Cal Poly seeks student feedback in online survey

Genevieve Loggins

Students have the opportunity this week to take an online survey that could benefit their learning experience at Cal Poly and provide the university with information to make improvements.

The survey, held every 10 years by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) will be online until Feb. 26, and student answers will help determine the accreditation status of different colleges and allow students to give input on issues related to their major and career choices.

The survey has four sections: curriculum, co-curriculum, on-campus employment and off-campus employment. The school wants to research these areas to see what students are learning outside of school and what is needed to improve Cal Poly's learning process.

Furthermore, the survey will review each major and concentration, which can help the school make real improvements, architecture professor and director of the WASC survey Bruno Ghiberti said. "The survey is focused on trying to use the resources that we have to provide Cal Poly students with the best kind of education that we can," he said. "The whole point of the exercise is to improve the education that you receive here."

Students played a large role in designing the survey. Associated Students Inc. helped design the survey while focus groups looked for problems debated whether or not the questions were relevant to them, he said.

ASI President Angela Kramer, who oversaw the creation of the survey, said she made sure the structure and format would be easy to understand and the overall layout effective.

"The WASC team asked some students from student government to help them make it student-friendly, and we wanted to make sure the questions were understandable and that they would get the answers to the questions they were looking for," Kramer said. The two-part survey is also designed to get feedback from students about subjects connected to Cal Poly, specifically how students declare a major.

"I really like the survey and for what they're trying to accomplish, and a good quality of education in regard to diversity and getting the most out of the programs they're a part of," Kramer said. "I think it's really accurate and applicable to students of all colleges and majors."

Many students invest time and effort in all extracurricular activities that take time and involvement off campus, and a whole new learning process is developed there. The school wants to understand how students declare a major.

"It's the biggest event that has happened to us so far, it was huge, we were team USA," she said. Cal Poly was invited to compete by the Sanremo Flower Market after a recommendation from Carol Caggiano of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), a leading non-profit organization of the floral industry.

Caggiano was first introduced to Cal Poly when she worked with the 2007 Cal Poly floral design students at the National AIFD Symposium in Palm Desert.

"That team worked really hard to get us where we are. We were blessed to go," Lennl said.

Lynch has been taking to her students to the annual National AIFD Symposium for the past 10 years. Students are judged based on their floral designs, and compete against 13 to 15 schools around the country. This year Lynch and her students will travel to Boston, Mass.

"I try to have my students go and work with these top designers in the nation because they are going to learn. I want my students to work with these fabulous designers," she said.

Cal Poly won the award for the Medieval Myths and Tales competition, which required teams to design a stand and window display representing the city of Sanremo while incorporating a medieval character. The team used chicken wire, ribbons and food displays for 50 jobs in all 50 states within a year.

USC grad aims for 50 jobs in all 50 states within a year.

Mel Kaufman left longstanding impact at Cal Poly.

Poly students win sole U.S. award in Italian flower competition

Ashley Cuillo

Horticulture and crop science students Danielle Ruiz, Amanda Lenn and Beth Hall traveled to Sanremo, the flower capital of Italy, in January and received the "Best Historical and Iconographic Research" award at the 2009 Festival dei Fiori.

Cal Poly floral design instructor Melinda Lynch, who coached the team, said that coming from a university to compete against floral design schools was intense.

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Students won an award in Italy for their flower display entitled "Medieval Myths and Tales," which represented the Italian city of Sanremo.

Feds explore taking bigger stakes in shaky banks

Jeannine Aversa

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government on Monday moved toward dramatically expanding its ownership stakes in the nation's banks — with Citigroup, the struggling titan of the industry, apparently at the top of the list.

Wall Street responded as it has with the rollout of almost every other plan to fix the financial crisis, taking a big drop and sending the Dow Jones industrials to its lowest level in a dozen years.

The Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and other banking regulators said they could convert the government's stock in the banks from preferred shares to common stock.

The stock conversion could be available for other banks as well, the same sources said.

Regulators, reinforcing what the White House has said, insisted that keeping banks private is a priority. But federal officials are walking a difficult line because the government could still have huge stakes in banks.

Citigroup already has received $45 billion in bailout money, plus guarantees to cover losses on hundreds of billions of dollars in toxic assets.

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Survey
continued from page 1
stand how that will affect students' experience at Cal Poly Gilbert added.

Award
continued from page 1
bon, flax and other plant materials to build a tapestry for the stand display. A variety of resources were used and a unicorn made of eucalyptus leaves was incorporated into the middle of the design, surrounded by a mass of crushed mirrors.

"It was abstract and open for interpretation. It was neat being able to see all the different elements," Russ said.

The window display, Lemm said, featured inspiration from the Sanremo Music Festival and water features, with trees and flowers of the city Lemm said the team constructed a table and a chair out of curly willow and a pergola woven with Sanremo flowers and a waterfall made of orchids and ginko.

"It was pretty. It definitely drew your eye," Lemm said.

Lemm and Raai said that creating the design was challenging and fun at the same time.

"It was really exciting that we actually won something for all of our hard work. We did as much as we could to make a good impression for Cal Poly future teams," Raai said.

Cal Poly, the only U.S. team invited to the international event, competed against schools from Italy, Russia, Sweden, Hungary, Germany, Norway and Slovenia.

The Cal Poly team members also helped designers Per Benjaminsen, Max van de Sluis and Thomas De Bruyne, knowledge from the composers in the Festival Dei Fiori. Life 3 designs are worldwide award winners in Europe.

"Everyone else had around 20 years of experience. We held our own and I was really proud of what we did," Lemm said.

Economy
continued from page 1
dreds of billions of dollars in risky investments.

"What we are doing here is we're creeping our way toward nationalization," said Terry Collins, dean of Golden Gate University's Ageno School of Business in San Francisco.

The conversion plan would give the government greater flexibility in dealing with ailing banks. It would give the government voting shares and therefore more say in a bank's operations.

But common shares absorb losses before preferred shares do, which means taxpayers would be on the hook if banks keep writing down billions of dollars' worth of rotten assets, such as dodgy mortgages, as many analysts expect they will.

On the other hand, common stock in banks is incredibly cheap, and taxpayers would reap gains if the banks come back to health and the stock price goes up.

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, demanded more details from Treasury about the stock-conversion option.

"This move could expose taxpayers to even more risk," he said. "We all need to know what Treasury hopes to accomplish here and whether the risks are worth the benefits," he added.

CitiGroup stock rose about 10 percent Monday, its first gain in eight days. The bank has posted five straight quarterly losses, including $8.3 billion in the fourth quarter. It is working to cut expenses, sell assets and return to a profit.

The broader market sold off. The Dow lost 250 points, closing at about 7,115. At its peak less than a year and a half ago, the Dow stood at nearly twice that. Monday's close for both the Dow industrial and the broader Standard & Poor's 500 was the lowest since 1997.

Some economists did not seem much more optimistic than investors.

"I don't think this is the end solution. It is a very haphazard way of trying to deal with the problems and simply postponing the inevitable — more bank failures and takeovers by the FDIC," said Simon Johnson, former chief economist to the International Monetary Fund and a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

It is also far from clear whether the Obama plan would entice private companies to step forward and invest in banks. Obama's treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, has said using both public and private money to restore the banks to health is the plan.

"A lot of money has been thrown at banks in risky investments. The hope is that we're spending that money wisely and not just throwing money at basket cases, which remains to be seen," said David Ely, a banking professor at San Diego State University.

Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co. analyst Paul Miller said while the move toward some sort of nationalization might be a "scary proposition for investors," it is likely to provide the quickest and cheapest option to help failing banks out of bad assets.

The conversion plan would eliminate the 5 percent dividend that banks already receiving bail-out money are currently paying the government on its preferred shares, allowing the banks to hold on to more cash.

It also could bring banks closer to the mix of capital that the government will want to see when it starts conducting its "stress tests" on Wednesday to determine the health of banks, experts said.

A government switch to common shares would also reduce the value of shares held by existing stockholders in the bank.

Everyday bank customers probably would not notice a difference. They would be able to go about their normal banking business, and then deposits would still be federally insured up to $250,000.

On Friday, regulators closed a small bank in Oregon — the 14th federally insured institution to fail this year. In 2009, the government seized 25 banks, more than in the previous five years combined.

"We realize that we really don't have any hard information about what Cal Poly students do other than going to class," he said. "There's a whole variety of experiences students have within the curriculum that we don't know about."
50 jobs, 50 states in a year? 1 man gives it a try

Daniel Seddiqui packs cubes of cheddar for processing at Widmer's Cheese Cellars in Theresa, Wis. Seddiqui is trying to work one week at each of 50 different jobs in all 50 states. Wisconsin is his 23rd state.

At a time when some people are having trouble finding one job, Daniel Seddiqui is lining up 50 — one in every state.

Each job symbolizes the state's most famous industry, and each lasts one week — just long enough to appreciate the labor and explore the region.

He's been a park ranger in Wisconsin, a corn farmer in Nebraska and a wedding coordinator in Las Vegas.

Last week, in week 23 of his year-long saga, he was a cheesemaker in southeast Wisconsin. He mixed ingredients, hoisted slabs of cheddar — lifting, "he said Friday, referring to his stint as a logger in Oregon three months ago. "Everything here is done by hand so there's a lot of heavy lifting."

Seddiqui, who grew up in Los Angeles, Calif., insists his job-hopping isn't a gimmick. It's a legitimate effort to travel the U.S., learning about cultures across the country and developing a respect for what other people do.

"That's the problem with stereotypes. People think farmers aren't educated, but probably every one he met had a college degree," he said.

"That's the kind of thing you learn when you do this."

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Three General Open Forums have been scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for students to get additional information about the proposed fee increase. All forums are open to the entire student body regardless of major or college affiliation.

All students will be asked to cast their electronic advisory vote on March 11th and 12th.

The Forums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 24</td>
<td>6:30 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Poly Canyon Village Knowledge Center Conference Room</td>
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<td>Monday, March 9</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>UU 220</td>
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College Based Fee Initiative

The Provost and College Deans have submitted a proposal to increase the College-Based Academic Fee. The need for these fees is a result of the severe cuts in State support over the last decade and Cal Poly's desire to continue to offer high quality academic programs and provide students with the classes they need to complete their degrees.

The proposal would bring all students to the same fee level of $362 per quarter for full time students and $181 per quarter for part time students regardless of major or college affiliation effective Fall 2009. The proposal calls for the fees to be increased by another $100 per quarter for full time students ($562 per quarter for part time students) effective Fall 2010 and an addition $100 per quarter for full time students ($560 per quarter for part time students) effective Fall 2011.

The College-Based fees would continue to be used to help meet the needs of the colleges and student fee advisory committees would continue to provide input on the use of the fees.

To place an ad in this directory please contact 805-756-1143 or mustangdailyads@gmail.com.
WORD ON THE STREET

"Upon graduation, how likely is it you'll find a job in your respective field?"

"I'm hoping I will. I'm an industrial engineering major and it's a pretty tough job field right now." - Connie Chou, industrial engineering sophomore

"Very likely, I'm architecture major and we have a good program, one of the best. (Architecture majors) are getting jobs and the whole green movement with sustainability building methods is crucial for architects to be a part of." - Brandon Herbst, architecture junior

"I'm just going to do my best to look for jobs. I'm asking my professors in my major for assistance. I think people in my industry are getting jobs but I haven't been able to find too much around, especially on Mustang Jobs." - Julie Stokes, industrial technology senior

Jobs

continued from page 3

The hardest job so far was toiling in a meatpacking factory in Topkea, Kan. Seddiqui (pronounced seh-DAY-kie) said his employer gave him the option of slaughtering a cow with a rifle shot to the head, but he couldn't bring himself to do it.

"That was a little too extreme," he said. "But they didn't really expect me to do it. They just said I couldn't if I wanted." The goal of his project, which he plans to write a book about when he's done, was to force himself out of his comfort zone. By daring himself to try all sorts of crazy jobs — rodeo announcer, border-patrol agent, archaeologist — other people might be willing to follow his example, he said. At least one person has already been inspired, according to Seddiqui. After a news crew in Kansas City, Mo., reported on his stint as a boiler-maker, an unemployed dentist who saw the story decided to break off his old welding skills and apply. The next day the man had a $40-per-hour job, Seddiqui said.

Seddiqui tries to line up jobs only three to four months in advance. Following his week in Wisconsin, he has his next eight weeks charted, starting with a position at the John Deere headquarters Monday in Moline, Ill.

Briefs

State

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A Sacramento-based construction company is facing steep fines after two of its workers died last year in a pipeline near Paso Robles.

State safety officials cited A. Leichter & Son Inc. this month, saying "serious and willful" safety violations led to the deaths of Jacob Gana and Manuel Villagomez in October. The company has been fined $140,000.

SALINAS, Calif. (AP) — Two men are hospitalized in serious condition after their single-engine plane apparently struck a power line and crashed into the Salinas River.

Firefighters say the 29-year-old pilot and his 40-year-old passenger were aboard a yellow Cessna plane that crashed Sunday afternoon shortly after takeoff from Salinas Municipal Airport.

Fire Divison Chief Kevin Kamnikar says Salinas Rural Fire District responders traveled across lettuce fields and through river muck to get to the victims.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats unveiled a $410 billion spending bill on Monday to keep the government running through the end of the fiscal year setting up the second political struggle over federal funds in less than a month with Republicans.

The measure includes thousands of earmarks, the pet projects favored by lawmakers but often criticized by the public in opinion polls.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A Guantanamo prisoner who claims he was tortured at a covert CIA site in Morocco returned to Britain a free man Monday after nearly seven years in U.S. captivity — the first inmate from the U.S. prison camp freed since President Barack Obama took office.

Boumediene, once accused by U.S. officials of being part of a conspiracy to detonate a "dirty bomb" on American soil, flew to a British military base.

He was released after being interviewed for four hours by police and immigration officials.

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's national museum reopened Monday with a red-carpet gala in the heart of Baghdad nearly six years after looters carried away priceless antiquities as American troops largely stood by as the city fell to U.S. forces.

The unpacking of the museum became a symbol for critics of Washington's post-invasion strategy and its inability to maintain order as Saddam Hussein's police and military unraveled.

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Breaking the dry spell

It may be the middle of winter, but some Cal Poly students are suffering from dehydration. Not due to a lack of water, but because of a personal love drought. It is true that everyone has their down times. Maybe you've just been spending a lot of solo nights in your Smiggle at home. Sometimes you just can't find anyone to smooch at a party, text inappropriate things late at night, or ask to a movie because it's just kind of weird to go alone. In order to find someone to kiss or knock boots with, you must play the game right.

However, in your attempt to get back in the game, you have to be careful not to overdo it. Nothing reeks of loneliness like bathing in Abercrombie cologne and shoving fruity drinks at innocent partygoers. And nothing says desperate more than wearing a shirt bordering on a wardrobe malfunction. Remember, breaking a dry spell means you need to attract people, not repel them. Showing you're available in order to end a sexual slump is totally understandable, but use some tact. You need to be the cutest, nicest version of yourself.

Now, while being the best version of yourself, make sure to surround yourself with a similarly amazing crowd. I'm not recommending going out with only attractive friends, because that may inadvertently make you look less attractive. I'm saying to go out with people who know your intentions; to get some. This means, don't go out with an ex or some awkward former hook-up and expect to meet someone new. This type of company is a buzz kill. You will either be distracted by their presence or your night will be monopolized by conversation about 'what could have been.'

The ideal situation is to go out with close friends, specifically those of your same sex. Bringing opposite sex friends along may be fun, but you have to be careful; you don't accidentally ward off welcome company. Same-sex friends are ideal, because whether or not you meet someone you'll probably still have a great time.

Also, everyone needs to remember liquor is a frenemy (friend/enemy). Sure, you and alcohol are friends when you are only a few drinks in, you're confident, possibly even funnier, but drink with caution. That frenemy boozehorse is waiting to screw you like a friend that hooks up with your ex. You're dancing one drink and falling the next. No one wants to listen to you slur.

No matter how long you've gone without someone, regardless if it's a kiss, date or sex, being with a person just to get some isn't going to help. Well, maybe it will make you feel a little better, but you would feel a lot better if the next day you realized that the you were seen with the night before was awesome or way hot. Being at least semi-interested in your fortunate partner means that you may have the opportunity to get a second shot with this person. Maybe then you can ditch your Smiggle or at least prevent a second dry spell.

Denise Nihm is a journalism senior and the Mustang Daily's sex columnist.
Wednesday, March 11
11 am - 2 pm on Dexter Lawn

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Live exhibit adds perspective to world hunger

Chelsea Bieker  Mustang Daily

Are you hungry? Are you worried that you won’t be able to remedy your hunger with a trip to the grocery store or a restaurant? For most of us, especially in San Luis Obispo, the prospect of being unable to satiate our most basic need for survival is not a real concern, we don’t fear a lack of food, and even if we are low on cash, things are not so dire that Top Ramen will suffice. Food is a given, not a worry. Or at least, that’s how most of us think.

It might be shocking to learn that the Food Bank in our own town is struggling to meet growing demands to feed the hungry in need. Cathy Enns of the Food Bank Coalition in San Luis Obispo said that although the community has been generous with donations in the past months, there is still a need for help.

In this case, help is coming in an unexpected form: a natural sculpture created in the middle of the San Luis Obispo Art Center’s current exhibit, Hungry Planet. It is a cacophony of cans and tin-perishable goods. Visitors are encouraged to fill the empty rings on the ground with food, symbolizing the feeding of an empty belly.

Enns said that when Assistant Director of the San Luis Obispo Art Center Muara Johnston contacted her with the idea of using the food-themed exhibit to bring awareness to the local hunger problem, it seemed like a natural fit. “To have exhibits like this brings awareness to many of the same issues have a home in our own backyard.”

“We want people to come and give themselves enough time,” Johnston said. “There is a lot to look at and read. Don’t come for five minutes. Definitely plan to stay. How can we be addressing the world’s food issues and not address the needs in our own community?”

The exhibit itself features a collection of color images of an American family’s week of food purchases for a week of eating. The photos display each family’s shadow, showing what each family purchased for a week of consumption. Full of spectacular color and life, the pictures say more about the people in them than you might think.

“They wanted to do something about how we are all united on the planet,” Johnston said. “The oldest social event that one can participate in is eating. Although we may be very culturally different, we’re all the same in that we all have to eat.”

Food, in simple as it seems, can be a symbol of status and socioeconomic and global issues, said Johnston. It can also be a means of power and control. “They started to look at individual families and then began to bridge out into those greater issues,” she said.

“One purpose of the sculpture is to increase the interest in people donating food to the food banks which are very much in need,” Plow said. “It’s a wonderful synopsis for what is going on in the world and how important food is in everyone’s life.”

Paulsen said that the idea of the sculpture allows people to come in and make a direct contribution. “The circles on the ground are the shadows of all the issues of food that are going on in the world,” she said.

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In this case, help is coming in an unexpected form: an interactive sculpture allowing people to come in and make a direct contribution. “I think as adults we can gain a sensitivity to what other cultures are doing to survive. It helps us to see how other people live and helps us to understand it is possible to simplify.”

The photograph featuring an American family’s week transition from what many of the others portray. Laden with mostly packaged and processed foods, and few fruits and vegetables, it tells a story of convenience and negligence to what some put in their bodies.

“We have much more in common when it comes to food than a lot of other things, I think this points out in a really unique way.”

The exhibit itself features photographs and text from the book by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio. They visited 24 countries to document what 30 families purchased for a week of eating. The photos display each family surrounding a table filled with their week’s worth of consumption. Full of spectacular color and life, the pictures say more about the people in them than you might think.

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UU Plaza renovation is cultural vandalism

The University Union Plaza "extreme makeover" is an appalling act of cultural vandalism against the best piece of modern architecture on the Central Coast. It replaces something of great value with banal, mediocre, insipid, dysfunctional and ing in humans qualities.

The UU, including its plaza was an exciting 1970's design made from one of California's most distinguished architects, John Esherick. This design emerged against the Modernism was falling apart. Many architects were abandoning Modernism. Others, like Esherick, sought to re-claim its original utopian humanism, and we see this in the UU's focus on abundant opportunities for unscripted human interaction and improvisation.

The plaza design was an inspired one. Faced with a sloping site, its designers realized they could create a wonderful sunken outdoor living room separated from the noisy roadway at its side. Unlike great Italian piazzas (probably its inspiration), this outdoor room provides a place of repose and a place for action. Its pathways to the street pass between asymmetrical walls of seating (reminiscent of passage along the outer wall of modernism was an exciting 1970's design made from one of California's most distinguished architects, John Esherick. This design emerged against the Modernism was falling apart. Many architects were abandoning Modernism. Others, like Esherick, sought to re-claim its original utopian humanism, and we see this in the UU's focus on abundant opportunities for unscripted human interaction and improvisation.

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Obama's energy plan: 5 steps to success

Let's take a look at the five goals of President Obama's energy plan, The New Energy for America Plan is designed to:

1. Help create five million new jobs by strategically investing $150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. With a recession in full swing and the recent announcement of thousands of job losses, major companies within the United States, creating jobs has become mission No. 1 of the Obama administration. In the meantime, the collapse of the stock market has made raising capital the number one problem for the alternative energy sector. The primary goal of the Obama plan is to bolster the alternative energy sector of the economy by injecting $150 billion of capital into alternative energy companies/programs, and in doing so create 5 million (permanent) jobs.

Any alternative technology with a reasonably high energy return on investment (EROI) is usually profitable, and if something is profitable it will not have trouble sustaining growth long after the $150 billion is spent. For example, the growth of wind farms in the United States has outpaced every other country in the world for the past four years, and in 2006 the United States passed Germany for the world's largest installed wind power capacity. With a little help to bolster new wind power companies in these tough economic times, I believe that the moderately high EROI of wind power could translate to sustained profits and this industry should grow into the long-lasting jobs.

2. Within 10 years save more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela combined.

Decreasing the amount of oil we import from unstable regions is always a good idea from a political standpoint, but that may not hold true from a net energy perspective. It is a good idea from the net energy perspective if the decrease in imports from Venezuela and the Middle East is met by a similar decrease in consumption within the United States. It is a bad idea if the decrease is compensated by an increase in imports from "friendly" countries, that have generally, at least when compared to the Middle East, poorer quality resources that emit much more CO2. For example, Canada is the largest foreign supplier of oil to the United States, and much of their fuel oil production resides in the tar sands of northern Alberta. The EROI of developing oil from the tar sands is between 2 to 5:1. Compare that with oil from the Middle East, which has an EROI of roughly 20:1.

3. Put 1 million Plug-In Hybrid cars — cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon — on the road by 2015, cars that we will work to make sure are built here in America.

Plug-in hybrid cars are an efficiency improvement for our transportation system as a whole, and matched with the production of electricity from renewable technologies, they represent a large step away from a fossil-fuel intensive transportation system. Electricity has a higher quality than oil or gasoline in that it can be converted into mechanical work at higher efficiencies than can internal combustion engines, and it can be transported long distances much easier than oil or gasoline. Most important is that electricity can be produced from wind, solar and geothermal plants. Currently, however, much of the electricity in the United States is produced from fossil fuels, and without a switch to renewable sources of electricity, a move to electric vehicles will only shift the emission of greenhouse gases from the tailpipe to the smokestack. Electric vehicles make sense as they increase efficiency, but the biggest variable in this equation is making the electricity grid technologically capable of effectively transmitting wind and solar power to car batteries without large transmission losses.

4. Ensure 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.

The 2012 goal will not be difficult to meet, as 9 percent of the nameplate capacity of the electrical system in the United States is produced from renewable resources already (renewable defined as hydroelectricity, wind, solar and geothermal). Continually increasing the amount of electricity that comes from renewable sources will indeed make meeting all the other goals that much easier.

5. Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

A successful cap and trade program is vitally needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We can learn from Europe's successes and mistakes when customizing the program. A prominent research company, New Carbon Finance, said its calculations showed that the largest cause of a reduction in emissions in the European Union last year was attributable to the trading system — because it had encouraged greater use of gas in power generation rather than dirtier fuels like coal. European emissions dropped by roughly 3 percent in 2008. So it took a little while, but Europe's cap-and-trade system is having the intended effect; by putting a price on carbon emissions, it's made a meaningful dent in climate-disrupting pollution.

The Obama energy agenda focuses on — and these are not mutually exclusive — efficiency, electrification, and the promotion of alternative energy resources. Its five main goals are set up in a way so that success in any one of the five individual areas will reinforce the other four, helping the overall agenda achieve success. For example, creating 25 percent of American electricity production from renewable resources (goal No. 4) will aid in decreasing the U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent (goal No. 5). This plan is certainly not the only answer to all of our ailments, but it's a damn good start.

Ben Eckold is a business sense, the president of the Empower Poly Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.

winter 2009 columnist schedule

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**Woods continued from page 12**

Open, Woods was on his longest ever sustained run of excellence. From that day in August through the U.S. Open, he won nine times in 12 official tournaments around the world and finished no worse than fifth in any of his practice rounds, a level of consistency that had eluded him more than eight years.

The four years he invested with instructor Hank Haney were just beginning to pay the huge dividends they both envisioned. Woods' understanding of his own swing, golf, always a strength, reached the point where he was confident enough to make adjustments in the middle of a round, even between shots if he desired. He'd already shaved off his short game, throtted back his swing to take pressure off the knee and still was hitting the ball as far as he was hitting it. His putting had also improved greatly.

Woods still has all that, plus a full range of motion again and a new driver to boot.

Expectations with him are off the charts," Haney said. "You would think that people would cut him a little slack for a couple of weeks. But I'm sure it will start right in.

The story of young Tiger taping a list of Jack Nicklaus' accomplishments to his bedroom wall and then beating him to every one, is well known. In that sense, Woods is a victim of his own success. He wouldn't have it any other way. So much so that Woods did little to dampen speculation that he will pick up right where he left off.

"I'm as curious as you. Getting out and competing again, I haven't done that in a while. Hopefully, 1 can get into the flow of the round very quickly," he told reporters.

Granted, coming back for a match-play event seems to provide a cushion, since Woods doesn't have to post a number against the field at the end of each day, just play well enough to beat one opponent at a time. On the other hand, Woods could wind up playing 126 holes during the week, and as many as 72 on the weekend if he goes all the way to the final.

That didn't bother him, either.

"I'd like to have that problem," he laughed, then turned serious a moment later and made clear he fully expected to Woods has yet to complete 18 holes in any of his practice rounds, something very few people outside his inner circle even know. Not that it will make a difference, either.

"Nothing changes. It's to win. So that's my intent," Woods added, "to go out and compete." In that same vein, Woods said, "all that I haven't done in a while."
I wanted to get in a game, get my arm loose, you feel like you can throw the ball. He's been one of the regular guys, he hasn't missed any throwing or drills," Honeycutt said. "He wants everything to be perfect, but this was a very positive step.

"Honeycutt also liked what he saw from several other pitchers, including closer Jonathan Broxton, right-hander Greg Miller and lefty Victor Garate. But all eyes were on Schmidt, who could provide an otherwise inexperienced Dodgers rotation a big lift.

"I'm not going to be a 96-98 (mph) guy like I was before. I just have to get it around the plate and get them to hit it on the ground," Schmidt said. "Down the road, maybe a little bit well come back. It probably won't fully be there, but you never know."

Dodgers manager Joe Torre, who watched Schmidt struggle from the first day last spring, was impressed with how smooth he looked Monday.

"He had an easy time throwing the ball. He certainly looked comfortable," Torre said. "He's been in a great frame of mind. Last year, there were days that weren't always that one day when he wasn't sure. But today looked like he was just letting it go and it looked great coming out."