Two Poly grads develop U.S. government system

Obama signs huge stimulus and readies foreclosure aid

Facebook users protest new policies that changes rules about account cancellations change.

Sophomore swimmer Peter Kline leads Cal Poly into Big West Championships.

President Barack Obama, right, and Vice President Joe Biden tour the roof of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science with Blake Jones, left, CEO and president of Namaste Solar, to view the solar panel installation on Tuesday before the signing of a $787 billion economic stimulus bill.

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Sullivan is survived by his wife, Donna, and his two daughters. A memorial service in his honor will be held at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Grover Beach Saturday, Feb. 21 at 10:00 a.m.

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CENG associate dean Sullivan loses brief battle with cancer

Chris Jagger

Edward Sullivan, associate dean of engineering for research and graduate programs, died Monday from complications relating to cancer. He was 64.

"Ed was an outstanding scholar, teacher and humanist," said Donna.

He was a calm voice at the center of every storm. He fought a brief and unfair battle with cancer." Sullivan came to Cal Poly in 1989. Apart from his duties as dean, he taught transportation engineering classes emphasizing traffic analysis and modeling, evaluation methods and traffic collision modeling.

"Ed Sullivan was a great member of the university community. During his long tenure at Cal Poly, he contributed so much, as a mentor, teacher, scholar and valued colleague," said Cal Poly President Warren Baker.

"He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."

Obama signs huge stimulus and readies foreclosure aid

Liz Sidoti and Tom Raum

DENVER (AP) — Racing to reverse the country's economic spiral, President Barack Obama signed the mammoth stimulus package into law Tuesday and readied a $787 billion foreclosure rescue for legions of Americans who are in danger of losing their homes.

There was no recovery yet for beleaguered automakers, who were back in Washington for more bailout billions. General Motors Corp. said it was closing plants. Chrysler LLC said it was cutting vehicle models and both said they were getting rid of thousands more jobs as they made their restructuring cases for $5 billion more for Chrysler and as much as $16.6 billion more for GM. The United Auto Workers union said it had agreed to tentative concessions that could help Detroit's struggling Big Three.

Anything but reassured, Wall Street drove ever lower. The Dow Jones industrials fell 297.81 points, closing less than a point above their lowest level in five and a half years.

Obama focused on the $787 billion stimulus plan, an ambitious Transportation Engineering.

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"Ed was a great scholar and a true gentleman in every way," said Mohammad Noori, dean of the College of Engineering in a prepared statement. "I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Ed for over three years. Ed was a very kind person who was always willing to give his time and knowledge to help others." Sullivan is survived by his wife, Donna, and his two daughters. A memorial service in his honor will be held at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Grover Beach Saturday, Feb. 21 at 10:00 a.m.

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Database
continued from page 1

far back as the Federalist Papers." Tapella cited a need for the new system for multiple reasons, one be­
ting a need for quick access to infor­
mation. The current system being phas­ed out is (IPC^Access, which can take up to several minutes per search.

"It's a little bit antiquated," Tapel­
la said. The exponential growth of the use of electronic documents since the early 1990s has created a need for a system like FDis, which is capable of delivering information in seconds rather than minutes.

"It's interesting that they're trans­
forming the Government Printing
Office to be really high-tech in an
administration that wants all the
agencies to go high-tech," Tapella said.

Tapella met Edwards in January
2001 during Cal Poly's International
Print Week and was dazzled with the
then-senator's potential.

"He impressed me and so I hired
him," Tapella said.

Edwards considers the project a "great opportunity to do a pub­lic service" and he will continue to work on FDis, which is slated to expand to more than 90 databases in the next several years.

"I couldn't have asked for any­thing more for a job straight out of col­lege," Edwards said.

Bill
continued from page 1

wage-earners will soon see the first
paycheck evidence of tax breaks that
will total $409 for individuals and $818 for couples.

The stimulus package was a huge victory for Obama less than
one month into his presidency. But
he struck a sober tone and lowered expectations for an immediate turn­
around in the severe recession that is well into its second year.

"None of this will be easy," he
said. "The road to recovery will not
be straight. We will not make progress, and there may be some slip­
ways along the way."

Still, he declared, "We have be­
gen the essential work of keeping the American dream alive in our time."

Underscoring energy-related in­
vestments in the new laws, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden flew sepa­rately to Denver where the president signed it at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, with roughly 250 people including alternative energy business leaders. Earlier, the pair ex­amined solar panels on the museum's roof.

On Wednesday, Obama will out­
line one big piece of his recovery effort — a $10 billion plan to help
tem foreclosure — in Arizona, one of the states hardest hit by the mort­gage defaults that are at the center of the nation's economic woes.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Gein­
ter mentioned the housing pro­gram last week as he rolled out a wide­ranging financial-sector res­cue plan that could send $2 trillion coursing through the financial sys­tem. Obama is expected to detail how the administration plans to prod the mortgage industry to do more in

mollifying the terms of home loans, so borrowers have lower monthly payments.

More than 2.3 million homeowne­rs coast-to-coast faced foreclosure proceedings last year, an 83 percent increase from 2007. Analysts say that number could soar as high as 10 mil­lion in the coming years, depending on the severity of the recession.

In Denver, Obama said the stimu­lus package had received broad sup­port in Washington and elsewhere, though Democrats pushed it to pas­sage with only three Republican votes in the Senate and none in the House.

One of the biggest public spend­
ing programs since World War II, the new law is designed to create jobs in the short term and to boost consum­er confidence to battle the worst eco­nomic crisis since the Great Depres­
sion. It also makes down payments on Obama's health care, education, and environment goals.

Looking ahead, Obama can take the law as just "the beginnings of the first steps" to jerk the country out of its deepest recession in years.

"The president is going to do

what it takes to get the American dream alive in our time." Obama is expected to detail his prescriptions for the ailing economy, going so far as to raise the possibility of a one-term presidency.

There's no guarantee that Obama's round of rescue spending and multi-pronged approach will
stun the economic freefall, much less produce jobs on a big scale.

The only thing certain is that Obama is on track to boost a federal debt that stands at $10.7 trillion.

Clearly mindful of that, Obama said: "We will need to do everything in the short term to put the economy moving again" as well as "begin re­
forming fiscal discipline and turning our exploding deficits over the long term."

As he spoke in Denver, General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC were racing to complete plans detailing how they would repay government loans and restructure their operations to remain viable. Democratic third-m虾or automaker, Ford Motor Co., has not requested government help.

GM submitted a dire plan to the Treasury Department, saying it would
try to borrow up to $16.6 billion more from the government on top of the $13.4 billion it has received.

The plan includes cutting 47,000 more jobs and closing five more U.S. fac­

ories. Chrysler said it needed $5 billion more to survive on top of the $8 bil­lion in government loans it received in December. It said it would cut 3,100 jobs and three vehicle models as part of its restructuring plan.

The United Auto Workers union said it had reached a tentative deal with Chrysler, GM and Ford to mod­
dify its contracts with the automakers to help them endure.

ATTENTION OUTSTANDING JUNIORS

Mortar Board, a national honor society for college seniors, is beginning the competitive recruitment process for the 2009-2010 year.

Membership is nomination-based and requires students who have a 3.0 GPA, senior standing by Fall of 2009, and have demonstrated achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service.

The Cal Poly chapter would like to encourage faculty members to nominate qualified students in their department or eligible juniors to nominate themselves.

Please contact Dr. Roya Vardapour at rjadapour@calpoly.edu or Kendra Rowley at krowley@calpoly.edu to fill out a nomination form.
Facebook rule change sparks protests

Tens of thousands of Facebook users are protesting new policies that they say grant the social-networking site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

Facebook’s new terms of use, updated Feb. 4, largely went unnoticed until the popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed out the changes Sunday.

That prompted a clarification from Facebook’s founder, Mark Zuckerberg, although the new terms remain in force. Zuckerberg told users in a blog post Monday that “on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with.”

When someone shares a photo, a message or a status update telling friends what they are up to at the moment, they first need to grant Facebook a license so the site can pass that information along to authorized friends, Zuckerberg said.

Without the license, he said, Facebook wouldn’t be able to help people share information.”

Zuckerberg said the new terms are necessary to reflect the fact that friends may retain a copy of that message or other information once a user shares it with them.

“Even if the person deactivates their account, their friend still has a copy of that message,” Zuckerberg said. “We think this is the right way for Facebook to work, and it is consistent with how other services like e-mail work. One of the reasons we updated our terms was to make this more clear.”

see Facebook, page 5
Can all that Twitter's turn to gold amid the gloom?

Michael Liedtke

Twitter Inc. has spawned a new way to communicate by limiting messages to 140 keystrokes. So here's a way to describe the Internet's latest craze within Twitter's space restrictions:

It's a potluck of pithy self-expression simmering with whimsy, narcissism, voyeurism, hucksterism, tedium and sometimes useful information.

One vital ingredient has been missing from the mix so far — revenue. That raises questions about whether the nearly 3-year-old service can make the leap from intriguing fad to sustainable business.

Twitter intends to start testing ways to make money this spring. And co-founder Evan Williams promised it won't drive away the more than 6 million people who have set up accounts on the unconventional communications network.

"We don't see any reason why this can't be a very large and profitable entity," said Williams, the San Francisco-based company's chief executive. "We have enough traffic on our Web site that we could put ads on there and maybe we could make enough to pay our bills, but that's not the most interesting thing we can do."

Williams, 36, won't say what he has in mind besides selling ads, but he and the handful of other people who own privately held Twitter seem confident the strategy will pay off — even as a devastating recession destroys much-larger entities.

One vital ingredient has been missing from the leap from intriguing fad to sustainable business, which has been likened to the 21st-century version of a telephone.

Here's how Twitter works: After setting up a free account, people are encouraged to post frequent updates about what they are doing, seeing and feeling. The messages, known as "tweets," must be limited to 140 characters and can be sent from a mobile phone or a computer.

Although the updates are available for anyone to see, Twitter users usually set up their accounts to monitor the tweets of people they know or admire. These "followers" are automatically fed the most recent tweets from the people they are shadowing.

With more than 250,000 people tracking his messages, President Barack Obama has the most Twitter followers even though neither he nor his staff have tweeted since he moved into the White House last month.

Many other politicians and celebrities, such as basketball star Shaquille O'Neal (more than 72,000 followers) and former rap music sensation MC Hammer (more than 55,000) regularly share tweets.

Twitter also has become a way to peek at dramas unfolding behind closed doors.

see Twitter, page 5

TV executive accused of beheading wife in New York

Carolyn Thompson

The crime drips with brutal irony: a woman decapitated, allegedly by her estranged husband, in the offices of the television network the couple founded with the hope of countering Muslim stereotypes.

Muzzammil Hassan, "Mo" Hassan is accused of beheading his wife last week, days after she filed for divorce. Authorities have not discussed the role religion or culture might have played, but the slaying gave rise to speculation that it was the sort of "honor killing" more common in countries half a world away, including the couple's native Pakistan.

Funeral services for Aasiya Hassan, 37, were Tuesday. Her 44-year-old husband is scheduled to appear for a felony hearing Wednesday.

The Hassans lived in Orchard Park — a well-off Buffalo suburb that hadn't seen a homicide since 1986 — and started Bridges TV there in 2004 with the message of developing understanding between North America and the Middle East and South Asia. The network, available across the U.S. and Canada, was believed to be the first English-language cable station aimed at the rapidly growing Muslim demographic.

Orchard Park Police Chief Andrew Benz said his officers had responded to domestic incidents involving the couple, most recently Feb. 6, the day Mo Hassan was served with the divorce papers and an order of protection.

"I've never heard him raise his voice," said Paul Mokol, who became friendly with the couple while he was chief counsel for the FBI in Buffalo.

Although shooting away Facebook was risky, Twitter still isn't under immense pressure to generate revenue. The 29-employee company has already raised $85 million, including a $33 million round recently completed with Benchmark Capital and Institutional Venture Partners.

Like Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and other communal Web sites that have become Internet sensations, Twitter gives people a stage where they can express themselves and connect with kindred spirits.

Twitter's rise is a more succinct approach, which has been likened to the 21st-century version of a telegraph.

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see Twitter, page 5
A winter storm that powered its way through California was reduced to scattered showers on Tuesday, leading behind a few mudslides and traffic snarls but no major damage. The system was moving northeastward, with snowfall expected to leave the inland mountain areas of Southern California by Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm has dropped about 3 feet of snow at elevations higher than 6,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada, according to the Associated Press. After initially defending their decision to freeze Twitter, the Associated Press announced on Wednesday that it would no longer require users to follow a certain number of other users. The move comes as Twitter continues to add new features and improve its user experience.

Twitter founders Evan Williams, left, and Biz Stone pose for a photograph at their office in San Francisco, Thursday. Twitter continued from page 4

When Yahoo! fee flipped off hundreds of workers last year, some of the casual users of Twitter received a blizzard of tweets from colleagues.

Twitter is struggling to keep more water behind at overly low levels, state and federal water agencies are making their dams this month.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife said a survival plan that calls for cutting 17,000 troops. The report said insurgents in Afghanistan's southern area fired upon a boundary road bomb, a car bomb and a roadside bomb near the Indian embassy last July that killed 56 civilians.

VILLA AHUMADA, Mexico (AP) — For people caught inside a building in the heart of a rebel stronghold, the service is especially appealing to advertisers. The Department of Health and Human Services said a Twitter user named "anonymouse" tweeted about the removal of a bomb.

VILLA AHUMADA, Mexico (AP) — Twitter founders Evan Williams, left, and Biz Stone pose for a photograph at their office in San Francisco, Thursday. Twitter continued from page 4

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Add some eco-friendly style to the kitchen table

Chelsea Bieker

Ann Christian never assumed that her hobbies of making cloth napkins for her family would turn into a business. But, as she sits around the washable fabric with her two sisters, Shalee Brumington and Kay Potzak, in their store Picking Daises, it is clear that her hobby has grown into more than just a pastime.

Entering Picking Daises is not unlike a vibrant painting full of life and pops of color. Everywhere you look your eyes are treated to patterns and fabrics in every shade imaginable. Squares of napkins line the walls, challenging you to pick just one.

The napkins have become so popular among friends that Christian once found herself selling them out of her car. When production space became an issue, the store made sense.

"I could never find any napkins I liked, so I would just go buy pretty fabric and make my own," Christian said. "The business grew to the point where it was a little too cumbersome to be doing out of our house. I thought, 'I wonder if we could sell them?' But, I didn't want to do it by myself!"

All three sisters graduated from Cal Poly, and after years of living apart, they are reunited not just as sisters, but as business partners. They each bring different strengths to the table including business sense, textile knowledge and fashion merchandising skills.

"We all have different things we are good at," Christian said. "We talked about it and we thought it would be a fun endeavor."

Located in the Creamery downtown, the shop has been open since October and offers a wide range of colors, sizes and patterns of napkins to choose from. These aren't just any napkins; however, the sisters make it their priority to only use the finest materials and advertise sewing to ensure they will withstand years of breakfasts, lunches and dinners. They almost look too pretty to use, but Potzak encourages people to use and reuse them, as they become softer over time.

"The fabric doesn't wrinkle a whole lot and it is nice and absorbent," Christian said. "We do mitered corners which are a little bit better quality."

The process has become easier with the space allowed by the shop, and the sisters have adapted an industrial process to produce their work.

"We have streamlined it to be more of an assembly line rather than each person doing each step at a time," Christian said. "We pre-wash the fabric, then we have to iron it and roll it to prepare it for cutting."

"It's a quality product that we put out and it takes more time, but they are going to last," Potzak added.

The grid of napkins adorning the walls are not the only decorations in the store. As Picking Daises is also a part of Art After Dark. Once a month people come in to see the featured artist, and may very well come out with a new view on napkins.

Some view cloth napkins as a great and easy way to save paper and be more environmentally conscious.

"They are thrilled that something is a catalyst to help them to be a little less wasteful," Christian said.

Potzak said that with the economy people are eating at home more frequently, and the cloth napkins adhere to that trend.

"This is a simple way to spruce up your kitchen table," she said. "It's as easy way to treat yourself to make meals at home a little more elegant, a little more fun. Our timing is right on."

Above all, the sisters are having fun through this experience and recall that it is similar to their childhood days of playing store.

"I am having a blast, I think it has been so much fun to do this," Potzak said. "People who come in that have used cloth napkins all their lives say, 'where have you been all my life?'"

"Most people are delighted with the store," Christian added.

Picking Daises is open Tuesdays noon to 5 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find out more at www.pickingdaisiesmoke.com.

www.centracoast.com

Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

805.541.5111

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emilie Egger
Arts and Entertainment Designer: Milena Krayzbuk

To see an audio slideshow of the store, go online mustangdaily.net.

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Samantha Critchell
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NEW YORK — The present looks bleak for the fashion industry, so designers at Fashion Week have a solution: the future!

Space-age materials and clothes with jutting hips and shoulders made a Jetsons-like splash on Saturday at New York Fashion Week.

Even Barbie, celebrating her 50th birthday, got in on the act. A fashion show with 50 designs inspired by the doll closed with a series of futuristic dresses including a white Calvin Klein dress with cutout shoulders. Heidi Klum sat in the front row, looking a bit like Jane Jetson.

Georges Chakra used liquidy, high-tech fabrics with sharp, angular shapes, continuing a trend seen in the early going of New York Fashion Week. While Alexander Wang went with a hard edge in an entirely black and white collection, BCBG relied on asymmetrical necklines and shoulder pads yes, they may be back, and put models in metallic designs, which at the right angle on their ultra-thin legs could remind an observer of C3-P0 from "Star Wars."

Nicole Miller embraced a space-age look that's a little more '60s than futuristic, shown best in a black vest with an in-your-face shoulder flange worn over a black and white dress. And projecting shoulder pads may be another recurring trend, with fabric that could remind an observer of C3-P0 from "Star Wars."

Ashleigh Verrier, traditionally a feminine ladylike designer, had a harder edge with metallics and silver ruffles, but she also gave a nod to the Valentine's Day romantic with sheer chiffon prints that allowed for very visible delicate lingerie. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt snapped her favorites with a camera from the front row.

More than 100 designers are presenting their fall collections at New York Fashion Week, which runs through Friday.

ALEXANDER WANG

Alexander Wang's downtown girl can mix and match styles, textures and shapes in the haphazard way that gives her street cred, though she also likes a little bit of luxury.

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Who will be watching "WATCHMEN?" Me!

Much of the 1980s were filled with comics that were, well, crap. Hell, the 1970s weren't that great either. A lot of them were just rehashes of old stories from the 50s and 60s that weren't that great to begin with, and really added nothing more to the table, save a few bad one-liners.

Or you had stories of old heroes battling new enemies, like teenage smoking and drinking. No joke. Just check out some old Green Lantern/Green Arrow comics.

However, along came 1986 and an entirely new era of comics, with the publication of arguably the most influential comic series ever: "The Watchmen" written by Alan Moore and drawn by Dave Gibbons.

I've read a lot of comics in my day, and to be honest with you, "The Watchmen" is not what I would classify as one of my favorite series. I appreciate what Moore did for comics, but the writing and art are still in line with an older formula of comics.

What really set "The Watchmen" apart was its story, and above all, the characters. It takes place in the mid-1980s, at the height of the Cold War, when a nuclear war seems eminent. To top it off, one of America's most famous heroes, The Comedian, has been found murdered, thrown out of his high-rise apartment building, which sets off a mystery of an elusive "masked-killer" on the loose. As the story unfolds it becomes clear that things are much deeper than they appear.

What Moore does best in the series is rethinking the iconic superheroes of DC and Marvel in a modern perspective, in an attempt to see what would happen to heroes in the real world.

There is the alienated detective, Rorschach, who is haunted by his dark past. Like Batman, Rorschach has created an alternate identity to fight crime, but unlike the Dark Knight, his identity has become entirely enveloped in his alternate identity, almost to the point of compulsion and insanity.

What would happen if Captain America had not been a hero in World War II, but had instead fought in Vietnam? Would he still be the pinnacle of American patriotism? Most likely, he would be like the Comedian, a hero who faces the irrationality and brutality of human action not with revulsion or defiance, but with nonchalance or even a sense of humor.

Moore's story is innovative, but reading it can be difficult at times. It is the first of its kind in a lot of groundbreaking ways, but what really carries it along is its characters, which is well worth the effort of reading it before the new movie comes out.

I'm really looking forward to see how the new movie, coming out early next month, is going to handle "The Watchmen". At the time, the Cold War was huge, but it seems like an all too distant memory now. But hey, it looks pretty frickin' sweet, so be sure to see it on March 6.
I'm a Republican. I'm gay. So what?

I have come to understand on a very personal basis that the stereotypes and caricatures of the parties are no substitute for experiencing their members up close. I see that the "tolerance" and "compassion" of the left only extends as far as a person is willing to further their ideological worldview.

I am not Alex Knepper, the gay man, I am Alex Knepper, a man who just so happens to be gay. I believe that my chosen virtues and the actions that I take, not my un-chosen sexual orientation, defines me as a person. I am a man who chooses to think for himself and shape his life on his own terms.

I don't think that makes me so radical.

Alex Knepper is a columnist for The Eagle at American University, where this article was originally published.

There is a Republican.
I'm gay. So what?

I have to laugh every time I hear the word "sustainability" and the rambles and forums about the topic. Seems to me that "sustainability" is a new face being put on the time-honored subject of conservation. It is just a way for certain interest groups to catch the attention of a public that has the attention span of 2-year-olds. Conservation is more empathizing than sustainability ever will be.

As a father of 5, my kids "get it" when I teach and show them examples of conservation. Example: The other day, our upright vacuum bit the dust (no pun intended). I would say that 99 percent of this appliance was plastic. Rather than toss it into the "landfill" trash can, I disassembled the unit, separating the motors, screws and wires from the plastic. I showed my kids that the plastic could now be recycled into another vacuum cleaner!

Another thing: we have taught our kids is to "recycle" their craft projects and the scraps left over from their "creations." Old/broken plastic toys and toys with recyclable metals also go into our blue bin. Seems nowadays our blue recycle container gets more use than our "landfill" container, which is a good thing.

Are you getting my point about conservation? I am sure someone will read my commentary here and try to "educate" me. Don't want your typing skills.

— John
Response to "Cal Poly needs to use some sustainability strategy"
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I’VE LEARNED FROM MY PAST MISTAKES.

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7th Change the Status Quo Conference is coming up on Feb. 27th and 28th, 2009! The conference is designed to educate and bring together people who share a passion for making a difference in their community and the world. Register now in UU 217 at the Student Life and Leadership Office. More info at website scs.calpoly.edu

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A-Rod continued from page 12

with testosterone, part of a routine called “cycling.” Primobolan increases strength and adds lean muscle but little bulk. Maybe it was just Rodriguez's good luck that he stumbled upon it.

According to his account, he noticed few changes while taking it and none after stopping. “I’m not sure what the benefit was,” he said. “I will say this, when you take any substance or anything, especially in baseball, it’s half-metaphorical and half-physical. If you take this glass of water and you say, ‘I’m going to be a better baseball player,’ if you believe it, you probably will be.”

“So I certainly felt more energy,” Rod scanned the crowd of reporters, “but it’s hard to say, hard to say,” Rodriguez added, his voice trailing off. “Hard to say.”

Maybe so. But just as Rodriguez cites numbers to support his contention that two of his best seasons — 1996 and 2007 — came on either side of using “hulk,” it’s worth examining those during those 18 months, too. Compare A-Rod’s average stats from 2003-05 with the averages from the rest of his career and what you find is someone playing a dozen more games each season, with roughly a dozen more home runs and RBIs, and a slugging percentage nearly 40 points higher.

“The only thing that I ask this group today and the American people,” Rodriguez said at the end of the 35-minute, question-and-answer session, “is to judge me from this day forward.”

Sad to say, but there’s no chance of that happening now.

Rodriguez is hardly the only one to blame for the haphazard, piecemeal fashion in which confirmation that the era we just witnessed was supersized. He’s only the latest and most credible source to be named in the headlines.

He may reap the reward for his honesty down the road, right about the time he becomes eligible for the Hall of Fame — assuming enough other players, general managers, owners, trainers and assorted hangers-on come clean or provide the context against which the rest of us can confidently measure their accomplishments.

For the time being, though, we continue to wrestle with the dilemma best expressed as: “Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?”

During one of the long pauses interspersed among his answers, A-Rod scanned the crowd of reporters, a number of whom will vote for the Hall of Fame the first time his name turns up on the ballot. He knows how Mark McGwire and Roger Clemens are likely to be.

“I hope that after my career is over, the evidence falls in my favor. But if it doesn’t,” Rodriguez said, “I also understand that, too.”

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That better be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. — Jim Lite is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

Kline continued from page 12

But Kline owes a lot to his busy swimming career and lifestyle to keep him focused in other areas of his life. “It’s just what I’m used to if I ever had a day off where I didn’t swim, I’d get bored,” he said.

The team will return to the big pool at the Big West Championships in Long Beach from Feb. 25 through Feb. 28. Cal Poly is expected to place third or fourth place in the conference, which is a comparison leap from previous years of placing sixth and last year’s fifth.

Kline is preparing to do well in the 400-meter IM and the 100-meter and 200-meter Back. “My coach will want me to get NCAA cuts, but they’re pretty fast this year, which is pretty difficult,” Milich recalled. “I’m definitely going to go for best times, but maybe drop two or three seconds in each event.”

“Peter has a tremendous amount of ability,” Yoshida added. “He’s probably one the best three male swimmers in the conference. He’s capable of winning. He has the potential to be at some point, a NCAA top-16 conr. I don’t say that lightly. He does have the ability, it’s just going to be a matter of how focused we can be in these next few years,” Milich said.

“He’s put in the work. He worked hard all summer. If he were to get it, he deserves it. He’s still got to work for it.”

And what’s in store for Kline when the 2012 Olympic Trials come around again?

“It depends on where I’m at by senior year,” Kline said. “It’s a really long shot because the national team is really hard to make, but it’s something to aspire for. I’ll probably be more developed, a little bit bigger by the time I’m 23, 24. So that’s when my full potential for swimming would be Prime time.”

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Primetime Peter Kline

Krizia Torres

With 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. swim practices six times a week, there’s no time to goof around. But Cal Poly swimmer and agricultural systems management sophomore Peter Kline has made time to laugh a little.

“When Peter puts jokes and pranks, we don’t really mind because he’s doing it to help the other swimmers forget the fact that they’re in pain,” said Cal Poly swimming and diving assistant coach Phil Yoshida. “He’s doing it to keep things lively. (He would) mix water with you. He’s a good coach. He knows what he’s doing, which I like. I like his training methods very much. I can get kids to swim pretty fast without being too verbally abusive.”

But Yoshida is also breaking his own records. Last year he set Cal Poly records in the 100-meter IM, Kline came in third.” I raced against (Phelps) in my heat, which was when I got my trials cut. I was trying to catch him. He probably wasn’t going as fast in practice, Kline said laughing.

“Swimming over top; just funny stuff.”

He added injecting performance-enhancing drugs for some 18 months between 2000 and 2002, without identifying himself, said his supplier was a cousin who first suggested they experimented with “boli,” then transported it from the Dominican Republic and became a fellow guinea pig.

“Sometimes we get on each other’s nerves,” Kline said. “But for the most part, when we’re doing print sets and short anaerobic stuff we’ll be cheering each other on. Everyone’s trying to push each other. It’s nice to have. It’s motivating to go fast.”

Cal Poly swimming coach Tom Milich agreed. "He and I have a pretty good relationship. "He’s a likable guy that I think if he got on people he wouldn’t alienate them. He’s that type of guy you can take whatever from the fact that he’s inspiring you and at the same time killing himself means a whole lot too.”

With 50 men and women currently on the team, a common complaint by upperclassmen is knowing who to push. "It was a pretty cool meet. I remember swimming relationship with Milich. "Tom is a fun guy. He’s a good coach. He knows what he’s doing, which I like. I like his training methods very much. I can get kids to swim pretty fast without being too verbally abusive.”

Milich agreed. “He and I have a pretty good relationship and he’s swimming really fast at practice, which translates to swimming really fast at meets,” Kline said. “I almost wish he was a freshman because he’s doing some muscle mass from being in the weight room. I used to tease him in high school and called him ‘freshman’ because he looked so small. I told him I’d stop calling him (that) once he qualified for Nationals, and his junior year he made Nationals so I had to stop calling him a freshman.”

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Yoshida, an assistant coach since 2001, Cal Poly graduate and former swimmer, has worked with Kline for two years and has seen his potential. "In practice, Peter is a leader,” Yoshida said. “He has an easy-going way of inspiring other people to do as well. He leads by example. He’s a likable-enough guy that I think if he got on people he wouldn’t alienate them. He’s that type of guy you can take whatever from the fact that he’s inspiring you and at the same time killing himself means a whole lot too.”

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