Gregg withdraws as commerce secretary nominee

Liz Sidoti and David Espo

Saying "I made a mistake," Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew as commerce secretary nominee on Thursday and left the fledgling White House suddenly coping with Barack Obama's third Cabinet withdrawal.

Gregg cited "irresolvable conflicts" with Obama's policies, specifically mentioning the $700 billion economic stimulus bill and 2010 census in a statement released without warning by his Senate office.

Later, at a news conference in the Capitol, he sounded more contrite.

"The president asked me to do it," he said of the job offer. "I said, yes. That was my mistake." Obama offered a somewhat different account from Gregg.

"It comes as something of a surprise, because the truth, you know, Mr. Gregg approached us with interest and seemed enthusiastic," Obama said in an interview with the Springfield (Ill.) Journal-Register.

Later, he told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One that he was glad Gregg "snatched his heart" and changed course now before the Senate confirmed him to the Cabinet post. He also said Gregg's withdrawal won't deter him from working with Republicans and trying to change the partisan ways of Washington.

"Cleary he was just having second thoughts about leaving the Senate, a place where he's thrived," Obama added.

The unexpected withdrawal came just three weeks into Obama's presidency and on the heels of several other Cabinet troubles. The new president is in the midst of expending political capital in Washington — and around the country — for his economic package and is seeking to move forward with an ambitious agenda in the midst of an economic recession while the country continues to face threats abroad.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was Obama's first choice as commerce secretary. He withdrew in early January following disclosure that he had not paid some of his taxes on time.

Now Obama also finds himself needing to fill two vacancies — at Commerce and at the Health and Human Services Department. Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination for that post amid a tax controversy. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner was confirmed despite revelations that he had not paid some of his taxes on time.

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Speech continued from page 1

stabilize thing to get to understand, to really

know who you are," Holzinger said.

The religion is often criticized because

material from science fiction author and

founder L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology

works sometimes read like his novels, and

the tenets of the religion state that humanity

steps from extraterrestrial.

"It's a piece of cake to take a religion out

of context. There is so much material, and

if you find one little detail that you don't

agree with it is easy to take it out of con-

text," Holzinger argued.

Scientology is infamous for collecting

massive donations from its followers, which

leads many to question the religious inten-

tions of the organization. Holzinger ex-

plained that it costs a lot of money to train

auditors and that donations are important.

"In order for the church to function and

grow, there are much more significant dona-

tions needed for that," Holzinger said. "We

courage people to learn how to audit on

their own."

Cal Poly students had mixed opinions on

the presentation.

"It's been really good to see a Scientolo-

gist in person and realize the humanity about

it," biological sciences senior Heidi Swan-

ger said. "He's actually human and it's not

this weird celebrity thing that's going on."

Others disagreed. "I'm not overwhelm-

ingly satisfied with the talk," electrical engi-

neering senior Nick Sagan said. "(Holzinger)

just avoided too many topics and never got

to the meat of it."

---

Michael Constable, Assistant Editor

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Justice and Equality Movement leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, center, is seen during the Darfur Peace talks in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday.

**War crimes court obscures Darfur region peace talks**

Darfur rebels and Sudan government officials exchanged blame for undermining three-day-old peace talks, which were overshadowed Thursday by fighting over a Darfur town and the prospect of an imminent international arrest warrant against Sudan's president for alleged war crimes.

The talks hosted by Qatar are the first such one-on-one meeting between the Sudanese government and the JEM, Sudan's strongest group of ethnic African rebels, the Justice and Equality Movement. It was also the first round of peace talks between any rebels and the government since the last negotiations foundered in 2007.

Other Darfur rebel groups are not attending the talks, which began Tuesday with the aim of reaching a cease-fire and setting a framework for negotiations on a peace deal. Up to 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million have been forced from their homes in Darfur's war, which began after rebel groups complaining of discrimination and neglect took up arms against the Arab-led government in 2003.

But the talks were shaken Thursday by reports that the Hague-based International Criminal Court will soon issue a warrant against President Omar al-Bashir, whom court prosecutors accuse of war crimes for allegedly master-minding genocide against Darfur's ethnic Africans. Al-Bashir denies the charges.

A U.S. official in Washington said Thursday that the ICC is expected to issue a warrant this month. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic sensitivity of the situation.

The leader of JEM, Khalil Ibrahim, who was attending the Qatar talks this week, welcomed the report and said his group is ready to arrest al-Bashir if he doesn't hand himself in.

"A decision (by the ICC to issue a warrant) won't affect the Doha negotiation track, instead it would be the need for negotiations," Ibrahim said.

Some international workers in Darfur felt the war could spark a backlash by al-Bashir, leading him to end the peace process. Khartoum warned that the prospect of prosecution could harden rebels' negotiating positions.

The head of the Sudanese government delegation in Qatar, Amin Hassan Omer, railed against the ICC, calling it a "European court with a political character. It was used openly for political pressure," Omar said.

Omar accused JEM delegation of calling during the negotiations, saying that they came to the talks with a "shopping list," insisting all demands to be met. "Not everything demanded is to be answered," he said.

A JEM spokesman Ahmed Tugod accused Khartoum of undermining attempts at a political solution after fresh fighting on the ground.

Tugod, speaking from Darfur, said his fighters clashed with government troops who were advancing on Malam, a JEM-held town and the prospect of an imminent international arrest warrant against Sudan's president for alleged war crimes.

The mediators say there is no possibility of a political solution after fresh fighting on the ground.

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"We need to reach consensus on a statement condemning the escalating civilian losses in Darfur," Tugod said.

Libya blocked the 15-nation African Union council from issuing a unanimous presidential statement, objecting to language criticizing Sudan's government to the aerial bombing and the proposed call for it and all other military action to stop.

"We're really quite deeply disappointed," the statement on a statement condemning the escalating civilian losses in Darfur," Tugod said.

President Baker has authorized the use of alternative consultation, rather than direct referendum, to determine the level of student support for the fee increase. Nine forums have been scheduled to serve as the venues in which written student input will be gathered. All nine forums are open to the entire student body regardless of college affiliation.
WORD ON THE STREET

“If humans could evolve into another species, what species would you choose?”

“I would probably be a bird. I would want to be a hawk, since it’s a predatory animal, I wouldn’t want to be prey.”
-Scott Chapman, computer engineering senior

“A killer whale, because it’s my 3-year-old’s favorite animal.”
-Daniella Inke, English senior

“A bird because I could fly and the meaning of my last name means bird in Serbian.”
-Petra Tica, city and regional planning freshman

State

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Stanford University is raising its undergraduate fees but says it remains committed to providing enough financial aid to allow any admitted student to attend.

Under the plan approved by trustees Tuesday, total undergraduate fees — including tuition, room and board — will increase 3.5 percent to about $40,000 in 2009-10. Tuition alone will rise 3.75 percent to $37,380.

Despite a large budget deficit, Stanford will keep a new financial aid program that provides free undergraduate tuition to families making less than $100,000 a year. Families making less than $60,000 aren’t expected to pay tuition or room and board.

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — A jury decided Thursday that a longtime chain-smoker’s death from lung cancer was caused by nicotine addiction, potentially costly loss for tobacco giant Philip Morris and an important test case for thousands of similar Florida lawsuits.

The lawsuit by Elaine Hess, widow of Stuart Hess, is the first of about 8,000 such cases to go to trial since the Florida Supreme Court in 2006 threw out a $145 billion jury award in a class-action lawsuit on behalf of thousands of smokers and their families.

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UK marks Darwin’s 200th birthday with pride, humor

SALINAS, Calif. (AP) — A Greenfield father has pleaded not guilty to aiding statutory rape in an alleged arrangement to sell his 14-year-old daughter into marriage in exchange for $16,000, beer and rear.

Monteerry County prosecutor Cristina Johnson says 36-year-old Marcelino de Jesus Martinez entered pleas Wednesday to procuring a child for low acts, aiding and abetting statutory rape and child endangerment.

Trial is set for April 6. Martinez is in jail on an immigration hold.

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Friday, February 13, 2009
Gay couples protest for rights at marriage bureaus across the nation

Liisa Leff and Verena Dobnik

Same-sex couples seeking to wed showed up at marriage license counters nationwide Thursday to highlight a right they don’t have in 48 states, part of an annual protest that took on renewed urgency given recent election setbacks.

In San Francisco, where same-sex marriage was legal for nearly five months last year before California voters approved a ban, many couples who came to City Hall had already tied the knot but wanted to express their gratitude and to show they’re still part of the fight.

“All of our marriages are under the cloud of Proposition 8,” said Stuart Gaffney, 45, referring to California’s ballot initiative banning gay marriage.

“Equality is an unfinished business in California.”

In Las Vegas, couples gathered outside the downtown marriage bureau with signs that read “Don’t ban my love” and “No laws on love.” In New York, activists wore signs that said “Just Not Married.” They were turned away empty-handed in both places when they asked for marriage licenses.

“We could get married in Massachusetts or Connecticut, but we’ll wait a little and see what happens in New York,”Matt Flanders, 37, of Brooklyn, said after he and his partner, Will Jones, 29, participated in the protest in Manhattan. “It’s a matter of principle. This is our home, and we should be able to get married when we live, where our friends are.”

The protests around Valentine’s Day, part of the 12th annual Freedom to Marry Day, were considered especially important this year because they come after the November passage of Proposition 8. The measure has prompted protests, lawsuits and questions about the direction of the gay rights movement.

“A lot of people feel a sense of determination and regret over having been too complacent at times before, so this is a commitment to, ‘Never again, we have to take action,’” said Evan Wolfson, a civil rights lawyer who conceived Freedom to Marry. “In that sense, California was a terrific energizer and wake-up call.”

Currently, gay marriage is legal only in Massachusetts and Connecticut, while 30 states have gay marriage bans in their constitutions. Gay rights groups are pressing lawmakers in New York, New Jersey and Vermont to take up bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states.

Jennifer Pipper, director of the marriage project at gay rights legal group Lambda Legal, said the spotty outcome of the California election has created momentum in other parts of the country.

Hawaii’s House of Representatives, for example, voted 33-17 Thursday to allow same-sex civil unions. The legislation now goes before the state Senate Judiciary Committee, where the vote is split among six senators, with one undecided. A tie vote would kill the civil union measure for the year.

In Utah, where a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2004 prohibits same-sex unions for gay and lesbian couples applied for marriage licenses in Salt Lake City on Thursday. Clerk Sherrin Swensen said she could recall only one other gay couple asking to get married over the last 18 years.

In Maine and Minnesota on Thursday, dozens of proponents of gay marriage gathered outside the state houses to lobby for bills that would legitimize same-sex marriage in those states. Under a black and white banner that read “Legalize Love,” Minnesotans lawsuits vowed to push the bill as far as they can.

State Sen. Scott Dibble, a Minneapolis Democrat who is one of the few openly gay members of the Legislature, said the state’s economic woes showed the need for couples to support each other. But gay couples can’t get the same benefits of marriage that might make things easier, he said.

“Those with strong families more than anyone are going to be able to rely on each other,” Dibble said. “So why does our own government try to stop them from happening? Why does our own government try to stop us from trying to take care of each other?”

Tony Smith, 41, and his partner of six years, Justin Gibson, 26, were among the 15 couples waiting outside the marriage bureau in downtown Las Vegas. Smith, a co-ordinator at a local wedding chapel, said he’s constantly faced with the reality of Nevada’s constitutional ban on gay marriage.

In tribute to Darwin’s work in the Pacific, the Royal Mail unveiled six jigsaw-shaped stamps carrying pictures of wildlife from the Galapagos Islands — including the giant tortoise and the Floreana Mockingbird.

Eight years ago, there have been 16 stamps celebrating Darwin: Britain’s Press Association news agency said no other non-Royal has had as many commemorative stamps released in its or her honor.

Celebrations in Britain were accompanied by events around the world, but for those who missed his birthday, never fear: Darwin’s complete publications and 20,000 private papers are available online.
Happy Valentine's Day!
from the Mustang Daily

Elliot - you are more special than relativity.

Ryan Cahill,
I dream about you sometimes...

Love, Someone Special
Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love - Albert Einstein

I love you babe!
You show those chickens who's boss! AND then we will deep fry them!
-Mickey, Mkay Monkey Moose

To the girl I saw at the bus stop the other day on Casa St: You made my day, just knowing you exist. You have a gray umbrella.
-Justin

Happy V-day Mark H! Bio is so much fun and I really enjoy studying with you!
Your Secret Admirer

Dear Starters,
You guys are the hardest working group of people I have ever worked with.
Love, J Lutey

Kevin S!! Be OUR valentine!

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine!

On the behalf of the Brothers of APhiO, I would like to give a shout out to the following Lovely Ladies of Zeta Omicron Chapter: Audrey, Bre, Brittany, Catherine, Christine, Colleen, Dawn, Giao, Helena, Jennie, Jennifer, Jocelyn, Kelly, Keke, Krista, Linda, Ma-Chi, Mallory, Melissa, Michele, Monica, Rita, Shannon, Tracey, Tracy, Vikki, Isabel, Emily, Annalynn, Ivy, Yumi, Heather, and Kathy.
Happy Valentine's!!!! In Love, Friendship, and Service
-P E ven in the freezing cold%

I love you so much Trav!
Love, Kate

Rita, you'll always be My valentine.

Happy Valentine's Day, Jimmy!
-Kristin

Hey Kara Doelling! Happy Valentine's Day Beautiful!!
-XOXO :) I Love, Tom N.

You'll do.

Riley,
You are my everything.
Love, Lean

Booba
You're the best husband ever!
Love always, Delface.

To the hope house, Ina, Tina, Cassie, Katie and Duke! Happy Valentine's Day! I love you all!

I love you so much Trav!
Love, Kate

To my MH:
Looking forward to starting the rest of my life as soon as possible, eventually.
-I love you-

Happy Valentine's Day,
my boys! Smooches and licks, Charlotte
Allen mingle HARD EDGE with sweet POP

William Watkins
THE REPORTER (RUSSIAN COLLEGE)

Although she has received more attention recently for her topless photos and drunken antics than for her music, Lily Allen's focus must have at least partially been on the latter. Her sophomore album, "It's Not Me, It's You," is a strong effort that solidly blends her Brit-pop sound with the nightclub-friendly sensibility that so strongly appeals to the American market. The album displays the brazen and confident personality that's gotten her so much tabloid attention but also shows her songwriting talent, as the album is free of filler and is replete with potential hit singles. Allen wrote and recorded the album with producer Greg Kurstin, who is one half of LA-based indie group The Bird and The Bee, and has an impressive resume that includes Beck, The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kylie Minogue.

Album opener, "Everyday's At It," seamlessly blends Kurstin's Radiohead-esque synthetizer with Allen's pop sound, producing a song that quickly convinces the listener the album will be a worthwhile listen. "Not Fair" is a song about an unfaithful performing lover with a similarly danceable and poppy chorus. The debut single, "The Fear," opens with a gentle acoustic guitar but then progresses into a synth and drum machine driven beat that blends perfectly with her gentle, melodic vocals. This song will definitely be a major club hit, as it's fast-paced, beat, punchy verse, and strong chorus makes it an easy choice for any DJ or radio program manager. That being said, the most interesting part of the song is the juxtaposition between Allen's profane and dark vocals and the song's poppy, bubblegum melody.

The album takes a jazzy turn with "22," a song that bemoans the struggles of single, older women but then falls flat with "I Could Say." This song opens sounding like it was written by Coldplay, but by the time it hits the chorus, it sounds like it is straight from a videoclip, making it the album's only dud. "Back To The Start," picks the momentum back up again, once again highlighting the indie and synthesizer-happy sensibilities of Kevin Durston. Allen and Durston are perhaps at their most inventive with "Never Gonna Happen," a song that combines accordions with bubblegum pop, creating a sound that both polka fans and teenie boppers can appreciate.

Allen tries to get religious with "Him" but has about as much lyrical success as she does on "F-k You." When she sings the clearly forced, "Do you think he's ever been unfaithful?" her favorite band is Creedence Clearwater Revival," the song's attempts at seriousness is rendered futile. Feist and Norah Jones collide on "Everything's At It," a song that goes so retro it sounds like it is from the 1940s, complete with manufactured microphone crackle.

"It's Not Me, It's You" is a strong album that deserves both commercial and critical success. Lily Allen manages to combine the indie-rocker influence of her producer with the bubblegum pop she is expected to produce, and the result is a cohesive album that is immediately catchy but gets more interesting with additional listens.
Despite economy, show must go on in Hollywood

Christy Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — It's a city where perception is reality and image is everything. But Hollywood being hard to replace up appearances in the midst of the nation's economic downturn, even during its splashiest, most self-celebratory time: awards season.

Of course, the show must go on: The Academy Awards bring $10 million into Los Angeles, and city economists have said that to be true this year, too. But it's in the ancillary activity — parties, studios' campaigns for Oscar votes, glossy magazines in trade publications — where money is being thrown around.

Even director Danny Boyle, whose "Slumdog Millionaire" is the front-runner to win the most pictures, Oscar, acknowledged the awkward paradox of backslapping as the economy slides backward.

"When you read a headline like last week, I read 60,000 jobs lost in a day in America, you just think you've got to be very careful because we live in a very glamorous world, you take lots of photographs, there's lots of smiling asked for and stuff like that," Boyle said backstage after winning the top prize from the Directors Guild of America.

"We're very lucky," he added. "And we're aware of that."

So how does the lavish machinery keep running during such tough financial times?

Longtime events planner Chris Benarroch says smaller parties are the new normal, "not having things for 1,500 people, maybe 100 or 200." Entertaining at home is also becoming a popular option, with studio or agency executives hosting a dinner, for example. With elegant linens, candles and flowers, that costs maybe $50,000, versus the half a million dollars and more that can go into enormous soirees staged at an already existing venue, "you're going where you were building a tent with decking, floor-to-ceiling creating a whole environment," she said. "You're going to do it. We just don't have the funds,' Benarroch.

Normally, corporate sponsors help pay for the cost of a party and get the prestige of the association — Carter co-hosted a Golden Globes viewing and post-party with NBC. Universal, for example. But that money is drying up, too.

"One by one they were like, 'We just can't do it. We just don't have the funds,'" Benarroch said. "Normally it's a huge coup to have a company come on board and host an Oscar party. Normally we have the pick of what works best with the film. This year, it's slim pickings."

"What company's not laying off people?" she added. "How do you justify that?"

The economy is also affecting the way awards campaigns play out in the trade publications, with high-profile ads a crucial component of the annual bragging rights.

"It would be ridiculous to say it isn't," said Variety president and publisher Neil Stiles. "You can't have the same kind of excitement that The Hollywood Reporter is carrying or not carrying, coupled with the L.A. Times on that. It's a million-dollar difference."

Stiles wouldn't say exactly how much Variety's print ad sales are down, but said it's less than 40 percent. (The Hollywood Reporter declined comment because it didn't want to reveal figures.)

"It's silly to think of going to a screening and finding out about it," Stiles said. "You're going to want people to be interested. So how do you do that?"

"There's more emphasis on buying out a number of people. It's more about a spread," Benarroch said. "There's a lot of discussion about the effect of the film." And The Hollywood Reporter is carrying or not carrying, coupled with the L.A. Times on that.

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Using B.S. to get a career
10 suggestions for life after college

Since our first day of kindergarten, people have asked us as to what we intended to do as a career. The further we advanced in our education, the more people wanted to know. Unfortunately, the sooner we get to finishing school, the less certain many of us are when it comes to what we want to do for the rest of our lives. Most of us have ruled out becoming a princess or a superhero, but we still can’t commit to any single career.

Even once we have chosen a major, we still face the "What are you going to do with that?" question. Now, I know people often ask in an effort to seem friendly and make conversation, but sometimes it seems more like an interrogation. For example, when people inquire about my future career, I tell them I plan on teaching. Then they ask, "What grade?" and respond with "elementary school." But then they need to know "What grade?" and it is like they are playing a one-way game, where one of the only things helping them come up with confusing and worried about the huge decision that weighs on our shoulders.

It is time to fight back. So here is a list of appropriate responses that will work for everyone from those majoring in environmental management and protection to art history.

1. Teach English overseas.
2. Join a band.
3. Become a black jack dealer in Las Vegas.
4. Go on a VH1 reality TV show to become a celebrity.
5. Help the parents get their money's worth from both the couch and flat-screen TV.
6. Run the streets of the Central Coast and recycle cans.
7. Save the whales/ forest/ American economy.
8. Become a whale hunter/ lumberjack/ politician.
9. If I told you, I would have to kill you.
10. How do you think I would bring this up?

Like I said before, many of the people questioning our career plans have the best intentions, and I know you should respond with simple pleasantries. But from now on, I am using response number 10.

Mari Palla is a public policy graduate student and a Mustang Daily humor columnist. "Mari's Word of the Week" explores some of the more important vernaculars of college life, one word at a time.

 edición column

READER COMMENTS

Response to "Scientologist speaker aims to clear up misconceptions"

Colin—

Compared to the liberal column and your predecessor, you're a cut above both. I also appreciate your column's title as it is only a return to strict adherence to the Constitution that will save our country.

I urge you to not take the partisan approach of the previous Republican columnist because that will not benefit your ultimate goal of seeing sovereignty returned to the individual. The greatest battle we face is not against a specific party, it is against the increasingly heavy hand of the government.

Good luck to you all this year.

—Anonymous

Response to "How to destroy the dollar"

Inflation is government theft. We need to act now to end the Fed. Thank you for raising awareness of this.

—Chris

Response to "How to destroy the dollar"

Dear Rev. Lee Holzinger— if you clear up misconceptions about Scientology, or any cult, that will be the end of the whole scam.

Good luck.

—Alex

Response to "Scientologist speaker aims to clear up misconceptions"

This will be an interesting seminar. I'm curious to see how he will answer the hard questions with solid documents behind them. Hope he pays particular attention to the "Tone Scale."

—Marc Abia
Help Wanted

Lifeguards - Avila Beach Port San Luis Harbor District has seasonal part-time opportunities for high school graduates (or enrolled seniors age 17+) with certification in First Aid and CPR. Title 22 (or ability to obtain same) to serve as lifeguards in Avila Beach. Candidate must be able to pass a 500 meter ocean swim test in 10 minutes or less; provide safe conditions for users of public beach by watching over beach activities; advise public of dangerous sea conditions and provide lifesaving assistance; use emergency equipment; keep checkbook of incidents/injuries; and maintain cleanliness of beach areas. Prior experience desirable. PAY RANGE: $11.96 - $15.26/ hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) SWIM TESTING: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Avila Pier at 9:00 a.m.) Obtain application at the Harbor Office, 3900 Avila Beach Dr, in Avila Beach. Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m., or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P. O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA, 93424 or online at www.porsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 595-54(X) xl 1.

Help Wanted

STAYING IN TOWN THIS SUMMER AND LOOKING FOR A GREAT JOB ON CAMPUS? Conference and Event Planning is Hiring 10-20 staff for summer conference season. Paid training begins in late April. Seeking hardworking, responsible and positive individuals who enjoy working in a fun, fast-paced team setting! Customer service and cashier experience preferred. Optional on-campus summer housing at highly reduced rate. Flexible hours. PT/ FT available. $8.00-$10.00/ hour. Great internship opportunity. Applications and job descriptions available in bldg. 709 (Cerrito Vista Apartment Admin. Bldg) M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or on Mustang Jobs online. Completed Apps. and resume due by 2/25/09. Call (805)756-7600 for detailed job description to be emailed to you.

Cartoon Cross-Dressing Valentines on Today's Jerry Springer

Crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

Puzzle by Pappcxmi

Across
1 A lookey might give it - or get it
2 Partner of a certain rabid animal
4 Please?, elicitor
16 Native home of the canary
17 Lion, tiger or cheetah
18 Wartail engine component
19 Winner of 11 Grand Slam titles
20 de becu
21 Goofy
22 Computer hookup point
23 Infer from data
24 Local borders?
25 19th-century engineer with a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame

Down
1 28 Rogers
27 Something to turn on
28 Ruler crossed in 1953, informally
29 Bouncy kid's favorite character
30 Blood sausage ingredient
33 Rocks
36 First name in erotica
37 Sewing
38 With 15-Down, or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P. O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA, 93424 or online at www.porsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 595-54(X) xl 1.

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Basketball
continued from page 12

last Saturday's game against Cal State Fullerton.
Harrison became the first Cal Poly player to collect a double-double this season when she had 16 points and 10 rebounds against the Titans last week. As a senior, Harrison has seen some of the downs times in previous years. She said she's glad to be playing on a team that is talented enough to contend for conference supremacy.

"Since I've been here suddenly everyone's believing that we can win a championship," she said. "When I started my freshman year we were at the bottom of the pack and now we're up at the top."

The Mustangs can normally rely on their size advantage against the smaller teams in the conference, but

stand that if anybody has earned a championship, it's him. Phelps has been in the pool nearly every day since age 7 and his accomplishments, beginning with a national age-group record at 10, attest to how much he sacrificed, had no problems getting on with his life. Besides, it's not as though Phelps hasn't paid a steep price already. Beyond the public apology and ridicule the photograph spawned, Phelps has been suspended for three months by USA Swimming and lost at least one megabucks sponsor, Kellogg's Co.

But that apparently wasn't steep enough for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. His department reportedly has arrested eight people connected to the Nov. 14 party, near the University of South Carolina campus in Columbia, where Phelps was photographed.

"It seems to me that Richland County has a host of its own crime problems much more serious than a kid featured in a photograph with a bong in his hand," said attorney Joseph McCalloch, whose client was charged with possession of marijuana and questioned by investigators.

McCalloch is right, of course. The latest FBI statistics show vio-

lent-crime rates for Columbia — part of Richland County — were nearly three times higher than the national average and nearly twice as high as those for the state. For purposes of comparison, the only jurisdiction with a higher violent crime rate than South Carolina was Washington, D.C.

Whatever those numbers suggest about Lotus's job performance, he's won election to four terms as a Democrat in a mostly red state, the last time in 2000. Lott has also earned a reputation as a savvy and progressive — if occasionally flamboyant — crime-fighter who rose from patrol officer to captain of the narcotics division and once drove around in a Porsche seized from a dealer.

After defeating the sheriff who fired him in a 1996 election, Lott never lost his knack for grabbing attention. He bought an armored personnel carrier from military surplus for use by the Richland County sheriff's department, set up his own drug lab after deciding the state Law Enforcement Division's lab was too slow processing requests, and once showed up in an evening gown, heels and makeup for a costume fundraiser at a local theater.

I wondered how Lott would feel if a photo of him in that outfit surfaced in News of the World, but he didn't return a message left on his cell phone Thursday. That may be because Lott was busy testifying before Congress to rally support for the federally funded Head Start program to assist kids in poverty.

Then again, for a sheriff who's never been shy about grabbing headlines from the day he took office, Lott has been surprisingly hard to reach since his office announced it was pursuing Phelps.

Even attorney Dick Harpootlian, a former county prosecutor who worked with Lott before going into private practice, acknowledged the investigation caught him by surprise. He's representing a second person charged with possession of marijuana as a result of the party, and he isn't buying Lott's stance that nobody is above the law.

"If I find it amusing," Harpootlian said, "that justification is they don't want to treat him any differently just because he is a celebrity, and he is being treated far differently than any other Joe Blow who might have smoked marijuana four or five months ago."

If Lott genuinely believes that Phelps is a real danger to Richland County, somebody needs to sit him down and explain the meaning of prioritizing. And if he thinks the memories of all those medals don't outweigh the possibility of the picture of him in that outfit surfacing, then perhaps he should have taken a photograph with the words "I lead Start program to assist kids in poverty."
**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Branagan-Franco and Peterlin return in MLS Showcase**

Omar Sanchez  
**SPORTS EDITOR**

They have come a long way from their days playing on a Division III soccer team, or coming to Cal Poly as a walk-on. Tomorrow they will have the opportunity to show their soccer prowess at the next level when they participate in the 2009 Major League Soccer Showcase at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Former Mustangs, and members of Cal Poly's 2006 NCAA Tournament team, Anton Peterlin and Eric Branigan-Franco will run onto the field with the San Jose Earthquakes when the team plays exhibitions against the Seattle Sounders tonight, and the Houston Dynamo on Sunday.

Branigan-Franco will vie for a spot on the Earthquakes' roster. If neither of the two gets signed to the MLS, it will be the first time Cal Poly soccer has had a player on an MLS roster.

Both started training with the Earthquakes Thursday and Mustangs' soccer head coach Paul Holocher said the two will likely get playing time. Earthquakes' head coach Frank Yallop suggested it yesterday after the team's practice.

"Anton will hopefully get some play time here, obviously in front of his home fans. It will be nice for him to come out in our Earthquake gear," Yallop said.

Peterlin said he's looking forward to playing before a familiar crowd, but it's not a motivating factor.

"It should be fun playing in front of the home crowd. We have a great atmosphere of soccer here, but you got to play your A-game everywhere you go," Peterlin said.

Branigan-Franco isn't sure whether his cleats will meet the stadium's wet turf after practicing yesterday but said he is prepared either way.

"I'm not going in there expecting to get any playing time," he said. "I'm just going in there to work as hard as possible and train as hard as can and stay on the team. Maybe in the future I will get some chances to play." What he does expect this weekend is the experience of taking in the highest level of American soccer.

"It's a good way to step into the league and get an idea of how the league is and the higher level that I will need to play at," Branigan-Franco said. "I'm going to do my best to get myself a spot, but otherwise it's going to be a great experience." Earthquakes goalkeeper Joe Cannon said getting experience is crucial for new players in determining their mindset.

"I think a lot of you come in as a kid, in your mind you kind of put it up on a pedestal and I think if you're ever going to be a pro, the first thing you need to do is get exposed and get in there and say 'you know what I can do,'" Cannon said.

From yesterday's practice, Yallop said he hasn't seen enough of Branigan-Franco, but is impressed with what he's seen so far.

"It's hard, a shooting exercise is not goalkeeping," Yallop said. "He looks the part, he's not the biggest but he's sharp and quick which is good. If you're quick and agile, you can get it done."

Branigan-Franco attributes his success to his work ethic and the Cal Poly soccer program that has gained much attention since Holocher took over the team three years ago.

"It's developing, no doubt about it," Branigan-Franco said. "Coach Holocher has done a great job of picking up better quality players every year. He's making the program one of the best in the nation. There are going to be more guys from Cal Poly going into MLS, guaranteed. There is a lot of talent there."

Holocher also said he was happy with the progress of his program, noting that there is a bright future ahead.

"We ended last year No. 23 in the country," Holocher said. "We got that nice little plaque on the wall that says we're a top-25 program. We're bringing in a great recruiting class. Having Major League Soccer teams come to our campus is very exciting for young players."

While at Cal Poly, Branigan-Franco was named Co-Big West Goalkeeper of the Year and was selected to the NSCAA All-Far West Region Second Team. Peterlin was named to the third team. During his time as a Mustang, the team went 27-15-14 and recorded 10-10-5 shutouts against nationally ranked opponents in 2008. Both made the all-Big West first team.

Peterlin was the Mustangs' team captain in 2007 and 2008, leading the team to its first NSCAA Division I Tournament appearance since 1995.

The Earthquakes will be making their second appearance at Spanos Stadium. Last year, they beat the Columbus Crew in the Central Coast showcase. The Crew would go on to win the 2008 MLS Cup.

The team intends to work out its kinks during the preseason exhibition.

"We're looking to be more competitive at every position. I think last year we started off the season a little sluggish. We had a good core of guys, but we didn't have much depth. But with tomorrow's game it will be the first test, kind of like a quiz as to see if we're at Cal Poly," Cannon said.

**BRAHMS**

**Women's Basketball**

**Mustangs face rivals again**

Scott Silvey  
**SPORTS EDITOR**

Cal Poly women's basketball coach Faith Mimnaugh was unresponsive for a moment, as if reflecting on the past 11 seasons, all filled with high expectations often harbored by injuries to key players and disappointment.

The question posed to Mimnaugh was a simple one. How would you feel about procuring your first winning season at Cal Poly?

"It's about time," she finally said. "We've been battling here."

The Mustangs (15-7, 7-3 Big West Conference) have their first opportunity to win that battle when they take on UC Santa Barbara at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the Walter Pyramid.

Win a over the rival Gauchos, the team can guarantee Mimnaugh her first winning season, and the school's first since the 1991-92 campaign.

But UC Santa Barbara (15-7, 16-6) provides a formidable task. Past the halfway mark in the conference schedule, the Gauchos are unblemished against the Big West, including a 55-45 defeat of Cal Poly at the Thunderdome last month.

The Mustangs put a serious scare into the Gauchos at home, leading by 12 points at halftime. But all unraveled in the second half. UC Santa Barbara would outscore Cal Poly by 22 points after the break to secure the win.

"The team is aware that we played one really good half at Santa Barbara, but we're definitely going to have to play 40 minutes in order to beat them," Mimnaugh said.

The Mustangs haven't lost since that night. They've run off six consecutive victories since the defeat, building momentum towards what could arguably be the biggest regular season home game between the Central Coast rivals.

"It's going to be very physical, so we're going to try to bring it," senior forward Megan Hansen said after practice yesterday.