Campus speaker: Israel 'champion of human rights'

Rachel Glas

A former advisor to an Israeli prime minister spoke last night in an attempt to prove that Israel, a country whose policies have been branded as oppressive, is actually "the champion of human rights in the world." He began the evening by explaining to an audience of more than 50 students and community members why Israel sometimes holds policies such as instituting road blocks and checkpoints in Gaza, that critics say aren't democratic.

"All democracies occasionally have need to restrict the freedoms we take for granted in the interest of pursuing some higher goal," he said. For example, we Americans consider the right to privacy sacred. But we forfeit our right to privacy every time we go onto an airplane. Opening our suitcases, our private property is forfeit our right to privacy every time we go onto an airplane. Opening our suitcases, our private property is.

"We can't take any significant financial risk, and there hasn't been part of the negotiation all along," though the revised proposal sent back to Cal Poly in December had been altered in financial terms, according to Environmental and Civil Engineering Department Chair Gregg Fugel, who reviewed the new proposal as principal investigator in program management, the terms of work the university will do in developing JUC's curriculum and assisting with faculty has not changed.

"The right contract right now is in review by upper management," said Xenia Bixler, Director of the Grants Development Office, on Wednesday. "It's not quite to the president yet. It's actually with the Cal Poly Corporation employees the legal council for the corporation as well as the executive staff and Dean Opava."

"The next step is when we - the executive staff and the president are happy and satisfied that the risk is bound to the university at an acceptable level, we will return that contract to the Saudis... At that point, we will see if they accept that or not. It's really hard to say," she said.

Bixler said she will try to get an agreement before December when attorneys for the Saudi Royal Commission formally rejected the university's latest proposal and returned the contract unsigned with fundamentally different terms than the one signed by Cal Poly President Warren Baker in July.

"Universities cannot operate under the terms of a procurement contract," said Susan Opina, Dean of Research and Graduate Programs. "We don't work like that, we can't do it. We work on a best efforts basis. We're an institution of higher learning - that's our mission."

"These financial penalties we couldn't live with," she added. "We can't take any significant financial risk, and there hasn't been part of the negotiation all along."
Contract
continued from page 1
other signed contract sent to the Saudi Royal
Commission within the next two weeks, but
admitted that time frame may be overly
optimistic.

The proposed partnership between Cal Poly
and JUC has faced numerous obstacles
both at home and abroad since its initial
proposal in late 2007. On campus, students
and faculty expressed opposition to a relation­ship
in late 2007. On campus, students and
faculty continue to question whether
Cal Poly and its mission of diversity in higher
education should be associated with the Saudi
regime. Many also wonder if the deal is worth
the trouble of such a prolonged set of negoti­ations.

"When you have the opportunity to go to
into a country like this, you do have the oppor­tunity
to affect change," Opaza said. "I know
people disagree with that. But we've seen his­torically
that when you isolate countries, they
don't get any better, they get worse."

Who's going to say what we can do?" she
asked.

"As long as we have a dean of a col­lege
and faculty who want to do a project, we
have to be very careful. I mean, where do you
draw the line? It's a very slippery slope, in
my opinion.

College of Engineering Dean Moham­med Nouri declined to comment on the yet­
to-be-finalized contract.

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Conference
continued from page 1
quired an action piece that all of the work­shops
have something tangible you can use," Fox said.
"Sometimes after a conference, mo­mentum
dies. Here, we want to actually do something
that day and if you want to con­tinue with it, you have the opportunity."

Last year, approximately 300 students and
community members attended but the num­ber
is expected to be higher this year.

The conference brings people together
who are passionate about issues college
students and future leaders should be aware of
while giving information and an avenue for
action said Jacqueline Chan, microbiology se­nior
and a director of the event.

The keynote speaker will be Spencer Brod­sky,
a 17-year-old Maryland student who cre­ated
a program that makes and sends stoves
that burn 70 percent less wood to Darfur.
The program, called Stoves for Darfur, creates
a more sustainable environment and less work
for women in gathering wood. He will begin
the event with a presentation after breakfast.

"We chose him because of his grassroots
organizing," Fox said. "This one person did
this really cool thing, so therefore you guys
could do this really cool thing and all the
workshops could lead to this change."

Other workshops include: Victory Over
Violence, which discusses passive violence
and ways a person can take action; Net Neu­trality and the Future of the Internet,
which discusses the topic through multimedia
and group activities, and Cal Poly and the
New Energy Economy, which informs people
about the important energy and climate poli­cies,
among many more.

As someone with two children
currently serving in the IDF, Green said,"I am not at all certain that it was
the right move by my government.
They could've bombed the hell out of the
camp just as NATO did in Bosnia
and just as America did in Iraq."
"It happens, it's part of war — but
these 23 soldiers died for one reason alone;they died to protect the women,
children and men in that refugee camp.
If there is a better example in society
that holds the right to life as the fun­damental human right, I've been yet
made aware of it."

Green also cited examples of Is­rael's progressive stance on civil­ian
rights.

Israel established universities in
West Bank and Gaza. There are more
publications and more freedom to
publish and criticize government in the
Muslim society, women's rights
even gay rights were both int­roduced
and protected by Israeli administra­tion; he said.

He said he sympathized with the plight of the Palestinian
nation.

"If we care for the Palestinians, if we want to help them live a better life,
we must demand democracy for the
Palestinians," he said.

Not everyone was convinced by his speech. One audience member
said she "appreciates (his) arguments
about the definition of human rights."
She countered by saying that both
Israel and the United States practice
and defend state terror, which simply
highlights the fact that "all of us need
to perform better because calling this
human rights lowers the standard around
the world."

The Mustang Daily staff takes
pride in publishing a daily newspa­per for the Cal Poly campus and the
neighboring community. We appre­ciate your readership and are thank­ful
for your patronage. Please send your correction suggestions to
mustangdaily@gmail.com.

• The headline for the article in yes­terday's edition incorrectly stated
that Charles Green was a former
U.S. military intelligence officer.
When in fact he worked for a former
British prime minister who spent time in
a prison for spying.

Speaker
continued from page 1
they bombed from the air killing 400
children about two years ago when
they looked to attack an Al Qaeda
stronghold," he asked. "So did they
not, Israeli operations in Gaza seeking
to destroy Hamas rockets dropped tons
of thousands of tons calling on civil­ians
to leave their homes and neigh­borhoods a day before they bombed."

He also used the example when the
IDF invaded Jinnan in 2002, a Palestin­ian
troop camp. According to Green, the
IDF invaded the city (which Israel
stated was harboring terrorists) on the
grounds instead of by air in an effort
to minimize civilian casualties.

Twenty-three IDF soldiers died in
the attack, all of which could have
been prevented had the IDF attacked
by air, Green said.
Oyster farmer sues state for leaking restrooms

An oyster farmer is suing California because sewage from Morro Bay State Park restrooms allegedly leaked into the bay and contaminated oysters.

The Tomales Bay Oyster Co. alleged in last month's San Luis Obispo County Superior Court lawsuit that a faulty sewer line servicing two restrooms in the park allowed fecal coliform bacteria into Morro Bay. State park officials deny restroom leakage.

The state Department of Health Services shut down the farm in May because of consistently high levels of bacteria in the bay. Oysters are filter feeders that can concentrate bacteria and other toxins in their flesh.

State health officials want bacteria levels within state guidelines for 18 months before oyster farming can resume.

"We cook dinners in my sorority, Gamma Phi Beta, and usually make tacos bars, tostada pizzas or spaghetti with tomatoes and basil."

Elizabeth Allison
kinesiology junior

"Pasta — I like penne with parmesan cheese."

Carri Telesco
journalism sophomore

"I get ground turkey, and make turkey burgers on the George Foreman grill."

Kyle Shoemaker
business management junior

"I love cooking fajitas, with chicken and bell peppers. It's pretty easy and tastes really good."

Alan Tonissen
architecture engineering senior

"Food" interview or you may attend a more formal dining event through your employment.

Good manners are always in style! You represent your company image wherever you go—during business hours and afterward. Always remember that you are an extension of your organization and the way it conducts business. It is likely you will have either a "food" interview or you may attend a more formal dining event through your employment.

Here are some do's and don'ts to make sure you will be a success!

- Sit when your host sits, wait for them to put their napkin on their lap first
- Turn off your cell phone!
- Avoid ordering food that drips, squirts or slips
- Order food in the mid price range
- Relax and be yourself!
- Don't apply lipstick, comb your hair, blow your nose or speak with food in your mouth
- Always pass the salt and pepper together (they are a pair and should not be separated)
- Work from the outside in with your utensils
- Your bread plate is always on the left, your water glass is on the right
- Avoid alcohol
- Remember, it's not about the food, it's about how you present yourself
- Your goal is to make people feel comfortable and respected at the meal
- Avoid alcohol
- Don't apply lipstick, comb your hair, blow your nose or speak with food in your mouth
The New Mentawai
A fresh take on one of the premiere surfing destinations

Will Taylor
MUSTANG DAILY
Thursday, February 26, 2009

A surf expedition to the Mentawai Islands would be a dream destination for anyone that loves riding waves. Many months before, there had been whispers by members of the Cal Poly Surf Team about a trip to the islands led by two of surf journalism's leading professionals. Those whispers grew to meetings then to plans. The trip came with a hefty price tag but there was just no way that I could justify not going; it sounded like everything a surfer and journalism student could want.

We would ride aboard the boat D'Ybor for two weeks with Matt and Sam George, long-time writing and editing forces behind Surfer Magazine. They would give us insight into the world of surf journalism while surfing and earning three college credits. To round it out, the trip included humanitarian aid and for the charming, ever-smiling Indonesian people.

But I had been on a lot of surf trips that turned out to be different than I expected. The long nights partying in Bali, the flat spells in New Zealand and the lines of people waiting for waves in Australia were aspects of surf travel that I never saw coming. Could this trip be as good as it sounded?

Damp Departure

In the port city of Padang, D'Ybor is hard to make out the boat in the rain and the dark. It is a roosted Panini, an Indonesian fishing boat, with a wooden hull and gunnels that run down in the rain and the dark. It is a renovated Panisi, an Indonesian fishing boat, with a wooden hull and gunnels that run down in the rain.

Four of my teammates from Poly Surf Team board the boat along with a surfer and surfboard shaper from Washington D.C., a photographer from British Columbia and an all-Indonesian boat crew none of whom speak English.

Our surf guides are two American ex-patriots and rounding out our group are two female Muslim interpreters.

Cranking Class

For most of my college career I've fought the urge to skip classes and go surfing. During our floating class, things were different. Class could occur at any time during the day, revolving around what the waves were doing. We would have meetings after the dawn patrol, after dinner or while having a beer.

During class on the boat, it was hard to evenly split my gaze between the George brothers and barrels. While Matt's classes were exploratory and democratic, Sam's teachings were more regimented and direct.

The surf students were also unique since students cared and took pride and responsibility in their actions whether it be in life or in the classroom. Every assignment that we did on the boat, we read in the front of the class. It forced us not only to be critical of other's work but of our own as well. No one slacked, no one blew off assignments and no one skipped class to go surfing.

The last morning, it is still dark when I reach the top level of the stern and no one is there. As I feel the cool, humid air slowly move across my skin. I hear music (or maybe words) come out from over the schoolhouse. It almost seems the prayer, not the river, is carrying us out into the ocean. The boat slowly moves past the streets and houses that are quiet save a few dogs and a woman washing her face in the muddy water.

The Last Mile

The sun has barely fought its way through the thick mungroves as I searched for saber-toed crocodylies in the study corners of the canal. The journey with our group on two small dinghies seemed to take ages, but soon we were docked in Siberu, school supplies and soccer balls slung over our shoulders searching out the schoolhouse. It wasn't a long search; screaming children, kids hanging out windows and teachers in militaristic uniforms led us to our destination.

The classrooms bustled with excited kids as we distributed packages of pencils, erasers, notebooks and other assorted school supplies. The kids yelled, cried and smiled. One of our crew asked 'How awesome would you think this was if you were never given a break next to one of my colleagues, who asked, "How awesome would you think this was if you were never given a break next to one of my colleagues?"'

The question was answered by the smiles on the kids' faces and the chaotic schoolyard.

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The question was answered by the smiles on the kids' faces and the chaotic schoolyard.

In that moment, I felt no desire to surf. Instead, I felt an odd contentment with being in that place at that moment. Two Islamic women were taking turns towing on surfboards behind the boat, the crew with our only female student. It was something that they wouldn't have dreamed of a couple of weeks prior. Four of the guys made up the cheering section while most of the students were out in the lineup picking off a few good waves. One of the crew was floating just off the shoulder fishing with a hand line and as we would discover later, was making a killing.

I felt like I was in the center of a merry-go-round. There were so many good experiences happening all around me and I was privileged to be able to see them all. I watched people making memories, taking friends and making the most of an incredible trip while going back to the Indonesian people.

As the sun set, a sky turned into a swirling watertoclor. Shades of orange, red and purple reflected onto the ocean from the evening sky like a massive mirror. A dinner of fish caught a few hours earlier was served and I couldn't help but smile; this trip had been different.

Will Taylor is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily guest writer. For information on this year's journey, go to latinexpeditions.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cal Poly Causes will be a new bi-weekly series written by students who want to share their experiences about service learning at a local, national and global level. Please send submissions to mastangedailywriter@gmail.com.
Tragedy and love mix in student production of famous Lorca play

Chelsea Bieker

Written in 1933 by famous Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca’s “Blood Wedding,” or “Bodas de Sangre,” is a tale of unrequited love, honor, tradition and passion.

Inspired by an Andalusian newspaper article, this intricate woven tale of love triangle gone wrong features both dialogue and poetry phasing seamlessly from English to Spanish.

Josh Machamer, director of Cal Poly’s theatre and dance department, said Lorca’s play showcases the story of a bride and groom interrupted on their wedding day by the bride’s previous lover proclaiming his feelings for her.

“The story itself is fairly simple,” he said. “Guy meets girl, girl still loves guy, they run off together, two guys kill one another — like a Spanish ‘Romeo and Juliet.’”

Machamer said that because of Lorca’s strong poetic background, the play intertwines poetry and music to the rural Spanish backdrop.

“Me is a poet first,” he said. “What is apparent is Lorca trying to infuse poetry and dance from a flamenco perspective.”

The setting of the play is simple, “a stripped-down world,” as Machamer described it; a stark, almost barren stage with a projector screen in the back center. The furniture is all made of basic wood and the costumes will be monochromatic, allowing actors to move through scenes, their clothing absorbing the color of the lighting.

“It’s creating a living painting,” Machamer said. “It highlights these artistic images for each scene that happens on stage that is more representational versus realistically presentational.”

Lorca was greatly influenced by roommate and friend Salvador Dali. The designer has incorporated his influence, as well as the influence of other modern Spanish artists, like Pablo Picasso, to the set.

Technical director Howard Gee said that the actors move most of the props around during scenes, and that it is all part of the style the designer wanted to add to the production.

“The costume and lighting designers complimented that style,” he said. “The lights push each scene to the specific color range they want.”

Theatre junior and stage manager Melanie Marshall said that rehearsals have been getting progressively better as the actors are able to connect with their lines.

“It’s very impressive to see people go from reading lines and then four days later they sound flawless,” she said. “They know what they are saying. The actors find more every time.”

Marshall said that the story is a familiar one that everyone will be able to relate to, but is told in a very original way.

“What do you do when you don’t end up with the person you love?” she said.

The cast of Cal Poly’s production of Lorca’s “Blood Wedding” rehearses for their upcoming performances in the months of February and March.

See Wedding, page 6

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Want to be with?" she said. "It's the idea of regretting things that could have been, and wanting to rebel against society."

Marshall said that the simple props and costuming go along with the theme of a lack of individuality.

"It's very cohesive and it allows for changes and mood based off the lighting," she said. "Each scene has its own color. It is about an individual fighting against a repressive society."

Theatre sophomore Natalie Roy plays the bride, a leading role. She said that her character is very psychologically deep because of her ties to tradition and her urge to break away.

"It has been interesting to play," she said. "But it's been kind of hard. There is always the struggle to do what's right and the struggle to do what your heart is leaning you towards."

Roy said that along with an intense rehearsal schedule, the actors are also brushing up on their Spanish-speaking skills in order to be in tune with the production.

"Some of the poetry that is involved is really difficult to wrap your mouth around," she said. "It has been nice because we are learning about the culture and how to pronounce words, and learning about Lorca."

Roy said that the play is not in a traditional A-B, A-B conversational format, which adds to its unique qualities.

"It has really beautiful language, she said. "It sounds beautiful. It's probably not what a lot of people are expecting. It's very deep and very romantic, dealing with an ex coming back into your life wanting to get together with you. I think anyone can relate to that."

Theatre junior Redzuan plays the role of Death in the play, and through his experience has learned to see death in a new way.

"I think it's partly a commentary on how there are bad things that can happen when you follow what you want to do," he said. "It deals with duty and honor and what happens with passion."

Redzuan said that everyone should come to the live production.

"People should see theater because there is something about live performances," he said. "It is poetry and it will draw people in and hopefully stir something in them."

"Blood Wedding," is the second show of three as part of the theatre and dance department's 2008-2009 Mainstage Season.

All performances will take place in the Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m. Feb 26 to 29 and March 5 to 7. A matinee performance is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Tickets are $10 to $12. For ticket information, call 756-2787.

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The states’ rights movement is gaining steam once again as the central government prepares for the latest round of power-building.

The movement of states declaring sovereignty in regards to the Tenth Amendment has created quite the stir among constitutional conservatives lately. Although not widely reported, thirteen states currently have legislation pending to affirm their states’ rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution. Several states, including California, have passed similar resolutions in the recent past. These resolutions symbolize the frustration of the states’ subjects to mandates and other federal laws that strict constructionists view as unconstitutional.

For those readers familiar with the Tenth Amendment, it reads: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” The Tenth Amendment, along with the Nineteenth Amendment, powerfully affirms the limits of the United States government and directs a strict interpretation of the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton and his Federalist followers urged states to ratify the Constitution despite Hamilton’s opposition to the Bill of Rights. But Hamilton’s principle argument against the Bill of Rights was that it was unnecessary, and that once certain rights were affirmed, others assumed to be held by the states and people would be at risk of abuse.

Hamilton asked in Federalist Number 84, “For why declare that any state shall not be disposed which there is no power to do? Why, for instance, should it be said that the liberty of the press shall not be restrained, when no power is given by which restrictions may be imposed?”

But over the years, courts including the U.S. Supreme Court have imposed many federal infringements of state sovereignty through their loose interpretation of clauses in the Constitution. For example, the Commerce Clause of Article I, Section 8 states: “The Congress shall have Power... to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.” This clause has been used to justify federal laws ranging from the illegality of certain drugs to gun-free zones around schools, criminalizing actions even when they do not cross state boundaries. Originalists, such as those politicians supporting the states resolutions, claim such laws are invalid.

Americans prior to the American Civil War. The Civil War remedied America by creating the Confederacy, which was grounded in the belief that states were sovereign and could separate themselves from the union if they so desired. The states’ rights movement is gaining steam once again as the central government prepares for the latest round of power-building. Activists pushing for centralized approaches to social problems present a special concern to states’ rights. For example, those crusading for nationalizing healthcare avoid the fact that such a system is not authorized by the U.S. Constitution. Rather, these actions focus on the emotional heartstrings of citizens to allow the creation of such a system. Yet there is an alternative that both states’ rights and socialists can support. States can provide their own socialized healthcare system if they so choose. Massachusetts provides free health insurance coverage for those citizens considered eligible Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.) claims this program is a great success.

The states’ rights argument goes both ways. Sometimes states infringe upon areas where the federal government has been granted authority to protect. For example, state laws restricting gun rights. California has among the strictest laws in the union regarding what arms one can and cannot possess within its boundaries. State legislators have claimed such laws are reasonable, and so far California’s restrictions on its citizens’ right to keep and bear arms has not been significantly challenged. As a right that the founders assumed already existed and reaffirmed in the Second Amendment, arms restrictions should not be in the dominion of the states’ laws. The landmark Supreme Court decision in the case District of Columbia v. Heller last year may work to reverse some of these unconstitutional arms restrictions laws through incorporation (via the Fourteenth Amendment) by lower courts when state and local laws are challenged.

In the unfortunate case that these individual and state rights resolutions are ignored by the growing power of the central government, what is the next step? A world government? With the ratification of the UN Law of the Sea Treaty likely later this year, the U.S. must take a stand to stop handing over authority to an organization with much anti-American sentiment and socialist objectives. It’s time to make a stand for sovereignty, at both the state and national levels.

Colin McKim is an environmental management and protection junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
The arbitrary "A"

Do you ever feel like an "A" grade is arbitrary, intimidating and possibly unfair? I mean, what is a letter grade anyway? Think of it this way: if you miss one point on a test and the kid next to you gets a 99 percent, you get an "A" student, top of the top, 4.5? And, you, oh lonely you, only one point away, are deemed average.

There is little difference between you and that pompous jerk next to you, but, because you are labeled as a "B" student, I once had a professor who told me to get an "A" in his class. I had to reach a 95 percent. Struck by this obvious unfairness, I felt respected and upset. I knew that a 95 percent was not out of reach, but the fact that I could have a 94 percent and still be deemed average really freaked me out.

I confronted this professor, whom I really like and respect, and asked him why was his policy "All of you are average"? "You are too hung up on letter grades; just do good work and show me that you care and you will be fine." I suppose we have to some extent. I am of the opinion that in the world we are living in today, obviously a "B" student; Einstein's grammar school teacher is quoted as saying, "wows he get anywhere," and Isaac Newton once pulled a horse's bridle for miles before he realized there was no horse in it. These are two of the most influential scientists and they don't fit the "A" student mold, so why should we follow it?

I think it is more than possible for students to be evaluated in a different manner. While exams and papers can be a good reflection of the knowledge learned in a class, there are always cheaters and cramners. If teachers reflected a good percentage of one's grade on attendance and participation, I think the educational environment would be much more fulfilling and stimulating.

Students need to attend class. On every list of "Ways to succeed" there is working hard, attending office hours, wants to improve, etc. then that student's participation portion of the grade will raise or be sustained. Those who choose to sleep, drink and party like there's no tomorrow will college will definitely be burdened by this system, and rightly so.

Lindsey Pounds is a columnn at the Arkansas Traveler at the University of Arkansas, where this was originally published.

Yesterday in New Orleans, seven people were injured in a shooting in broad day light on the main parade route. Now, as appalling as that may be, do you think the great city of New Orleans will shut down Mardi Gras next year? No chance! The majority of people still know how to behave themselves while having a good time and respecting traditions. "I suppose, if there is no tradition to learn from then people won't even know where to begin when it comes to celebrating something like Mardi Gras. The essence of Mardi Gras is surprise; it is to be a celebration of life, that's it, nothing more. You don't need a bar to have an event or a parade to celebrate. People can celebrate in their own way. I suppose the city of SLO celebrated Mardi Gras by sucking the life right out of the entire issue, and thereby its citizens. For what it's worth, I celebrated Mardi Gras myself and had a fun, safe time. As we say in Louisiana, "Laissez les bon temps rouler."

— Thomas Response to "Mardi Gras: all quiet on the SLO front"

According to a New York Times poll released Tuesday, "53 percent of Americans say they are just making ends meet, with more than six in 10 concerned that someone in their household might lose his (or her) job in the next year. Sixty-one percent of those polled said they believe the condition of the economy is "very bad." Also on Tuesday, President Obama detailed ambitious proposals in a speech before Congress, and he told them to act swiftly in passing legislation aimed at stimulating the economy and helping the American people through this recession. After the president spoke, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) commented to the media that the speech lacked details. Not only is that a weak criticism, it's simply not true. President Obama made it clear that his "lifeblood of our economy" and he proposed "creating a new lending fund that represents the largest effort ever to help provide auto loans, college loans and small business loans to the consumers and entrepreneurs who keep this economy running." Because of the outrage over several stories of bank CEO's misuse of the $700 billion bailout funds — like those who lined their pockets with bonuses — President Obama assured Americans and Congress that under his administration, banks will have proper oversight. He also said that we do not, our problem is not to create into a greater crisis that will cost even more.

He addressed Republican concerns over spending when he vowed to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term. He said his administration has gone through the budget line-by-line to "eliminate the no-bid contracts" in Iraq, stop funding Cold War weapons America no longer uses, remove the waste and fraud in Medicare and end tax breaks for big corporations that ship jobs overseas. President Obama also spoke very clearly about specific issues he will emphasize in his forthcoming budget proposals, such as health care and energy.

He told Congress that the crushing cost of health care causes a bankruptcy in America every 30 seconds, and that his plan will "invest in electronic health records and new technology that will reduce errors, bring down costs, ensure patient safety and improve health care." He said of energy policy, "I ask this Congress to send me legislation that places a market-based cap on carbon pollution and drives the production of more renewable energy in America."

He continued, saying: "To support that innovation, we will invest $15 billion a year to develop technologies like wind power and solar power, advanced biofuels, and efficient cars and trucks built right here in America." I urge those who missed the president's speech to take advantage of the initiative and the details of his proposals online.

Tuesday night, as Gov. Jindal (R-LA) gave the rebuttal to President Obama's speech and my eyes glossed over during each of his meaningless anec­dotes, my meditations drifted to the infinite wisdom of the pundits who warned me beforehand that the Republican response would be a major buzz-kill. I did not hear any new ideas from the Republicans or the way they propose to change things that will ruin the economy and the stimulus package will expand the power of the federal government. It doesn't really matter what Republicans say anyway. In the Times' poll previously mentioned, the majority of those polled said they would rather Barack Obama stick to his policies than work with Republic­ans. I agree. We need visionary solutions and Republicans aren't even in the business of solutions.

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

Kudos Jeremy for writing the only article worth reading in the opinion section! You never disappoint and I always look forward to Wednesday's Mustang Daily solely for your insight.

— Annie Azcvedo Response to "Mardi Gras: all quiet on the SLO front"

The words "the Mardi Gras riots" should never be muttered in the same sentence. I wasn't in SLO and I have heard about it, but, as with most riots, I'm sure it was just two crowds trying to outdo each other's whereabouts.

In essence, even though President Obama has made a call for change, it is not going to happen soon. Change takes time and Cal Poly, while being progressive in some ways, will not become progressive in the diversity area any time soon.

— Bri Response to "Mardi Gras: all quiet on the SLO front"

Obviously we are being led by wishful thinkers. President Kram­ er and President Baker's belief that Cal Poly has the chance to be a completely "open" campus in the future hardly seems possible and extremely naïve. Facs illustrate our make-up here at Cal Poly to be predominantly Caucasian with minimal ac­ ceptance of other ethnicities. Unless Baker's "model" consists of reaching out to other eth­

nically and tries to increase the percentage of people accepted that aren't ethnically Caucasian, I don't foresee any change happening soon. Change takes time and Cal Poly, while being progressive in some ways, will not become progressive in the diversity area any time soon.

— Mike Response to "Mardi Gras: all quiet on the SLO front"
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Announcements
7th Annual 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 UI 217. More info at wss.calpoly.edu.

Help Wanted
L.A. Summer Day Camps
Counselors, Lifeguards & much more. www.daycampsjobs.com
Survey Takers Needed: Make $5-525 per survey. GetPaidToThink.com

Help Wanted Temporary assistant to research and sell valuable antiques; interest in history required. Please contact Ms. Christian at (805) 528-8570

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It's the best thing since sliced bread.

Girls & Sports by Jurrin Bonas and Andrew Feinstein
MARSHALL, BEING SINGLE THESE DAYS, ISN'T FOR ME

I PREFER THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Across
1. Schmaltz
2. Fresh can and squash
10 Walking encyclopedia
14. "How did this happen?"
15. Opposite of some way
16. Alto lead-in?
17. Piano, de
18. Benjamin
19. Lore alternative
20. Split
26. It's barely indoors
27. It's barely indoors
28. Zing
29. Chinese dollar
30. All over
32. Eleanor
33. All over
34. Unable to think
35. "My Way"
36. Elongated fish
37. Primitive tribes or a hat to this puzzle's theme
41. Karmen (old Volkswagen)
42. Genuine
43. Alternative rock band with four platinum albums
46. Repair shop figs.
47. Cry out loud
50. Concentration defect in a horse
52. Woods on a Wonderland cake
54. Traffic sign that indicates a possible temporary mad traffic
58. Deal broker
61. Cause for pulling
62. Where Samson defeated the Philistines
63. Lawrence role
64. Mumbling, with wool
65. Zest
66. Frost
67. Go from one number to another
68. 100 18-Acrosses

Down
1. Macassar
2. Named king known as "the Fat"
3. Numbers in the thousands?
4. "S.N.L.", slam
5. Creep
6. Gelato holder
7. "Yes, but I know the answer"
8. Aries debug's decision
9. Figure
10. Like a bishop's authority
11. Elongated fish
12. Day-
13. Happy birthday" follower
14. Race music, for short
15. Slightly
16. Fails to keep
17. It's barely indoors
19. My Way singer
22. Rounder, to Teddy
23. Retrain from
24. "How did this happen?"
25. NY Times crossword editor
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Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0122

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Steroids
continued from page 12

Fehr may not have been shooting players up himself, but he did everything in his power to shield them from being caught. And for that he deserves at least equal blame, if not more, with Selig for defrauding fans with a bogus product and making the sport’s most hallowed records little more than a joke.

Now he wants us all to move forward. I declare the steroid problem fixed, and expects us to believe that is all there is to it.

It’s not, of course. The spectacles surrounding the greatest players of their time will go on for years, as will the debate over the records set by just a few players. EVERY hall of fame election will be a referendum on who may have used and who didn’t.

Fans, meanwhile, will still have doubts about just how clean today’s players are. A-Rod may claim he hasn’t used anything since 2003, but his credibility shrinks with almost every new day, and with 103 names still out there, everyone is still suspect.

Never mind that the testing is better, because it’s still not good enough. Not only are there not enough tests and not enough random tests, but there is no test for human growth hormone. And, if recent history shows anything, it’s that cheaters have always found a way to stay a step ahead of those chasing them.

Sure, Fehr wants everyone to believe it’s time to move on. It’s in the interest of his clients to do just that. Believe it, if you will. I’m more inclined to go with words once said by someone who has done more for the game than Fehr will ever do, a scrawny catcher who kept winning championships without the aid of anything stronger than a cup of coffee.

Yogi Berra wasn’t talking about steroids, but he could have been. Because it ain’t over ’til it’s over.

—Jim Dalberg is an Associated Press national sports columnist.
mustangdaily.net
Thursday, February 26, 2009

MUSTANG DAILY

Mustangs rolling early after knocking off national champs

Omar Sanchez
MUSTANG DAILY

Fresno State knocked the baseball world last year when they rode a wave of momentum to a national championship. Early in the 2009 campaign, the Cal Poly baseball team looks like they now have the momentum following three consecutive victories over top-notch competition.

The Mustangs (5-1) swept then-No. 3 Rice in a doubleheader Saturday then defeated defending national champions Fresno State Tuesday night in a 10-3 win over Rice on Feb. 21.

"We proved that we can come back," said senior outfielder Ryan Lee.

Indeed they did, when they overcame 4-1 and 11-9 deficits against the defending champs 13-11 in Fresno in what turned out to be a hitter’s paradise.

Lee punished the Fresno State pitching staff, grabbing two hits and scoring three runs for the Mustangs.

"To go to their place and come out with a win, that’s big for our program," he said.

Junior catcher Wes Dorrell and freshman outfielder Bobby Crocker contributed three-run home runs Tuesday night to improve the Mustangs 3-1.

Dorrell noted that the freshmen this year came in with exorbitant confidence, adding a much-needed boost to the team.

His teammates agreed.

"The way they were playing, you wouldn’t know they were freshmen," infielder Kyle Smith said.

The Mustangs face another non-conference foe when they host Sacramento State on Friday at Baggett Stadium and Lee said the team isn’t taking the Hornets lightly after beating two prominent teams like Rice and Fresno State.

"Wins like that give us a lot of confidence early in the season, but we can’t get over confident," Lee said.

In their final contest against Rice, the Mustangs came from behind to pull off the 7-6 win over the Owls.

Lee was quick to point out that wins against high competition aren’t meaningful if the Mustangs can’t defeat the teams they are supposed to.

"Wins against (Rice and Fresno State) don’t mean anything if we can’t win these games," he added.

The Hornet’s 24-34 last season, a record similar to the Mustangs, finished 24-32 a year ago.

Smith said that the team wouldn’t take a team’s record from a year ago into the equation, knowing how much different his own team is this season.

"Last year we sort of fell off, but this season we’re playing to win as opposed to we’re playing not to see Baseball, page 11

MLB Players Association Executive Director Donald Fehr, seen above, rejects the idea that players are under further steroid suspicion.

Fehr declares steroid crisis over, but not so soon

Tim Dahlberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The final word on drugs in baseball came not from the players, but their hired guns.

Union chief Donald Fehr delivered it Monday, declaring the steroid era over.

"We fixed the problem and we need to look forward, as Bud has said many times," Fehr said during a spring training tour in Florida.

Fehr wasn’t just channeling Bud Selig. Alex Rodriguez spent the better part of a press conference last week talking about how in the future he hopes to become even less young and stupid than he was before.

Everyone, it seems, wants to move forward. Even the great Henry Aaron said the other day that Barry Bonds can have his home run record and he doesn’t want it back.

And with spring training games beginning, who want to talk about steroids anymore anyway? The grass is green in Florida and Arizona, and it’s the time of year when every team is still a pennant contender.

The many New York media can do its part by leaving A-Rod alone and stop making trips to the Dominican to ferret out the real relationship between a trainer linked to steroids and the best player in the game. Quit writing about steroids and concentrate on something more socially significant — like A-Rod’s alleged relationship last season with Madonna.

Prosecutors in San Francisco can help, too. Their case against Bonds has already been weakened by the exclusion of some key evidence, so why not just call it a day and quit trying to put the slugger in prison?

Save the space for the real crooks, the guys who stole billions on Wall Street, instead of a baseball player whose only crime was that he wanted to get better.

Speaking of prison, hasn’t Roger Clemens been harassed enough? He’s one of the greatest pitchers in the history of the game, so he should be able to be at home when he wants to and to whoever he wants to, assuming, of course, that he wants to.

The best thing about declaring the steroids era over, though, is we’ll never have to stay awake at night trying to figure out who the remaining 103 players are on the joker’s list that Fehr’s union is trying desperately to keep secret. Moving forward for all those players really does mean never having to say you’re sorry.

We’ll be able to put aside all these years of suspicions and doubts. But for Fehr and the player’s union it will be a bit more difficult.

Because they’re the ones who insisted all along that there was never anything wrong.

It was nonsense, of course, to anyone who watched over the last two decades as players became bloated and musclebound, and home runs began flying out of ballparks like never before. But Selig wasn’t going to risk another player’s stroke after the one that wiped out the 1994 World Series to get testing, and the union wasn’t going to budge in its resistance to tests.

It wasn’t until 2002 that the union agreed to a sound of tests to even see if there was a steroid problem in baseball, and it took three more years and some heavy political pressure in Washington before it agreed to current penalties for players caught using.

see Steroids, page 11