Calif. GOP shakeup bodes ill for $42B budget plan

Samantha Young  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chances of a quick resolution to California's budget stalemate appeared to fade Wednesday after Senate Republican holdouts ousted their leader in a midnight coup and promised to refuse tax increases that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says are needed to close a projected $42 billion budget deficit through June 2010. As tax revenue has plunged, refund checks to taxpayers have been delayed, payments to state vendors have stopped and the state's credit rating has deteriorated to the worst in the nation, preventing borrowing.

With full support from Democrats, the bill needs three GOP votes in each house to pass. But many Republicans in the Legislature have signed a pledge against raising taxes and have decided to stick to it, even though they have not come up with a plan to close the entire deficit with cuts.

Late last year, Republicans proposed a plan they said would have saved about half that amount. Some Senate Republicans want to focus on closing the deficit in the fiscal year that ends June 30 rather than focusing on the two-year shortfall. They want the immediate deficit closed with cuts and shifting money from other accounts.

"Our caucus is pretty solid in terms of it," Maybe they should.

From 2007 to 2008, according to data provided by University Police Department Records Manager Fred Milk, on-campus theft of office equipment (including computers) tripled from seven incidents in 21, while theory of thefts, radios, stereos and electronic equipment (including iPods and DVDs) dropped 56 percent (from nine to four). The value of the office equipment (in new price) went from $14,420 to $2,600.

For most, Cal Poly students aren’t adequately prepared, according to Ryan Matteson, Cal Poly’s technical security officer.

"It's like getting ready for an earthquake," he said. "Most people don't have the supplies on hand to deal with an earthquake — except for the two weeks after they've experienced an earthquake. Then, they'll go out and they'll buy the stuff to be ready for the next one."

A majority of freshmen now bring laptops to Cal Poly, Matteson said, showing a definite shift to portable devices. Six hundred students

see Theft, page 2

Traveling preachers visit campus, aim to convert Poly students

OMAR SANCHEZ MUSTANG DAILY

Two Christian preachers spoke with students in the University Union Plaza yesterday, asking them to convert to Christianity. The preachers, Jerimiah Baldwin, above, and Frank Zaccaro, above right, have toured the country preaching their ideas about God and Jesus Christ for 45 years (Baldwin) and 16 years (Zaccaro).

see Faith, page 3
Theft

dents on campus used iPhones in the fall quarter — 300 more than in the spring he added.
University Police Chief Bill Wat­
on said students lack awareness.
They’re not as in tune as they should be,” he said. “This is a very safe campus and a very safe place, and typically far more so than where our stu­
dents come from — whether it be the L.A. area or the Bay Area.”

One way you can protect yourself is with simple locks. They’re becoming less simple though.
At Best Buy in San Luis Obispo, only one security option is for sale in a sea of want adaptors and mouses. A Defcon Cable Lock — uti­
izing a six-and-a-half-foot long cable — can be had for $39.99. Ironically, though, is if the process of locking them wasn’t enough of a concern, a key isn’t included for that price. It is the packaging for the lock which must be opened with one of 10,000 possible number combinations reads, “Requires no keys, which can be lost or stolen.”

Outside of Week of Welcome, super­visor Matt McCormack said, the lock isn’t a big seller, in spite of laptops outselling desktop computers five or six to one.

Naturally, the increased prevalence is directly correlated to increased inci­
dence of theft, said University Police Detective John Edks, a computer for­
nsic examiner.

“When all of us as note holders, there were people who note holders,” he pointed out. “And then we get cards, and you know what? The incidence of horse theft probably decreased and incidence of car theft probably in­
creased.”

The smaller devices get the easier they’ll be stolen, Edks added.
When he went to college, “a com­
puter was something that occupied the whole desk,” he said. “I didn’t have a cell phone, unless it was a camber­
tone inc, and only a few people had laptops, with names and Social Secu­
ritv numbers of more than 3,000 stu­
dents, was stolen from his home.
To aid recovery efforts last year, Wat­ton said, Cal Poly implemented a free service of registering personal property, much like that used for tie­
less registrations. Computrace could be used in accordance with Lo­
Jack, with which Edks said he could track “at least two favorable inci­
dents” of investigation assistance.

Of course, Lock isn’t suddenly seen as practical — isn’t without its


There one minute...gone the next.

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Thursday, February 19, 2009
News editor: Rachel Glass; News designer: Omar Sanchez
www.mustangdaily.net
mustangdailynews@gmail.com

"We need to get rid of this track­
ing stuff and go in that direction,” said Edks, who uses a LoJack with a Packard with a finger scanner. “I can set my biometrics so only I can get

Biotronics, though, ultimately aren’t efficient, according to Roger Grimes, a forensic examiner and a Foundstone Ultimate Hacking instructor. They’re just walking, sensitive technology, Grimes said, could demand users scan themselves more often, lead­ing to dialled-down recognition standards more generally.

"Suppose somebody does compromise your biometric-­
ness feature,” Grimes said, "I don’t know how many
to fake.”

There’s no turning back. They’re good. They’re just not a panacea.

Grimes is using Adoma, which he says have a whole lot more sophisticated.

Cal Poly doesn’t specifi­
cally recommend any soft­
ware, Matteson said, choos­ing to focus instead on emphasizing encryption and copying sensitive information.

Edks, who said “convenience has been my downfall,” instead of using a security feature, constants suggestion constant vigilance over such items, even packing them up instead of leaving them unattended.

"Primarily with college students in dorms, it’s the No. 1 security issue,” said Josh Ermstro, manager at Mac­
sales in San Luis Obispo.

Perhaps just knowing what devices can do can help.

In April 2008, Kai Delgada gar­nered international attention when she recovered her laptop stolen from her apartment in White Plains, N.Y. by using Back to My Mac to remotely access her stolen computer and utilize PhashRoom to track her laptop and unpack it from the device, the unknowing thief while he was surfing the Web.

Although it resulted in his arrest and the recovery of her property, re­
tracing peace of mind wouldn’t be so easy.

"College-age people are extremely
ly bent on protecting their compu­
ters,” Delgada wrote in an e-mail interview. “I don’t know how many times I have walked into a Starbucks, and have seen at least two laptops sit­
ing unattended alongside their cell phones and bags. I’m half-tempted to snatch their items and move them to another area of the store.”

She recommends using a physical lock, protecting passwords, backing up information on an external hard drive away from the computer and invest­
ing in insurance.

"It going to be a bigger issue, it’s going to get bigger and bigger,” Mat­
teson said of prediction strategies. "What do we as a society do is in a sort of imagine what that would be like (to be a victim). You start to rea­
ter what you’ve done to prevent that from happening.

Some don’t have to simply imagi­
ne.

"It was brutal,” Tooie said of hav­ing his laptop stolen.
He now uses Lock, but relies more on common sense.

"In the library, there are so many people in, and in, someone walks by all confident and picks up your stuff and walks off, if the people around don’t know you, they won’t think anything of it,” Tooie said. "Now, I always take my laptop with me, even if it’s in a conference room."
WORD ON THE STREET

"Aside from the Mustang Daily, where do you get your news?"

"I go to CNN.com sometimes and The New York Times if I have time. Mostly I went online during the presidential election but now the stimulus is over too, so now I'll probably go for the typical politics."

-Tim McCaughney, mathematics senior

"Mainly digg.com because it has a wide variety of information."

-Dan Jackson, aerospace engineering senior

"I go to The New York Times; they have free ones on campus. I've been reading a lot about the economy."

-Brittani Axtell, horticulture graduate student

"I go to Yahoo and I watch some news on TV but no particular (news) channels, mostly SportsCenter."

-Remington Johnson, architecture junior

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**State**

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Prosecutors allege Caskey raped the women while they were unconscious after he served them alcohol at parties. According to court documents, the assaults took place between April and January.

Judge Diane Wick also on Wednesday granted prosecutors' request to raise Caskey's bail to $800,000 and ordered him to stay away from the alleged victims and the USF campus.

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**National**

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The federal lawsuit filed in Washington on Tuesday — the 100th anniversary of Cieronimo's death — also names the university and the federal government.

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Budget
continued from page 1

of not voting for a tax increase," said Sen. Tony Strickland, R-Thousand Oaks. "We know the dire situation the state is in, but we do more dam-
age by taxing Californians." Schwarzenegger criticized that stand during a Wednesday afternoon news conference. He said there is no way to close the $42 billion deficit without tax increases.

"If you think that you can do this without any increase in revenues, then you have a big math problem," Schwarzenegger said. "I believe reve-
ue increases I hate taxes. But when you're faced with that kind of a re-
ality then that's where you have to go."

Schwarzenegger and the Demo-

`s have said they have no appetite for reopening budget negotiations. A difficult two-month process involv-
ing leaders of both parties produced the compromise that is currently be-

in place."

Just as Republicans do not want new taxes, Democrats will not agree to a tax-only budget fix.

The Senate was continuing to vote on the tax portion of the leg-

lative package every hour. Senate leader Darrell Steinberg of Sacra-

mento said his fellow Democrats intended to stay until they secure the remaining Republican vote.

"We are not starting over," he said during a Capitol news conference. "We negotiated a bipartisan budget in good faith. We're going to work today, and we're going to stay here day and night until one more senator steps up and joins California first."

Cagliff's holder and the vote to replace him with Hollingsworth was not unanimous within the GOP caucus. Senators that have been dis-
cussed as potentially supporting the budget fix — Roy Ashburn of Ba-

kersfield, Dave Gclip of Fair Oaks and Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria — abstained from voting on the new leader.

"I just can't believe in the middle of the night we would oust our lead-
er," Maldonado said. "I didn't sup-
port Dave Cagliff for leader, but I didn't vote to vote him out today. It's the wrong time to make a change in the process."

The pressure on California law-
makers to pass a spending package has intensified during the budget impasse. Lawmakers were out on Tuesday to state agencies and hun-
dreds of public works projects will lose state funding on Thursday unless a budget fix is approved, throwing some $92,000 construction workers out of a job.

The proposed tax hikes include an increase of 1 cent on the dollar in the state sales tax, a 12-cent-a-gallon hike in the gasoline tax and a boost in vehicle licensing fees.

Japan finance minister quits
over alleged drunkenness

Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

Japan's finance minister abruptly resigned Tuesday over allegations he made a drunken appearance at a G-7 news conference, shaking Prime Minister Taro Aso's already deeply unpopular government.

The resignation was a huge emb-
arrassment for Aso — who has been in office only since late Septem-
ber — and a blow to Japan's efforts to deal with an economiy that shrank at its fastest rate in 35 years in the fourth quarter and shows no signs of reversing course anytime soon.

Finance Minister Shoschi Naka-
gawa, who has denied being drunk, offered his resignation late Tuesday after earlier in the day saying he would stay on until after parlia-
mment approves the budget for the fiscal year, probably in late April.

"I have resigned," said Naka-
gawa, one of the most prominent members of Aso's Cabinet. "I de-
cided that it would be better for the country if I quit."

"He embarrassed himself in
front of the world," said opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa.

"The scandal was so humili-
ating that Nakagawa's resignation
will not be enough," said political analyst Minoru Morita. "The op-
position will now shift their target to Aso, putting him deeper into the corner."

Opposition lawmakers had lodged a censure motion against Nakagawa and demanded he quit immediately.

"He embarrassed himself in
front of the world," said opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa.

"The TV footage was shock-
ing," Consumer Minister Seiko Noda said. "A Cabinet minister must be fit and he needs more self-control."
"Che" gives refreshing view of history

Movie Review: Che - 2009

As long as I can remember, Ernesto "Che" Guevara has been characterized as being either the hero and backbone of a daring rebellion whose face is printed on countless T-shirts, or a cutthroat soldier hungry for power. Director Steven Soderbergh ("Traffic," the "Oceans Eleven" franchise, "Erin Brockovich") presents his epic memory "Che" in a surprising and refreshing manner that doesn't seem to attempt to paint a black and white picture of the revolutionary. The film is presented from the title character's personal point of view, depicting Guevara's everyday life and challenges as he fights to overthrow the administration of then Cuban President Fulgencio Batista.

The film is presented in two parts: "The Argentine and "Guerrilla." The plot never evolves into anything too fancy or elaborate, and success be- comes, unlike many other biographi- cal movies, it resists focusing more on the events of the film's subject than his or her own persona instead. We are first introduced to Guevara during an interview while attending a UN conference in New York mid- way through his campaign, through- out which he engages in lengthy conversations that resolve the few complaints many critics have taken up the first half. Some people have said it sounds a lot like "Das Malefitz" would make my argument much more compelling. I've heard some people say it sounds a little like the Postal Service. These Vevo di-agrams overlap more than you might hope.

It's easy as all hell to describe the new record from the up-a-common Canadian band Fantôm. Simply imagine the sound of British-dream-pops- pers, Monster Movie, and then marry it with the work of the now defunct News-Wave-Retro-Futurist outfit known simply as my favorite. The combination of those two bands is all you need to approximate the audio experience of Feel. Love. Thinking. O" But statisti- cally speaking, no one reading this paper has listened to both bands, so I'll try and rephrase the recipe.

Start out with "Oro- chenal Man" from the Dark" for suicidal synth- pop-beat and echoes/floats/hardly-discernable vocals. "It Hurts Me. All the Time!" is the best example of this depressed electronic-landscape with its swelling synthesizers and down-in-the-dumps lyrics: "you could never keep me / the sky is dark above me/ your shadow lurking in my mind/ and it burns me all the time!" Add in some sporadic flourishes of Radialhead, as in "Alarms/Lights," featuring Thom Yorke inflection, and prog-electrics. Sprinkle in some Johnny Marr-sch guiar- work throughout (before Modest Mouse obviously). Finally, arrange a few numbers (such as a "Lights Are All- ways On") in the style of M83, ele- vating some that slowly convinces the listener that he is doing wrong.

Then again, you might hear some- thing completely different. Most peo- ple I've talked to enjoy "Feel. Love. Thinking." when they hear it. But they all seem to percoze it as a differ- rent record with different influences. I suppose it's a bit like a musical ink- blot, whereas every listener hears something spe- cific to her own disposition and mental background. Case in point: For no reason I can think of, the press al- ternates between fervent classi- fying Fantôm as either post- rock and/or ambient. I'm incli- ned to disagree with this statement, since I do like this record and I'll rather have my face grassed off by an opusman than listen to more ambient post-rock (al- though the omission of instrumental, "Da Melfita"") would make my argu- ment much more compelling. I've heard some people say it's the best record so far this year. I've also heard some people say it sounds a lot like the Postal Service. These Vevo dia- grams overlap more than you might hope.

Truth time: just for a moment dur- ing "Input" I was reminded of Jars of Clay. Don't get all pissy now, it doesn't really sound anything like that, but I was reminded of how it felt to be Jars of Clay circa 1997, listening to a record of Clay in the middle of a school night, right when I was really into them. Just to see Music, page 7

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Membershio 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 Javavpour at rjavatpos@calpoly.edu or Kendra Rowley at krowley@calpoly.edu to fill out a nomination form.

Mortar Board, a national honor society for college seniors, is beginning the competitive recruitment process for the 2009-2010 year.
The University Jazz Groups will present an evening of jazz music and showcase their talents in their winter concert "Just Jazz" Saturday night.

This end-of-the-quarter event will feature about 38 student musicians, focusing on the ever-changing world of jazz music, from classical to contemporary jazz styles, as well as everything in between.

"It's such a broad-spectrum," said graphic communications senior and four-year University Jazz Band #2 drummer Aron Kroeger.

"There will be a mix of materials. The bands will do some standards, some contemporary, rock or funk tunes, et cetera," said Paul Rinzler, director of jazz studies and Cal Poly music professor.

The University Jazz Band #1 will be performing a song called "Grass is Greener" composed by Boston-based trombone player Adam Bartczak.

"It's a pretty good fusion of big band and hip-hop. It's also got vocals in it. It's a really good composition and fusion of the two," Rinzler said.

I'm a firm believer of branching into different reas of jazz. Hip-hop and jazz is an obvious combo. But there's not a lot done for big bands, so I was really happy to stumble on this guy's music (which I purchased) over the Web," he added.

The University Jazz Band #1 will also be performing the classic "Cherokee," as recorded by jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan and the modern, rhythmically complex composition, "Guten Tag, Zigaretten?"

The University Jazz Band #2 will feature two jazz standards as recorded by Frank Sinatra, "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Only Have Eyes for You."

Both jazz combos, which are smaller performance groups of about four to five musicians, will also be performing original student compositions and musical arrangements.

Philosophy junior and singer and guitarist Matt Donner composed an original song titled "Turn Around" for the concert with the help of saxophone player Sean Grim.

He will be performing it with the five-person jazz combo band #2. "It's upbeat. I put a bunch of jazz turnarounds together and Sean helped with the melody and we filled in the blanks," said Donner, who said composing can take anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours.

Political science and music senior and guitarist Brandon Roll has been with the University Jazz Bands for four years and has since been composing and arranging songs for them.

He arranged a piece by jazz musician Pat Metheny called "Songs for Bilbao" which he will be performing with other musicians in Jazz Combo Band #1.

"It is a contemporary piece that uses less traditional jazz theory. There are lots of layers and musical texture," Roll said.
above his arrangement.

The concert will also feature an original musical arrangement of jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock's tune of "Watermelon Man," arranged by trumpet player and pianist Justin Au.

"It's done with seven beats to the bar rather than four or eight, which is normal. The rhythm is going to feel really unusual," Rinzler said.

"Hopefully I've been able to inspire them to be interested in all sorts of different fusion and then the most standard, straight-ahead classical jazz. To do both things is really thinking widely," he said of his student musicians.

The Cal Poly jazz ensembles are four different ensembles comprised of two big bands, University Jazz Bands #1 and #2, and two jazz combos under the direction of Rinzler. They are music department classes which perform in concerts at the end of every quarter with varying themes. For the spring, the ensembles will have the opportunity to play with a world-class jazz musician, clarinetist and saxophonist Don Byron.

The bands rehearse anywhere from two to four hours a week. The concert will feature a world-class musician, the most part," Kroeger said.

"Not only does that help the audience relate to the students, but it also helps the students who are playing relate to their audience, too. They're playing in such a fashion that they know they are communicating to their fellow students," he added.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday night in Harman Hall at the Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Center box office and will also be on sale at the door.

Movies

continued from page 5

Laughable explosions. As I mentioned before, the film does not consist of typical Hollywood tricks and complicated camera shots. Instead, the director decided that simply focusing on the determination and pain behind Che's eyes would succeed in drawing in an audience, and in my case he was right. In this film, the overpowering feeling is that of fatigue, especially in Che's last moments and bouts with both malaria and a childhood condition of asthma. These conditions serve to remind the audience that despite his legendary reputation, Che Guevara was still a man, an incredible man who sacrificed his body, mind and personal needs in order to achieve a goal that he felt would improve Cuba.

Music

continued from page 5

reiterate, this is something that means a lot to me and absolutely nothing to anyone else. It's a feeling, not an objective sonic evaluation. In fact, maybe this Faint Record doesn't sound anything like Monster Movie or my favorite. Maybe the reason it sounds like so many things I've loved over the years is because it reminds me of what I love about music itself. So do me a favor: Just listen to the first track, the title track, "beel. I ove. I thinking." I think you might like it. But I can't really tell you what it sounds like.

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Avoid hypocrisy:
Don’t just talk it, walk it

Over the weekend, the state legislature held the longest session in state history, and still ended up without a budget. Monday was the deadline for legislators to come to an agreement, but one Republican held up the entire budget from being passed. Because of that Republican’s unwillingness to compromise, last Tuesday Gov. Schwarzenegger sent out 10,000 layoff notices to state employees in order to deal with California’s budget crisis. The layoffs are set to take effect July 1, at the start of the fiscal year.

On the same day that our governor sent out layoff notices, our president signed the stimulus package, and almost a third of that money will go to the states. I’m glad that the single Republican held up our budget from passing, because California should now look at its crisis very differently. That’s not what we mean we shouldn’t still raise taxes and make some cuts to overcome shortfalls, but I think that K-12 education and higher education can at least be put back on the table as non-negotiable.

However, not all states with budget woes should be so accepting of funds from the stimulus package. Some states with governors, representatives and senators who railed against the bill should perhaps consider their hypocrisy if they accept the money. Since so many states have been in budget crises, I get the idea that during the past few weeks’ discussion over the stimulus package, many Republican legislators were methodically weighing the benefits of opposing the bill.

Politics is all about appearance and image. Republicans knew that if they voted no on the bill it would still pass as long as a few votes went the other way, and that in the end they would have the appearance of being the party judicious with citizens’ money. Republicans could not immediately go along with the idea of the stimulus package, even though their states desperately wanted the money because it would be the final nail in the casket of their “limited government,” low taxes” image.

I know that this is true because if they were opposed to the fundamental theory behind the stimulus package, they would reject the funds for their state. They would be the same conscientious objectors now, when the cash is being doled out, that they were when the funds were being decided. If Democrats have in fact proposed a communist bill, it is wrong for Republicans to support communism by taking the funds. Do me a favor, please, because I don’t want to live in a communist country.

If you truly believe, as some Libertarians and Republicans do, that paying taxes is the government stealing from you, then do not accept its benefits. Do not take a Pell Grant next year, because Pell Grants were doubled through the stimulus package. Let’s follow through with your argument and make it real in this world. Don’t just talk it, walk it. Many Republicans will find it hard to attend Cal Poly next year.

But Republicans will take the money to go to school, and state officials likeGov. Tim Pawlenty (R-MN), who ardently opposed the stimulus package, will accept help from the federal government because his state is in crisis. His constituents, the people of his state, would be very angry with him if he refused the funds. Why? Because the money will help the people of his state.

If Republicans are communist for passing this bill and supporting it as I do, then Republicans are careless for letting the United States become a communist country. But I venture to guess that all states in America will accept the funds from the stimulus package, and thus the Republicans have been revealed as nothing but obstructionists. The majority of Republicans argued over this bill simply to start an argument and how can we, with a clear conscience, ever take them seriously again?

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

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

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The Mustang Daily is a designated public forum. "Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper; however, the removal of more than one copy of the paper per day is subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue."
Stimulating the growth of a welfare state

The Conservative Constitutionalist
by Colin McKim

With the speed that the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009 was proposed and passed through Congress, few Americans had the time to really take a critical look at the spending provisions within the over 1,000 page act. Over half of the $787 billion planned is for programs characteristic of a welfare state. These programs include unemployment benefits, federal medical assistance, food stamps and even housing assistance programs. The provisions of the act exemptly an ever-increasing role of the federal government in areas of the economy previously run by private enterprise, charities and state and local governments.

The size of the federal government is ballooning out of control, with utter disregard for the checks established by the Constitution. Rather than letting the recession take its natural course towards a stabilization and a rebound, the federal government is using this period of weakness to justify seizing control over the economy through directed growth of federal agencies and departments.

The provision in the Constitution for Congress to have the power to "provide for the... general welfare of the United States" is the sole statement in the document that could be construed to give the federal government the authority to do what it is doing now. But a simple examination of the historical intent of that clause reveals that the American system has morphed into something the founders strove to prevent and would be considered a metamorphosis of the Constitution.

With respect to the two words "general welfare", I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of "powers" connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proof was not contemplated by its creators.

Madison also said, "If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the general welfare, the government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one, subject to particular exceptions."

The era of these particular exceptions began decades ago during a time period with many correlaries to today, the Great Depression. That era too is an example of the growth of federal influence upon all facets of life in America.

It was one landmark Supreme Court decision in particular that permitted this radical shift in the balance of power. In 1936 ruling justifying the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the New Deal Supreme Court pronounced, "The power of Congress to authorize appropriations of public money for public purposes is not limited by the grants of legislative power found in the Constitution." With this interpretation, the Constitution was essentially rewritten without an amendment. The intent of the Tenth Amendment was nullified and the door was opened for the creation of a welfare state.

It came as no surprise when various new federal departments and agencies began popping up to direct all the newfound public funding. The earlier establishment of the income tax through the Sixteenth Amendment in 1913 allowed for the redistribution of wealth by the federal government.

Gradually the income tax was expanded from taxing only the most wealthy to nearly everyone with a job. Had it not been for these two turns of events, most middle class wage earners today would not be paying over a third of their income to the federal government. With a legal way to collect and use money collected from the public against their will, the federal government grew and grew, consuming ever more of the wealth of the nation.

Reckless spending and unbalanced budgets are the legacy left today by the "progressive" lawmakers of the early twentieth century. Uncle Sam has become a behemoth upon the backs of innovative and hard-working Americans, dumping their fortunes and wages into a bureaucratic abyss. All the branches of the federal government share the blame for this crippling debacle.

The American people too share the blame, for electing those who promoted the formation a dominating central government. We must work to reverse this unsustainable trend of government upholding and micromanagement before we reach the tipping point. Will our current powerful leaders tell us when the real reform is needed to accomplish this goal? I tell you again, don't count on it.

Colin McKim is an environmental management and protection Junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.  

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"How to destroy the dollar" column needed more research

Dear Colin McKim,

Your last article, titled "How to Destroy the Dollar," left me in a state of amusement and I feel like I need to clarify some points that you have made.

In your article you claim that the federal government and the Federal Reserve will "create" the money to finance the stimulus bill. Perhaps your forget that an increase of government spending is not the same as an increase in the money supply. The U.S. government can increase their spending to finance this bill by going into debt. It is a very unsophisticated argument to say that the government is simply printing more money to cover the costs.

You also make an interesting comparison between the current price of a loaf of bread and the price thirty years ago. Did you forget that the average income in the '70s was substantially lower than today's income? Your comparison is very misleading, and the actual price of a loaf of bread in the '70s is $1.40 in today's money. You use this example to show the steep incline of prices, yet according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices are actually dropping right now.

Your article seems like the typical rant that offers no concrete solution. I would suggest that you do your research and try to remember some basic economics before writing an article that has no citations, no proof and no solution.

Lukas Schubuda
biomedical engineering sophomore

Personal choice should be an option too

Chad, I placed one of the 12 tasks in the "some of these" category at the Sustainability Conference and I did it for a very good reason.

Somewhere along the line we have acquired the belief that progress is when the big players (schools, governments, companies) force the little people to "do the right thing," and that the best sort of progress is when all the little rules are all perfectly calibrated. The concept of the little people doing the right things voluntarily is considered a poor second, if it's considered at all. I didn't put my tack in any of the first four categories because they were all focused on requirements, mandates, and bans - all based on forcing people to behave in ways they do not want. I was left to decide which form of coercion best tickled my fancy.

Where were the options to host student-led seminars, to conduct door-to-door discussions in the dorms, the options to be proactive instead of reactive? People voluntarily pursue what they believe is in their interest, so inform our beliefs! Why are restrictions and requirements always considered preferable to education and opportunities?

Eric Baldwin
electrical engineering senior
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 logbooks of incidents/injuries; and maintain cleanliness of beach areas. Prior experience desirable. PAY RANGE: $11.00 - $15.26/hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) SWIM TESTING: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Avila Pier at 9 a.m.) Obtain application at the Harbor Office, 3960 Avila Beach Dr., in Avila Beach, Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. - 12 noon and 1-4:30 p.m. or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P.O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA, 93424 or online at www.portsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 595-5400 x 11.

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Announcements

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. More info at scs.calpoly.edu

Announcements

Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services Stop by UU Room 217 or call (805) 756-5834
Raise the Respect presents International Flea Market in UU Plaza on February 26th from 11-12!
Place a Mustang Mini ad today! Contact your ad rep at 756-1143

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Remember, a LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU LAST CAME... ON A FIRST DATE
Girls don't like to be picked up anymore. How they meet you at the restaurant and don't bother with flowers. They INTERPRET IT AS YOU OVERDOING THINGS

DO I STILL PICK UP THE TAB?
OR, THAT RAMPS CHANGED

Send your opinions, rants and rates in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

All published letters must include author’s name, year and majors and are subject to editing for grammatical style and spelling.
Dorrell continued from page 12

help the team out.”

Mustangs head coach Larry Lee is glad to have the services of Dorrell and Yoder, but said there are players on the team that are in the same category that aren’t getting the same recognition.

“It’s good, you know, it’s a list,” Lee said. “It’s a Leather in their cap, but they know they are just parts of the puzzle for us being successful. Now, it’s about earning the right to be on that list.”

Even though Dorrell regards the list as meaningless, he has every intention of earning his spot on it. Lee has confidence that the strategies he drew up in the off-season can make him a more complete player.

Reflecting, strategizing and working hard are how Dorrell has shown his dedication to the sport since the moment he showed up at Cal Poly, said. “I le’s a first baseman (and) catcher, so he has to prepare himself for both positions,” Lee said about Dorrell’s work ethic. “He’s gotten more serious it the weight room and has redefined his body since his freshman year.”

Nowhere is Dorrell’s work ethic more apparent than in his own body. When Dorrell arrived at Cal Poly as a freshman he weighed 237 pounds. As he enters his junior season, he will have slimmed down to 215 pounds.

Lee said that despite cutting the weight and adding quickness that Dorrell is actually stronger then when he arrived.

Apart from his commitment on the field, Dorrell plans to graduate from Cal Poly with a degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice. He hasn’t allowed that to become a career option, however.

Lor now, Dorrell is setting his sights on playing in the major leagues. Any other career plans after baseball will have to sit on the back burner.

Baseball continued from page 12

is not quite as difficult but still we have those difficult games.”

The Mustangs will also play two games against defending national champion Fresno State, including the team’s first away game on Feb. 24, after they finish the 3-game set against the Owls.

As for competition in the Big West Conference, Yoder expects to be challenged by both Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State. Fullerton returns all but one of their starting players and was picked to finish first in the Big West. Long Beach is expected to finish second.

“One of our important goals as a team is to do everything we can to make it to playoffs,” Yoder said. “The big thing first is that we have to win conference because if you win conference, you get an automatic bid, and once you’re in the playoffs, anything can happen.”

Last year’s national champion Fresno State is an indicator of the truth in Yoder’s statement. Despite finishing eight games under .500, the Mustangs would defeat the eventual national champions three-of-five times in 2008.

“If everyone is healthy, we definitely have a really good shot as far as getting to the playoffs and maybe even making it to Omaha,” Yoder added.

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Mustangs set to return to winning ways

The Cal Poly baseball team is ready for redemption after finishing last season with an overall record of 24-32, their worst since 1999. Mustangs head coach Larry Lee has high expectations for his team with 18 returning players, including juniors Luke Yoder and Wes Dorrell who were recently placed on the Brooks Wallace Player of the Year watch list.

"Collectively, it's a really good group," Lee said. "Barring injury, this should be one of the better offensive and defensive groups and they add a lot of different elements to the game. There's enough returners to add experience and leadership from an offensive and defensive standpoint. We should be solid 1-9 in our lineup."

According to Lee, there will be different players available behind the plate with junior college transfer Ross Brayton, senior Justin Hendry who caught a few games last season, and Dorrell who can catch when he is not playing first base.

Expect some familiar faces in the field as senior Ryan Lee returns to center, senior Adam Melker to right and Yoder returns to left field after a season as designated hitter. Sophomore DJ Gentle will fill the DH spot for the majority of this season and freshman Matt Jensen will start at second.

Returning from injury are juniors Adam Buschini who will start at third base and Kyle Smith starting at short, Buschini missed all of last season because of arm surgery and Smith missed part of the season due to a wrist injury.

The Mustangs will be without the big bats of Brent Morel (White Sox) and Logan Shaffer (Brewers) who were both lost in the third round of the draft after last season. According to Yoder, the team expects big offensive numbers to come from himself, Dorrell and Ryan Lee.

"Offensively, those guys will probably be the three that will put up big numbers this season," Yoder said.

In 2007, the Mustangs had the fifth toughest schedule in the country; last season they had the seventh toughest although this season's schedule is not quite as difficult, Lee still expects to face tough competition, starting with the 2003 College World Series champions, Rice.

"It's a quality schedule," Lee said. "There's about 30 Division I baseball teams in the country and in 2007 we had the fifth toughest schedule, last year we had the seventh; this year should make us much stronger both sides of the diamond -- offensively and defensively."

 Mustangs late

Dorrell's game still improving

Clinton McGuie

Despite being named to the Brooks Wallace Player of the Year watch list, Mustangs junior first baseman/catcher Wes Dorrell is among the upper echelon of the college baseball ranks.

But for Dorrell, being among the best doesn't mean that there's no room for improvement.

"I've been developing more of a plan as far as when I get into the batter's box," Dorrell said. "The previous two years I haven't had much of a plan. I was kind of just young and swinging, and it turned out well. I think that, besides the lifting and running aspect, I have a better plan that will help me out a lot."

The "plan" is to not just be a productive hitter, but a pest for the opposing pitcher as well. Dorrell wants to be able to work the counts and wear out the opponent's arm before knocking him for a base hit.

"I think it will make me have a little higher average," Dorrell explained. "A little more strikeout, but a higher average."

As a sophomore, Dorrell hit for a .304 with five home runs and 54 RBIs. His 24 doubles were one short of the school record and he struck out only 13 times in 234 plate appearances. It is hard to find that kind of patience even among major league baseball's most watchful eyes.

"Sometimes that's my fault," Dorrell said of rarely striking out. "Sometimes it's hard for me to swing through changeups when I should."

Whether a fault or strength, Dorrell's career at Cal Poly is being recognized as one of the best in the country.

He and junior outfielder Luke Yoder are among 204 players across the nation mentioned in the Brooks Wallace Player of the Year watch list.

Dorrell is well grounded however, and understands that he needs to focus on what is best for the team, not his personal accomplishments.

"I really don't look into that too much," he said. "I just look to see what got me here and try to work off of that."

"I try to do whatever it takes to see Dorrell, page 11