generate about $12 billion.

In exchange, a Republican-sought spending cap would limit the amount the state can spend each year based on a predetermined formula. In good years, extra money would be skimmed off the budget and saved for later.

Such a change would require voter approval in a special election sometime this year. Voters also will be asked to authorize the state to sell bonds based on the lottery's projected future revenue. That plan was approved as part of budget negotiations last year and is expected the lottery bonds would bring in $10 billion over the next two fiscal years.

The budget proposal being discussed this week also calls for $35 billion in spending cuts, ranging from public schools to programs for the poor and disabled.

There is no deal, but there is a common framework.

―Ten Darrell Steinberg
Santa Barbara: President Pro D-Sacramento

Most of the savings, $8.6 billion over the next 17 months, would come from education, but the cuts would hit nearly every aspect of state government.

Western
continued from page 1

background, you can always work on entries and turning in entries for the show, or media and publicity.

Exhibitors at Western Bonanza are between 9 and 21 years old and show goats, sheep, swine, steers and heifers. Aside from monetary and material prizes at stake, exhibitors compete throughout the show for points awarded from the California Junior Livestock Association (CJLA) which they will accumulate throughout the show season. CJLA is a scholarship-based program, which encourages and rewards junior livestock exhibitors.

What sets Western Bonanza apart from other junior livestock shows is its A and B show format. In most shows, animals will only be seen by one judge, but with the two-show format, two judges will evaluate each animal, allowing exhibitors to earn double points towards CJLA.

"There's a saying in show world, 'It's that judge's opinion that hour in that minute,' and all that can change if those animals go to the next ring," Brownell explained. "It's a really neat opportunity from an audience prospective to evaluate a group of animals and then understand and take into consideration another judge's perspective of why they appreciate that bone structure versus the muscle type."

The show opens on Friday with a fitting contest in which exhibitors form teams to titor groom an animal as best they can in 30 minutes. Saturday and Sunday, the judges evaluate the animals and prizes are awarded to those deemed best in their class.

For some exhibitors, Western Bonanza has come full circle from parents to children. According to sponsor manager Kirk Kimmelshue, "Western Bonanza isn't just known in California," Aguilar said. "It's just a big circle where people are always saying 'I saw someone wearing a Western Bonanza jacket in Texas' or 'That's the kind of shirt that won this class for WBBA just continues.'"

According to agricultural business junior and the group's corporate sponsor manager Kirk Kimmelshue, Western Bonanza's 25th anniversary is a testament to how much the show has grown over the years.

"We've all seen a lot of shows come and go over the last 25 years so the fact that this is still rolling is what sets us apart from other shows," Kimmelshue said. "The thing that makes the 25th anniversary so good is that we keep building every year."

"It's really one of Cal Poly's hidden treasures," Brownell said. "The agriculture college is the second largest next to engineering and this is one of our best student programs that we offer."

Participants from last year's show include Cal Poly students, community members and local schoolchildren.

When you aggressively seek out new opportunities, brawling isn't what they mean.

Thomas Cheapshot
For more information, visit respectelobro.com
WORD ON THE STREET

"When do you do you think of when you hear the word Scientology?"

"I think of Tom Cruise jumping on the couch on 'Oprah."
-Marianne Rittenburg, communication studies senior

"249,000 miles to the moon."
-Jason Lindo, English senior

"People (who) believe in like planets and aliens and things."
-Eugenia Solitermen, biology sophomore

"I think of a lot of protests, Tom Cruise and sketchy religion."
-Sam Reynard, English sophomore

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY RACHEL GLAS AND EMILIE EGER

2 big satellites collide
500 miles over Siberia

Marcia Dunn
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two big communications satellites collided in the first-ever clash of two intact spacecraft in orbit, shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds and posing a slight risk to the international space station.

NASA said it will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the crash, which occurred nearly 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday.

"We knew this was going to happen eventually," said Mark Matney, an orbital debris scientist at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Briefs

State

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Top administrators from California State University will be speaking at African American studies throughout the state this weekend as part of their campaign to encourage more black students to apply to its 23 campuses.

CSU trustees, campus presidents and Chancellor Charles Reed will appear at 41 churches in the San Francisco Bay area this Sunday and 26 churches in the Los Angeles area the following Sunday. They will talk to students, parents and community members about topics such as preparing for college, applying to CSU, and obtaining financial aid.

Officials say CSU has seen a significant increase in black student enrollment since the university began its first "Super Sunday" outreach event four years ago.

National

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A federal law-enforcement building in El Paso was evacuated after two people in the mail room were exposed to an unknown white powder.

FBI spokeswoman Andrea Simons said the powder was found Wednesday in mail addressed to a "national public official" whose name she did not know.

NEW YORK (AP) — A van traveled for nearly an hour over busy New York City roads before its driver discovered the horrific cargo it had dragged almost 20 miles: the partially scraped-away body of a man who was plowed over by an SUV just before he got under the van.

Police said the gruesome episode was accidental and that they have no plans to charge the drivers at this time.

International

KABUL (AP) — Taliban militants killed 20 people in a coordinated attack on three government buildings in Kabul Wednesday, launching the assault after sending text messages to the leader of their terror cell in Pakistan, the head of Afghan intelligence said.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel’s new coalition government — whether led by hard-line Benjamin Netanyahu or his moderate rival Tzipi Livni — is likely to take a tough line on two burning issues: Hamas and Iran.

As the two began courting potential coalition partners Wednesday, two scenarios took shape: a narrow alliance of hawks who would stall peacemaking with the Palestinians, or a broad power-sharing government that would give Hamas a more moderate face and greater international support.
Satellites
continued from page 3

NASA believes any risk to the space station and its three astronauts continues from page 2. Officials said that will be re-evaluated in the coming days. The collision involved an Iridium commercial satellite, which was launched in 1997, and a Russian satellite launched in 1993 and believed to be functioning. The Russian satellite was out of control, Matney said.

Satellites I  eb. 22, officials said, but that will be nontunctioning. Hie Kussian satellite was out of control, Matney said.

NASA believes any risk to the space shuttle set to launch with new astronauts on Thursday. The Indium craft weighed 1,235 pounds, and the Russian craft nearly a ton. No one has any idea yet how many pieces were generated or how big they might be.

"Right now, they're definitely counting dozens," Matney said. "I would suspect that they'll be counting hundreds when the counting is done!"

As for pieces the size of micrometers, the count will likely be in the thousands, he added.

There have been four other cases in which space objects have collided accidentally in orbit, NASA said. But those were considered minor and involved parts of spent rockets or small satellites.

The official human death toll stood at 181 from the weekend's deadly fires and authorities said it would exceed 200. While the scope of the wildlife devastation was still unclear, it was likely to be enormous, Rowdon said.

"There's no doubt across that scale of landscape and given the intensity of the fires, millions of animals would have been killed," he said.

Hundreds of burned, stressed and dehydrated animals — including kangaroos, koalas, lizards and birds — have already arrived at shelters across the scorched region. Rescuers have doled out antibiotics, pain relievers and fluids to the critters in a bid to keep them comfortable, but some of the severely injured were euthanized to spare any more suffering.

In some of the hardest-hit areas, rescuers used vaporizing tents to help creatures whose lungs were burned by the scorching heat and smoke.

One furry survivor has emerged a star a koala, nicknamed "Sam" by her rescuers, was found moving gingerly on scorched paws by a fire patrol on Sunday. Firefighter David Tree offered the animal a bottle of water, which she eagerly accepted, holding Tree's hand as he poured water into her mouth — a moment captured in a photograph seen around the world.

"It's just horrific," said Neil Morgan, president of the Statewide Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service in Victoria, the state where the raging fires were still burning. "I'm just so grateful for all around for humans and animals as well.

millions of animals dead in Australian fires, some survive

found around roads, where they were overwhelmed by flames and smoke while attempting to flee, said Jon Rendell, president of the rescue group Wildlife Victoria.

Kangaroos that survived are suffering from burned feet, a result of their territorial behavior. After escaping the initial flames, the creatures — which prefer to stay in one area — likely circled back to their homes, singeing their feet on the smoldering ground.

"It's just horrific," said Neil Morgan, president of the Statewide Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service in Victoria, the state where the raging fires were still burning. "It's disaster all around for humans and animals as well.

Some wombats that hid in their burrows managed to survive the blazes, but those that are not rescued face a slow and certain death as they emerge to find their food supply gone, said Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia.

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**movie column**

**Coraline’s animated storyline proves delightful**

**Movie Review:** Coraline – 2009

**** stars [out of possible 5]

**Director:** Henry Selick

**Starring:** Voices of Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher, Ian McShane

Animated features depict kid friendly, happy adventures that always leave a viewer go with a warm and happy feeling inside, right? Wrong... well at least not when the movie in question is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Henry Selick.

"Coraline" is the new film by Selick, who applies the same mastery of 3D stop motion animation he used when making the much-loved films "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993) and "James and the Giant Peach" (1996). The innovative technique of stop motion only adds to the film's already eerie and gooey feel in which time after time, weird characters are engaging in even weirder acts.

There were definitely times where I felt genuinely disturbed while watching this movie, however the fact that it is surprisingly aimed toward younger audiences made it that much more intriguing to experience. Whether it was the 3D aspect of the film or the odd storyline, I couldn't seem to take my eyes off of the screen.

The main character is Coraline Jones, who to our least is an unpleasant young girl voiced by Dakota Fanning, who has already scaled her spot as arguably the best actor/actress of her young generation through her versatility in dramatic films like "Man On Fire" (2004) and "I Am Sam" (2001). Coraline is annoying, booby, unkindly and about as adorable as a rash. To Top it off, any other character we are introduced to in the adventure is just as discomforting as her, if not more. Her journey involves the discovery of the "Other" world, an alternate environment she fears she later may be trapped in which is accessed through a painted doorway in her room and consists of a substituted version of her parents whose eyes are replaced with black buttons (again... it's weird).

While the title character does have a bad attitude, it is arguably not her fault that she behaves in the ways that she does. Coraline's parents (voiced by Teri Hatcher and John Hodgman) represent the stereotypical bums, screaming, distraught and precocious mother and father who hardly even notice their own daughter. Her yearning for attention is the main reason she decides to explore the Other world in the first place. In it she finds the ideal version of her current life. Her house and its inhabitants are now colorful and inviting. Her new mother and father are the opposite of their true forms, listening and soaking up every word she has to say while sitting down for traditional and delicious family dinners every night. In fact, the one thing that seemed to leave Coraline (and myself) a little unsettled is the fact that in order to stay in this dream world, she must also have her eyes replaced with black buttons.

**The people that will enjoy this film the most will obviously be those who are fans of the film art and unique stop motion techniques that Selick has previously used in so many of his movies. In my opinion, this movie would not have survived as a live action film, only because the storyline and characters are so strange that animation was definitely the right choice as a result of its ability to adapt frightening situations into pleasing images. Other fans may also be supporters of Neil Gaiman, whose award winning graphic novel served as the basis for the film. Personally, I consider myself a fan of the film mostly because it is entertaining to look at. Also, unlike other animated features, the actors who voice the characters succeed in creating dark tones and refuse to see Coraline, page 7**

**music column**

**Youthful sincerity and lonely naivete straight to the heart**

I get once told that the way to my heart is a straight, paved road with no obstacles. This, I must confess, is pretty much true, but not entirely. At the start of the road, there is an 8-year-old in a rocking chair with an eye patch and a waved off shotgun shooting at cats and talking nonsense about the Vietnam war. The road may be easy, but this kid is to say that it doesn't understand like death and being in love. He is an innocent, but wishes there was a dark side to him. That's why the debut self-titled album from "Pains of Being Pure at Heart" has become this month's favorite album.

Sonically speaking, the album is not too far off from the noise pop jams that have also been recently released from Slumberland Records like "Crystal Silts" and "caUSE co-MOTION!" That is to say that it is noisy, poppy and cute. The album is kind of like that time you look at your best friend after a night of alcohol and overly personal stories and half jokingly talking about staying the night and then making out to a song about sister and brotherly love in "This Love Is Fucking Right!" Just because it's scary and dangerous doesn't mean you shouldn't just go for it. I mean, let's face it, if you don't end up with somebody you're platonically involved with, then you'll just end up exploring and used.

In "Come Saturday," boy and girl sing together about the trials and tribulations of a Tuesday. "But come Saturday, you'll come to stay. You'll come to stay in my arms. Who cares if there's a Party Somewhere? We're going to stay in." Because if you don't, you'll just end up "A teenager in love with Christ and heroin" not caring about the friend who actually would stand with you. And it's such youthful sincerity, yet ultimately naive lines that have convinced my inner 8 year-old Vietnam vet to give "Pains of Being Pure at Heart" a shot at my love.

From there, it is just a mile long walk talking about how we deal with life's rejections and how "I never thought I would come of age, let alone on a moldy page" or they way "you're taking toffee with your Vicodin, something sweet to forget about him". Though the lyrics are sad and sappy, the music is loud, proud and assures the listener that we will all laugh and dance it off and "if you go your own way, I will go my own way and we'll never speak of it again."

**e-mail this story @ www.mustangdaily.net**

*Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.*)
Some good old-fashioned comedic violence

A while back, my good buddy who got me into comics let me borrow his copy of "The Goon: Nothing but Misery." I thanked him but it sat on my floor for a while gathering dust as I wasn't particularly inclined to pick it up.

At the time I was reading a lot of "Hellboy" and felt very serious about my comic reading, so I didn't really feel like reading anything else. Don't get me wrong, Hellboy is amazing and his quite a bit of comedy thrown in there, but it is above all a serious comic. Before too long though, I finally picked up "The Goon." In the first page, I was hooked. I mean, with a story titled "Die, Fish, Die!" and a zombie poking a severed head with a stick on the first page, the Goon and his pal Franky cracking dirty jokes over beers, and a giant hand from the sky crushing a new reporter throughout, how could I not pick it up? You don't see that every day! "The Goon" is a glorious mixture of 1940s culture and terminology, with film-noir elements, puns, Lovecraftian horror and some good old fashioned violence. Just imagine a noir detective film without the detective and a guy who looks like he'd work at the docks swapped in, and, instead of your typical gangster of the '30s, some green zombies led by an evil zombie priest without a name. Let me just ask you a few questions, just in case "The Goon" doesn't already seem appealing to you. Do you enjoy gratuitous amounts of comedic violence, such as a fish-man getting a brick stuffed down his throat? Do you like zombies, but not just normal ones, but the kind that can sing and dance? Do you like stories of haunted houses and hidden loot? Do you like such 1930s phrases as mooks, dame or dirty egg-sucking dog? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then without a doubt, you will enjoy "The Goon." So even if you didn't answer yes to any of these, you will still like "The Goon," even though there is probably something seriously wrong with you.

Be sure to check next week's article on Alan Moore's highly acclaimed "The Watchmen," soon to be released as a movie next month, which I am totally stoked for.

Thanks for Voting Cal Poly!
Tired of the same dinner and a movie date? Do you need to mix it up this Valentine’s Day? Whether you and your sweetheart have been together for a long time, are in the beginning stages of dating or you simply have friends whom you love, San Luis Obispo and the surrounding areas are providing fun and unique alternatives.

Before the big day arrives, students can get in the spirit on-campus. Delta Sigma Pi, a professional co-ed business fraternity, will be selling Valentine’s Day candy grams through Friday. At $1 per candy gram, deliveries can be made on and off-campus, but it must be within San Luis Obispo. Proceeds go toward the fraternity.

“Is it a pretty good turnout considering it’s the beginning of the week and people aren’t thinking too much about Valentine’s Day yet,” said business sophomore Julie Hughes Tuesday afternoon.

Candy grams can be purchased every day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the University Union Plaza.

Leading up to the weekend, students and community members can enjoy Thursday evening’s Farmers’ Market with a twist. Sweethearts Night will add an extra to the market on Garden Street.

The market will offer an old-fashioned photo booth where couples can have photos taken with a heart around their face, in black and white or color, for $1 each.

Along with the photo booth, the Gold Coast Chorus will sing a cappella love songs, requests can sign up for Valentine’s grams and a free photo booth is set up. Photo Booths will provide a fun experience to people of all ages. The Jimmy Enos combo will play a mix of swing and soft rock to listen and dance to.

“We’ll have Valentine’s Day decorations and good food,” said Claire Gates, the Grover Beach Community Library Treasurer.

Dinner includes hamburgers and salad. For dessert, guests receive root beer floats. Tickets cost $18 and $20 at the door. The event takes place at the Grover Beach Grange Hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Proceeds help support the library.

On Valentine’s Day, a free “Moonlight Movie Night” will conclude the holiday. “Sleepless in Seattle,” the film that united Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks for the first time on screen, will be shown outdoors in Arroyo Grande.

A local restaurant will provide boxed dinners for moviegoers to purchase and enjoy with the movie, as well as popcorn. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and Blankets to keep warm.

“It’s an inexpensive date and all students are interested in that,” said Greg Steinberger, owner of Doc Burnstein’s Ice Cream Lab in Arroyo Grande and a sponsor of the event.

The event will take place Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Arroyo Grande City Hall Parking Lot.

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fall victim to typical monotonous voiceovers. In particular, I enjoyed the funny and aged Russian man on the top floor, Mr. Bobinsky (voiced by respected veteran actor Ian McShane), who runs his own mouse circus and lives off a singular diet consisting only of beets.

This is a smart movie with a rather complex plot that can be understood by both children and adults, which is why it will find success as people hear more and more about it.

Alex Penson is a biological sciences freshman and a Mustang Daily’s new reviewer.
Debt and inflation can bring down even the world's greatest economy

The Senate passed Obama's proposed economic stimulus plan Tuesday after a week of prodding from the White House. The bill will now proceed to negotiations between the House and Senate to iron out the $20 billion difference. The Senate version increased spending to $838 billion. Where will this stimulus money come from? The answer is simple. The federal government, in collusion with the Federal Reserve, will create it.

I am sure we all know the Law of Conservation of Matter. Matter cannot be created or destroyed, only rearranged. Money essentially is the substance that embodies energy so it can be moved around an economy efficiently. Neither energy nor matter can be created, and the same applies to money. Increases in the money supply must come at the expense of something, and that something is principally your pocketbook.

A consequence of Obama’s Keynesian experiment on the American people will become apparent to many in the near future. Just how soon inflation will rise significantly is difficult to predict, as it will depend on how quickly the dollars hot-off-the-presses are dumped into the economy. But the long-term result of this dubious economic experiment most certainly will be rising prices and a decrease in your dollar’s spending power. Just as we chucked at how low prices were for basic goods in our parents’ college years, future generations will do the same, but even more so.

For a common example, take the price of a loaf of bread. In 1970, the average price was about 25 cents. Today it’s around 82 cents. You’re lucky inflation didn’t climb any faster than it did or you might have starved to death.

A graphic case study of the dangers of inflation due to the federal government’s mismanagement of the money supply does exist in the 21st century. Once the breadbasket of southern Africa, now thousands are dying of starvation in Zimbabwe, where an annual inflation rate of 89.7 sextillion (1024) percent has wiped out citizens’ savings and their wages as soon as they are paid, leading to an inability to purchase anything, including food. Vendors no longer commonly accept the national currency, and on Jan. 29 the government legalized the use of foreign currencies in business. The destruction of a currency is complete.

How does this have anything to do with us here in the United States? The answer is simple. Operating on a fiat currency system identical to the U.S. dollar, the Zimbabwe government printed its way out of war and foreign debts. Due to a snowballing multiplier effect, this injection of “money” into the economy led to the devaluation of the currency.

For now, the U.S. government is ignoring the problem of the $10 trillion national debt and the $7 trillion being spent daily on foreign wars. But the day of reckoning to pay these debts will soon come, and combined with the entitlement gap of $50 trillion, the future of the dollar is precarious. Besides raising federal taxes or inflating their way out of the problem, the only option the U.S. government has to balance the budget would be cutting total federal spending by over 60 percent. Does that look likely based on Obama’s campaign promises and current spending plans? Don’t count on it.

Colin McKim is an environmental management and protection junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
A tragedy proves
Reno's toughness

I have never felt about Reno the way Carrie Bradshaw does about her beloved New York City. But I now have a newfound respect for my hometown, and it didn’t come in the form of a man, nor did I have to trapse around in a pair of $500 shoes to find it. I didn’t even have to be there to understand what my hometown was made of. I witnessed it from afar.

As I went home for the holidays this Christmas, Brianna Denison didn’t. It has been a little over a year since the 19-year-old college student’s body was found in a field just eight miles away from where she was taken. Antony results indicated that she had been strangled to death and sexually assaulted.

The magazines and newspapers that told the circumstances of her disappearance have long been recycled, and the man accused of kidnapping, raping, and murdering Denison is scheduled to go on trial next year, facing the death penalty.

James Michael Biela is accused of kidnapping Denison from a friend’s house, where she was sleeping on the couch after a late-night party. He is adoring a few Reno fences and the tattered blue ribbons adorning a few Reno fences are not — at least not to me.

The disappearance and death of Denison hit not only my hometown, but also my heart. I didn’t know this young woman, but that doesn’t matter. Our lives paralleled in so many ways: she attended Santa Barbara City College just two hours south of me, she went to the same junior college, both lost our fathers at young ages, attended the same junior college, both went home for the holidays this Christmas, and both loved New York City. But mine was not — at least not to me.

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As I went home for the holidays this Christmas, Brianna Denison didn’t.

I am not naive to the fact that if I had been Brianna Denison, I would have been more involved with the sensational, headline-making events. Instead of coming attractions, casinos displayed Denison’s photo with the caption “missing” above it. Facebook and MySpace groups were created as a way for others to show support. There was a feeling of unease that, until Denison’s body was found, she might be coming back.

Community members that knew Denison, as well as those that didn’t, volunteered for search and recovery areas looking for any trace of Denison or any sign of suspicious behavior. During the investigation, an estimated 291,163 people were interviewed. DNA samples were submitted from 253 donors. After 100 people and businesses were mentioned on the Justice for Bri Web site along with her obituary, songs written in her honor and links to news articles past and current. The Bringing Bri Justice Foundation has been established in her honor to raise awareness about the prevention of violent crime.

I am not naive to the fact that Denison was not the only woman to be abducted and murdered in Reno or anywhere else, and that women often do not disappear in the sensational, headline-friendly circumstances of Denison or Bette Holloway. Most women don’t come from families that have the resources to push and pressure authorities into continuing the search. Yet all of these tragedies, whether they receive adequate publicity or not, are scary and sobering.

Chances are that I will never live in Reno again, but I am grateful for my newfound respect for the city, and it puts me at ease to think that if I had been Brianna Denison and disappeared at age 19, that my community would have done the same. And once in a while — maybe once in a month — maybe once in a year — you get a tragedy to really appreciate where you come from. Reno may be tatty, but it’s tough.

As I went home for the holidays this Christmas, Brianna Denison didn’t.

This week, Obama held town hall meetings in states that have been hit particularly hard by the recession and loss of jobs. Tuesday he spoke with people in Florida, and the public’s belief in Obama was visible. They clamored for the microphone to ask questions and tell him about their personal struggles.

A passionate young man who said he had been working at McDonald’s for four years and going to community college, asked how the Obama administration could help him get more benefits at his job.

Henrietta Hughes tearfully asked the President for help to find a friend. She and her son have been homeless, living in a pick-up truck for the past year. Moved with compassion, President Obama hugged the woman and told her that his staff would try to help her after the meeting ended.

As the end of Tuesday, Henrietta Hughes had been given a home.

While I was moved by several stories that emerged from the town hall meeting, I was mostly struck by people’s sincere belief that Obama can help them personally. These people believe that Obama can change things in their lives, that he can help them in their struggles.

This was not a crowd of rigid ideologues. They were more likely people who had no knowledge of political philosophy. Yet they affirmed a principle unique to the Democratic Party — namely that government is here to help.

When life begins to spin out of people’s hands and even neighbors are under financial distress, who remains to help Henrietta Hughes or to ensure that the young college student has the job benefits he deserves? Big corporations like McDonald’s and banks who offer people home loans do not exist as charitable institutions. They exist to make a profit. Period.

It is why people like Henrietta Hughes and her son are absolutely ready to live homeless for a year with no hope of receiving a home from charity, churches, or non-profit organizations. People simply fall through the cracks, from lack of knowledge about available resources or simply lack of access.

Denouncing the government’s role in helping the poor — yes, using your tax dollars — is heartless and devoid of compassion. We pay taxes so that America can be what it was created to be a more perfect union.

The headlines read “kidnapped while she slept,” and her picture and story flashed on local and national news stations. A blue ribbon became synonymous with her name. “Bring back Bri” posters adorned every Reno street corner. Instead of coming attractions, casinos displayed Denison’s photo with the caption “missing” above it. Facebook and MySpace groups were created as a way for others to show support.

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Brianna Denison didn’t.

Thursday, February 12, 2009

opinion

Mustang Daily

The Liberal Lens

by Stephanie England

I would not be so haughty to deny a poor or middle class person a tax cut when they will spend it on food and shoes, while for the past eight years rich people have received tax cuts and apparently stuffed the money in an offshore account in the Cayman Islands — because they sure haven’t been spending to help our economy.

In the past three weeks there have been many changes in the way our government is run. At town hall meetings that Obama is holding to gain support for his stimulus plan, no one is screened before they are let in to the building.

Only weeks ago, because my loyalties lay pretty close to the left border of the political arena, I would not even be considered as a guest at a town hall meeting with President Bush, let alone be given access to a micro­phone to take him over the coals.

I cannot recall a more coherent President press conference than the one we witnessed last Monday. Ample time was given to those questions that deserved an answer — and the press conference ran longer than expected.

So, Colin McEnroe, is Obama the next FDR? Absolutely! Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal kept people from starving in America at a time when many people were jobless, hopeless and helpless.

FDR was also a three term president. He must have done some things that people liked. And he marked a renewal in people’s belief in the idea that this is a go­vernment “of the people, for the people, by the people.”

Abraham Lincoln once said. People believed that FDR could help their situation — that he could bring real change to America. And he did bring change through the New Deal.

Tuesday, the same day the president’s stimulus pack­age passed the Senate, Floridians like Henrietta Hughes showed the rest of the United States that they believe Obama will too. And that gives me reason to be opti­mistic about the future with President Obama at the helm.

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
Cancer
continued from page 12

"Kay has a vision about us crush­ing this disease," Mimnaugh said. "Some­times when cancer is so preva­ lent or other diseases are so prevalent, it is hard to see an end to it other than the end that unfortunately Kay real­ ized and my mom realized. It's a hope, and I think that's something that she instilled in all of us.

—Editor's note: For a full review of the Post-Zone game against UC Santa Barbara see tomorrow's edition of the Mustang Daily.

Mimnaugh has come a long way from the graduate assistant that Yow initially hired in June of 1998. But her respect and admiration for the legendary coach was immediate.

"When I want to go to college, the coach kind of gave me the ball and let me do whatever I wanted — it was fastbreak," Mimnaugh said. "We never had much structure. But coach Yow had a ton of structure. She wanted the fastbreak run a certain way. She had every play diagramed.

But cancer always loomed in the background. Yow had just been diagnosed two years previously and had already gone through a mastectomy.

Despite the hardship, Yow worked through it. Through the chemo, through the turns in and year out, she was there for her team — and she was there for Mimnaugh.

"She knew that I was dirt poor," Mimnaugh recalled. "She would have me come over to her house and walk her dogs to help me get a little bit of extra money in my pocket.

When initially hired as a graduate assistant, Mimnaugh received tuition, room and board, but no other compensation.

"The only cash I had was working the Kay Yow camp in the summer," Mimnaugh said. "But she would ask me to come over and I could actually stay in her house and watch her dogs when she was away.

"So she allowed me to stay in more than a six-by-eight-room in a dormi­tory somewhere. She gave me use of her phone. I could have anything in the fridge or watch her big-screen TV. Back then I didn't even own a TV.

Yow would eventually promote Mimnaugh to assistant coach, a paid position that put her on track towards a career that seemed unfathomable years earlier as she toiled in Australian professional leagues.

"I would not be here at Cal Poly if not for Kay Yow," Mimnaugh said. "I probably would not have had an opportunity in Division I basketball at all had it not been for coach Yow. She saw a worker in me."

Mimnaugh continues working. The Mustangs are in the midst of their best season in nearly 20 years.

But for Mimnaugh, the team's success turns back to the fight against cancer. With the battle ongoing, people like Yow, Mimnaugh and Condon are heading to the frontline.
Coaches against cancer

Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh gathers the team around her to draw up a play during a timeout.

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

C al Poly women's basketball coach Faith Mimnaugh remembers Kay Yow fondly.

"I thought the first mention of her name, Mimnaugh's eyes give a far-off look, as she recalls not just the greatness of her mentor's coaching abilities, but the kindness of her heart.

"Coach Yow was a mentor, friend, inspiration ..." Mimnaugh said. "She was everything." Mimnaugh said.

Yow passed away from breast cancer last month at the age of 66. She had been fighting it since 1987.

Yow was a trailblazer in women's basketball. She coached North Carolina State to nearly 700 victories in over three decades with the team. She guided the Wolfpack to 20 NCAA tournament appearances and a Final Four berth in 1998. She won a gold medal coaching the 1988 women's basketball Olympic team in Seoul, South Korea.

"Certainly from the basketball community we lost not just a pioneer, but a real warrior," Mimnaugh said.

"And I think the world has lost someone who has demonstrated on a daily basis her faith, boundless energy and a belief in the fact that we can (beat cancer)."

The Mustangs will join Yow's cause in promoting cancer awareness.

"Certainly from the basketball community we lost not just a pioneer, but a real warrior," Mimnaugh said.

"And I think the world has lost someone who has demonstrated on a daily basis her faith, boundless energy and a belief in the fact that we can (beat cancer)."

The Mustangs will join Yow's cause in promoting cancer awareness when they host UC Santa Barbara at 4 p.m. on April 4 in a doubleheader in which the team wears pink jerseys and raises funds through a raffle to donate to the American Cancer Society. The games have raised nearly $2,500 in the past few years.

This year, the softball team, in conjunction with sports apparel company Under Armour, will step up its efforts even further.

The Mustangs will play two "Power in Pink" games this season. They will face Cal State Fullerton on the road in the first pink game, before hosting UC Santa Barbara on April 4 in a doubleheader with the baseball team.

"We're really hoping to get the fans' support," Condon said. "We're trying to raise cancer awareness, but any money we can get for the cancer society is just an extra blessing."

Like Mimnaugh, Condon herself has felt the personal touch of cancer and wants to do all she can to find a cure.

"Two years ago, which was the first year we did (Strike Out Cancer), my brother was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma," she said. "We've got some kids on the team now who have gone through it. (Senior shortstop) Melissa Peter's dad is a cancer survivor. He threw out the first pitch at last year's game."

Cal Poly assistant athletic director Shaun Russell, who helped organize the Pink Zone game, said that the school is happy to help promote cancer awareness through athletics.

"It's an amazing cause," Russell said. "There isn't anyone in America who hasn't been affected by cancer."

Nancy Wassak Jr.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dennis Wassak Jr.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Brett Favre informed the New York Jets on Wednesday he will retire after 18 seasons, ending a record-setting career in which he was one of the NFL's premier quarterbacks.

The 39-year-old quarterback's decision came six weeks after Favre's only season with the Jets ended in disappointment as New York failed to make the playoffs.

In an e-mail to ESPN, Favre said he has no regrets about ending his career in New York and praised owner Woody Johnson, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and fired coach Eric Mangini.

"Mike and Woody, as well as the entire organization, have been nothing short of outstanding," Favre said in the e-mail. "My time with the Jets was short, but I'm honored to have been given that chance."

Running back Jones and safety Rhodes were critical after the season that Favre's presence was missed.

"Power in Pink" games this season will wear pink jerseys and raise money for the American Cancer Society. The games have raised over the past several years $2,500 in the past few years.

The Mustangs will join Yow's cause in promoting cancer awareness.

"The game means a lot to us," Condon said. "It means a lot to the mission, as well as raising money for the American Cancer Society."

Cal Poly women's basketball coach Faith Mimnaugh gathers the team around her to draw up a play during a timeout.

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

Nancy Wassak Jr.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York quarterback Brett Favre waves to the crowd following a six touchdown performance against the Arizona Cardinals last season.