Baker, Kramer answer questions about possible CBF increases at State of the Student Address

Rachel Glas

Tuesday night's State of the Student Address was dominated by discussion of the proposed College Based Fees increase.

Associated Students Inc. President Angela Kramer and Cal Poly President Warren Baker held a town-hall style forum to discuss issues including diversity and sustainability, but once the discussion turned to the CBF referendum — which students vote on today and Thursday — it never went back.

More than 50 students and faculty members attended the presentation, which was split into three parts: Kramer's speech, Baker’s speech, and a question-and-answer session.

Kramer began discussing the fee increase by giving a brief history of the issue in order to tell students how and why the university is asking for higher student fees.

Some reasons he mentioned include the state legislature cutting the higher education budget, coupled with a mandated increase in university enrollment. He also said the cost of Cal Poly’s "learn by doing" programs are much higher than programs at other California State Universities.

The school is asking full-time students to raise their college-based fee to $362 next year, and an additional $200 over the next two years. Part-time students would pay half that.

"I wish we weren't here at this critical juncture, but we are," Baker said. He went on to say that, although he couldn't give specific answers to what would be cut if the increase doesn't pass, a lack of money would impede the progress of students wishing to graduate.

He also mentioned that the tuition and living expenses students would incur by not graduating on time would be more expensive than paying the higher fee.

English sophomore Sarah Storelli, whose attendance at the meeting confirmed her vote supporting the increase, agreed on this point.

"Because of tuition increases, it'll save you money in the long run by not prolonging your graduation," she said.

Baker pledged that if the fee increase passes, the university will mount a larger campaign than Figure 2: CBF increases at State of the Student Address.

Fed up with your roommate's boyfriend staying over too often? Is your landlord being unreasonable? Having trouble agreeing on how to split bills? Solutions can help students deal with their frustrations.

SLO Solutions is a free conflict mediation service that is offered to San Luis Obispo residents and is run through the local company, Creative Mediations Cal Poly Cuesta College and the city of San Luis Obispo created SLO Solutions in the summer of 2004 after watching years of conflict between students and long-term residents sharing the same city.

"Conflict is natural," said Creative Mediations staff member Amy Stapp. "We all have different lifestyles, but sometimes when it doesn't get dealt with it's frustrating, and when you have conflict where you live it's hard to get away from it.

The staff at Creative Mediations includes five mediators and four interns. They do not offer legal advice, but they do provide professionally trained to sit down with conflicted parties and resolve disputes through peaceful conversation. According to Stapp, when parties agree to mediate, they come to an agreement about 90 percent of the time.

"Mediation changes the way people think about the problem," she said. "In conflict, people are often not at their best. Emotions are running, people have their own viewpoints. The great thing about sitting down with somebody you are in conflict with is you're able to hear things from their perspective.

Students are often in need of this type of service. More than 1,000 students have used SLO Solutions for conflict resolution since it began in 2004. The Creative Mediations staff has been featured at various student events including the Greek Summit retreat earlier this quarter.

The most common disputes are between landlords and tenants, since most students rent properties. Issues such as security deposit reimbursement, upkeep of the property and lease specifications are common matters that arise.

SLO Solutions also deals with conflict between college roommates. Whether roommates are having trouble with parking, noise, splitting bills, boyfriends, girlfriends or other issues, the staff at Creative Mediations says they can help. One way to resolve issues is to have parties sign a written agreement.

Stapp recalls one particularly heated conflict in a 10-house neighborhood made up of both renters and long-term residents. Since the renters had more cars than available parking spots, other residents were forced to park far away from their homes. These residents organized meetings through SLO Solutions and constructively came to a solution.

"We're not therapy," Stapp said. "We are not therapists able to delve into people's emotional psyche. However, relational issues are often very present in conflict, so we're able to help people talk through them and see if they're able to come to a resolution."

In some cases, parties are unable to come to a compromise through mediation. According to Stapp, even in these rare circumstances, mediation is beneficial because the parties at least had a conversation, which is something that wouldn't have happened without a mediator.

Computer science senior Eddie Freeman works with Associated Students Inc. as a Chumash Challenge facilitator where he leads groups of people through team-building activities. Freeman can attest to the benefits that result from working together to solve problems.

"I think a program like SLO Solutions is a great idea," he said. "People often need help with their problems because everyone is biased and it's hard to put yourself in someone else's shoes."
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Forum
continued from page 1

ever before to seek donations from private corporations and pressure the public to support higher education.
He reiterated that this is a non-binding advisory vote, but confirmed that during his tenure, he has yet to make a decision contrary to a student-advisory vote.
When questioned by the Mustang Daily, Kramer stated that she personally will vote no on the increase but said her vote shouldn’t influence anyone else’s.
“My initial reaction was that I’ll do anything to support my university,” she said.
“People who know me know I live and breathe Poly...When it comes down to it, my decision to vote no isn’t against the deans, the university, the provost or the president; it’s a statement against the legislature and the taxpayers that have decided that higher education is no longer a priority.”
When asked how the school would be able to support itself without the increase, Kramer said she thinks that sometimes people “play up situations like these to be a little worse then they will be immediately... Cal Poly won’t collapse from within in a fiery rage if it doesn’t pass.”
She also said that she has many reasons for wanting the fee increase to pass, and cited her wish for a fund supporting sustainability-focused student projects, which is most likely only possible if the increase is passed.
Another query from the audience concerned why the university is able to fund programs such as the Recreation Center expansion and the University Union Plaza renovation when the school “can’t afford faculty.”
Both Kramer and Baker replied that those funds come from different avenues than academic funds and it would not be possible to use those funds for classes. Furthermore, the funds for both of these processes go back much further than the current budgetary issues.
Students had differing reactions to the forum and many had concerns about how the additional CRF money would be spent.

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www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/referendum-09
California is in line to receive at least $31.5 billion in federal stimulus funding, much of which will help plug budget shortfalls to education and other programs, state officials reported Tuesday.

Billions more will be available through competitive grants that Schwarzenegger administration officials say they will pursue aggressively. Lending additional grant money would push California's total closer to $70 billion, administration officials said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's chief deputy budget director, Ana Matosanz, told lawmakers the administration "will access all funds available." The bipartisan Legislative Analyst's Office released the first official rundown of the money California is expected to receive from the $787 billion stimulus bill.

Most of the money will be used to fill gaps in education and health care programs. California also will get help with housing, welfare and unemployment programs. About 6 percent of the total will fund transportation projects.

Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor urged lawmakers to begin using the federal money to start highway and road projects that have been stalled by the state's budget crisis and the frozen credit markets that have prevented the state from borrowing money. He also urged them to act quickly to draw as much Medicaid funding as possible.

He warned lawmakers against using the money for ongoing programs because the funding should be considered a one-time infusion of cash. State revenue also is likely to fall below even the most conservative estimates, he said.

"The Legislature will need to take major actions in the coming months to ensure that the funds are used in ways that meet its priorities and preferences," Taylor wrote in the analysis by his office.

The report said about $8 billion would help the state avoid cuts to education funding, minimizing the number of teacher layoffs. Schools are required to notify staff by March 15 that they could be laid off for the 2009-2010 school year, and the California Teachers Association estimates that 20,000 pink slips have already gone out.

The state and local governments could receive $10 billion over the next two fiscal years for Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, to provide health insurance for the poor. The state also could get $5.4 billion to extend and increase unemployment benefits by $25 per week.

California expects to receive $2.6 billion for highways and roads from the transportation component of the stimulus plan. The state also could get an extra $1 billion for bus and rail systems.

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Schwarzenegger welcomed the federal government's help as the state economy continues to struggle and unemployment hit double digits.

Last month, Schwarzenegger signed a two-year budget package intended to close a $42 billion shortfall through June 30, 2010. The plan included a mix of spending cuts, tax hikes and borrowing, some of which will need voter approval in May.

"Calculating California's share of the stimulus spending is important for taxpayers because the amount will determine the fate of a higher personal income tax. Lawmakers temporarily raised the personal income tax by 0.25 percent in the recently enacted budget package.

If California receives at least $10 billion for its general fund, the income tax increase will be reduced to 12.5 percent. The state also would avoid $1 billion in cuts.

When asked whether California would indeed receive the $10 billion for its general fund, Schwarzenegger said he didn't know. "I mean, you know, there's mass confusion still at this stage," he said, noting that California will receive money for schools, universities, health care and infrastructure. A preliminary review by his staff and the Legislative Analyst's Office project the state will fall $2 billion short of the goal. A public hearing has been scheduled for March 17 to help the treasurer and finance director make that determination.

Associated Press Writer Juliet Williams contributed to this report.

FBI investigate bombing of UCLA professor's car

The FBI is investigating the firebombing of a vehicle belonging to a UCLA neuroscientist who uses animals to study schizophrenia and drug addiction, officials said Monday.

The professor's car was the target of a suspicious area as it was parked outside his home on Saturday. F.B.I. spokesman Laura Eimiller said no one was hurt.

The Animal Liberation Front posted a message in which the Animal Liberation Brigade claimed responsibility for the bombing on its Web site Monday. The bombing is the latest in a series of violent acts against UCLA researchers, university spokesman Phil Hampton said.

UCLA and several local and federal agencies have offered a combined $445,000 in rewards for information on five separate incidents aimed at UCLA faculty who use animals in medical research.

"The actions of extremists who use violent and illegal tactics are utterly reprehensible and beyond contempt," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said.

In April, the university obtained a preliminary injunction that prohibits the harassment of staff involved in animal research and bans posting researchers' personal information online and in flyers.
Museum reveals engraving hidden in Lincoln watch

Brett Zongker

For nearly 150 years, a story has circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch. On Tuesday, museum curators confirmed it was true. A watchmaker used tiny tools to carefully pry open the antique watch at the National Museum of American History, and a descendant of the engraver read aloud the message from a metal plate underneath the watch face.

"Jonathan Dillon April 13 1861," part of the inscription reads. "Fort Sumter (sic) was attacked by the rebels on the above date. Another part reads, "Thank God we have a government."

The words were etched in tiny, cursive handwriting and filled the space between tiny screws and gears that jutted through the metal plate. A magnifying glass was required to read them.

Jonathan Dillon, then a watchmaker on Pennsylvania Avenue, had Lincoln's watch in his hands when he heard the first shots of the Civil War had been fired in South Carolina. The Irish immigrant later recalled hearing the first shots of the Civil War and a descendant of his ancestor, who had engraved the words, drawing smiles and a few sighs of relief.

"The moment of truth has come. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a president who at least will try."

For years the story went unfettered. The watchmaker's great-great grandson, Doug Stiles, first heard the tale of the engraving from his great uncle decades ago. He said the story had reached extended family as far away as Ireland.

A few months ago, he used Google to find the New York Times story and last month he passed the information along to Smithsonian curators, who knew nothing about the engraving.

On Tuesday, watchmaker George Thomas, who volunteers at the museum, spent several minutes carefully opening the watch as an audience of reporters and museum workers watched on a video monitor.

"The story of the engraving. Is there or is there not an inscription?" Thomas said, teasing the audience, which gasped when he confirmed it was there. He called Stiles up to read his ancestor's words, drawing smiles and a few sighs of relief.

"Probably not. I'll just move out or talk to them and stick it out." - Jeff Koo, industrial technology senior

"I would just talk to the roommate. I would address it directly or talk to friends to get advice."

"(In) roommate issues, outside help might not do much. I would probably go to the head of housing or I'll just deal with it."

Marc Nishizawa, nutrition junior

-OMPILATED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY OMAR SANCHEZ

WORD ON THE STREET

"Would you ever seek out advice for roommate issues?"

"Yes, because I don't think you should overlook roommate disagreements because you have to live with them."

-April Manaloto, biochemistry freshman

"I would just talk to the roommate. I would address it directly or talk to friends to get advice."

-March Nishizawa, nutrition junior

"I would just talk to the roommate. I would address it directly or talk to friends to get advice."

-Jeff Koo, industrial technology senior

"I would just talk to the roommate. I would address it directly or talk to friends to get advice."

-Mark Nishizawa, nutrition junior

"I would just talk to the roommate. I would address it directly or talk to friends to get advice."

-Jeff Koo, industrial technology senior

-OMPILATED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY OMAR SANCHEZ

10 shot, killed in south Ala.

A gunman went on a shooting spree in two neighboring south Alabama towns Tuesday, killing nine people before he shot himself at a metal plant, authorities said.

Police are investigating at least four separate shootings, all believed to be done by one gunman, whose name was not released, the Alabama Department of Safety said in a statement.

"The shootings began late in the afternoon in Samson. The shooter killed five people in one home and one each in two other homes. The gunman also shot at a state trooper's car, striking the vehicle seven times and wounding the trooper with broken glass."

He then killed someone at a Samson supply store and another person at a service station, the safety department said.

Police pursued him to Reliable Metal Products just north of Geneva, about a dozen miles southeast of Samson, where he fired an estimated 30 rounds. One of the bullets hit Geneva Police Chief Frankie Lindsey, who was saved by his bullet proof vest, the safety department said.
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Krizia Torres
MUSING DAILY

Music senior Kory Fratkin recalled the first time he ever saw Take It SLO perform during UU Hour and thought, “I will be in that group!” After two-and-a-half years of performing with Cal Poly’s a cappella group, Fratkin can sit back and say he followed through with his plan.

“Acoustics carry a lot of weight if you’re not just singing the latest Britney Spears tunes in the shower or trying to make glass break. For members of Take It SLO, good acoustic feedback is golden.”

“We perform pop songs without any instruments. We make the sounds of the instruments with our voices,” Fratkin said.

Whether it’s performing at Thursday’s UU Hour or singing to help raise money for the Wheelchair Foundation, Take It SLO relies on quality vocals to produce an a cappella hit.

“It’s really fun to watch them. (A cappella) is something you don’t see all the time. Usually there are bands playing at UU Hour, but Take it SLO was something different,” said liberal studies senior Heidi Vigario, who has seen them perform at both UU Hour and Kelay for Life.

But the a cappella group isn’t just a bunch of kids who sing scales all day long. They also manage to arrange their own renditions of popular contemporary songs.

“They’re all our own interpretation of a contemporary pop song. It’s all ours,” said construction management sophomore and Take It SLO member Chris Lawrence.

“All of the ideas for songs we sing come from the minds of the members in the group,” Fratkin added.

Take It SLO has had a hand at performing well-known hits such as, Seal’s “Kiss from a Rose,” OneRepublic’s “Apologize,” and Will Smith’s “Men in Black.”

They also have arranged original vocal medleys. Their pop medley features Justin Timberlake’s “SexyBack,” and the Pussycat Dolls’ “Buttons.” They also have a Disney medley which features childhood favorites like “Under the Sea,” “Circle of Life,” “A Whole New World” and “You’ll Be in My Heart.”

“Everyone loves Disney,” Fratkin said.

Neither categorized as an Associated Student Inc. club nor a music group, Take It SLO is in a league of its own.

Managed entirely by the students who make up the 16-member Take It SLO is student run. We do it as we see fit,” said Fratkin, who acted as the group’s unofficial music director.

Taking a step away from traditional choirs, the group was started in 2003 by a small batch of students looking for an alternative for collective singing.

The result was a collection of students from diverse backgrounds and majors unifying to do what they loved to do—sing.

“Getting to know these people has been so fun. Without this type of a group, most of us wouldn’t have even met each other while we’ve been here at Cal Poly. I wouldn’t have met most of the people who aren’t involved in music outside of Take It SLO. It’s something that drew them — the music and what we do. It’s very close-knit,” Fratkin said.

Rehearsing about five hours a week sometimes isn’t enough for the members of the group who have become a family.

“It’s kind of like our version of a fraternity or sorority. We do things together on the weekends. We have our practices that aren’t just ‘get there and sing.’ We hang out, too,” Lawrence said.

The group recorded their first self-titled album last summer and released it early last October. They have already experienced success with selling over 500 copies of their CD, which features 11 songs.

Currently, the group is gearing up for their upcoming big spring concert, where they will be performing about 16 songs.

“I’m going to continue performing with Take It SLO as long as I’m here. I love it. It’s defining my college life. It’s a big part of my life,” Lawrence said.
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Disney takes clue from WALL-E, seeks to cut waste

The Walt Disney Co. said Monday, it sought to halve the greenhouse gases it emits directly from fuel consumption at its theme parks, cruise ships and office and retail spaces.

Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Walt Disney Co., which brought the world the futuristic trash-compacting robot "WALL-E," has decided to create less of a mess itself.

The Burbank-based company said Monday it is seeking to halve the greenhouse gases it emits directly from fuel consumption at its theme parks, cruise ships and office and retail spaces by 2012 from 2006 levels.

It also set a goal of reducing electricity consumption by 10 percent from 2006 to 2013.

Long-term, the company seeks to produce zero waste and net zero direct greenhouse gas emissions.

The goals were ambitious ones, given that the company is spending $1 billion to expand and redevelop its California Adventure theme park, including a new "Cars" area based on its Pixar Animation Studios movie.

It also plans to construct two new cruise ships, in addition to its current pair, set to hit the seas by 2012. Cruise operations account for nearly half the company's greenhouse gas emissions.

Both Naujoks, senior vice president of environmental affairs, said the goal will create efficiencies and cost savings but could also require investments, such as funding programs such as planting trees to offset emissions.

"In the long term, they're going to help us both with our growth and our environmental goals," Naujoks said.

The company also said for the first time it released figures that show the popularity of menu changes begun in 2006 that, as a default, serve kids meals with apples or other healthy side dishes, and milk, juice or water, instead of the usual french fries and soft drink.

About two-thirds of parents in U.S. parks and more than 95 percent of those in the Hong Kong theme park accepted the healthier choices.

At the Paris theme park, while 85 percent accepted healthier drinks, only 15 percent chose healthier sides instead of fries.

That could be because parents saw the occasion as a treat or because the healthier side dishes weren't as appropriate, said Jennifer Shen Auspolsky, senior vice president of corporate responsibility.

"WALL-E," released last June, depicts an Earth so covered in trash that it has been abandoned by humans who have grown obese and lazy, and the futuristic trash-compacting machine is sent to Earth to clean up.

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The dangers of obsession

I was at a loss when trying to decide what I should write about this week. I feel like I’ve reviewed quite a few superhero comics as of late, probably more than any normal human being could handle, save a handful of dorks (myself included). I finally decided to share my favorite graphic novel: “Blankets,” written and illustrated by Craig Thompson.

“Blankets” is a personal memoir of sorts, remembering Thompson’s childhood and adolescence. It is the story of the brutality of sibling relationships, adolescent alienation from being “different,” first loves and the dangers of obsession.

Now, there are a lot of “indie” graphic novels out there that deal with the same themes as “Blankets,” but more often than not, they come off as shallow or contrived and always with a hint of cynicism. On the other hand, “Blankets” above all else comes off as honest and heartfelt.

“Blankets” is first and foremost a story of high school first loves. That theme alone can seem entirely banal, but interwoven in the story is a much larger concept; obsession. This air of obsession not only manifests itself in Thompson’s love affair, but in his childhood compulsion to draw; a form of escapism, as part of his intense devotion to religion and to alleviate the terrors of adolescent isolation. These obsessions, though good intentioned, often envelop his life but eventually lose their meaning and slowly begin to slip away.

But even though these obsessions seem to drift, they are never completely gone. There is always a relic of that all-too-foreign sentiment that continually lingers. As in the final line of the book, “How satisfying it is to leave a mark on a blank surface. To make a map of my movement, no matter how temporary.”

I am not pretentious enough to classify art into various stages of greatness, from “low” to “high” art. However, if ever I were to do such a thing, Thompson’s artwork in “Blankets” would resoundingly be placed into the high art category. And that isn’t purely in relation to other comics and graphic novels, but in the entirety of art.

Thompson has a phenomenal ability to portray emotions. From anger and terror to joy and rapture, Thompson can flawlessly render emotional sentiment. There are many scenes in this graphic novel that can only be justified as beautiful, as the abstract motion of breath, a heartbeat or the sound of falling snow. Thompson’s work can be almost painfully beautiful.

I know some of you may still be thinking that “Blankets” just sounds like another shallow story about high school. And I know we’ve all been a little jaded by John Hughes movies. But Thompson’s work really transcends those clichés. “Blankets” is art and a graphic novel at its finest.

And hey, maybe carrying around a copy of it will help you impress that artsy girl you’ve had your eye on. No promises, though.
Students should pass fee increase to maintain Cal Poly quality of education

Each of us attending Cal Poly is doing so because we, as individuals, are looking to better our own individual futures. We invest thousands of dollars and hours into our higher education because we believe, as many do, that we will see a worthwhile return on that investment in terms of fulfilling careers and higher salaries. Higher education is a personal choice that yields largely personal benefits, yet at a taxpayer-subsidized public university like ours, the idea of paying more for our own education isn’t always as readily received — even in the midst of a state budget crisis.

The refusal to increase every full-time Cal Poly student’s college based fees by $836 per quarter stems from necessity. For years now, mandates set in place by the California State University System Chancellor’s Office have required Cal Poly to increase its enrollment year over year, yet the CSU’s promise to proportionately increase state funding with enrollment has fallen flat. The result: Cal Poly has a $25 million deficit, less classes, and ever-increasing class sizes. The university is now asking the students themselves to submit an advisory vote to President Warren Baker, indicating whether or not we would approve such an increase.

In other words, the question really comes down to how much we value our education, in terms of real dollars. The referendum puts Cal Poly at a crossroads: we can choose to keep Cal Poly where it is now — as the most prestigious university in the CSU system and one of the best public undergraduate universities in the nation — or we can choose to let a budget crisis bring us down. We can choose to pay a small fraction of our personal future incomes more in order to maintain the high standard of education we currently receive — or we can choose to let class sizes increase, lab equipment become outdated, part-time instructors be laid off and full-time faculty overstretched with teaching more classes than ever before. This vote must be passed out of desperate necessity — we’re in the hole, and there’s no CSU system bailout on the horizon. Each of us attending Cal Poly is doing so because we, as individuals, are looking to better our own individual futures. The university like ours, the idea of paying more for our own education isn’t always as readily received — even in the midst of a state budget crisis.

The bottom line is that Cal Poly has already reached the tipping point. At last night’s State of the Student Address, Cal Poly President Warren Baker said: “You can’t expect us to meet your needs if you can’t provide the support.” Students are being asked to foot the bill for educating themselves, and they should do so.

Compared to other public universities, Cal Poly is a bargain of an education — even if the fee increase passes. Consider that Cal Poly’s annual student fees are $8,943. In comparison, UC Berkeley costs $8,932, UC Davis $9,484, UC Irvine $8,775 and UCLA $8,310. Looking at private universities in California reveals even more of a disparity:Stanford University educates students for $63,000, Cal Tech $35,000 and the University of San Diego $39,000.

Graduating seniors who are reluctant to cast a vote should consider the sacrifice students have made in order to fund their education — even if the fee increase passes, that’s a very closely tied to the school’s reputation. Employers won’t think back on what Cal Poly “used to be” but back when it had enough funding; they’ll look at the reputation of the school at that time and judge your degree accordingly. Think of what you’re leaving behind when you graduate here. Do future students deserve the same quality of education you received from this university, or should they settle for a lesser version of Cal Poly?

There are of course larger lessons to be learned here about government bureaucracy and misallocation of resources at the state level. We are, in effect, being asked to pay more to maintain the same level of education we currently have. And if this referendum does pass, university administrators should take it with a very stern warning: We the students are entrusting you with our hard-earned money, and we expect you to spend it wisely. Please, take a stand against the Chancellor’s Office and let them know that Cal Poly will not be pushed around; this referendum’s passage would not be a sanction for them to mandate increasing enrollment even more. That is, after all, one of the biggest reasons we are in the financial trouble we are now in.

Cal Poly needs to spend its money like it’s poor — watching every penny and negotiating as much as possible — because it is. Don’t think that, like other bailouts, our money (if given) will come without some strings attached. There must be more student oversight of how CBFs are distributed, regardless of whether this increase passes. CBF committees were created with the ideology that students would make the majority of the decisions.

The university has said this increase is necessary to keep Cal Poly at its high standards. That may be so, but students should be proactive in determining how their money is spent, from voting on this increase to being on their department’s CBF committee. If it’s our money that saves the university from going in the red, we should have an appropriately larger influence on financial policies.

The decision you are faced with today and tomorrow directly concerns your education and your career. Should you choose to pass this resolution, you, as a student, will make a bold statement, one that tells President Baker that you are willing to invest in Cal Poly because you recognize what a degree from here yields. Vote yes to increase college-based fees. Your vote is an investment in the future you can make, and Cal Poly is still one of the best universities to provide you with that education. Let’s keep it that way.

We can choose to keep Cal Poly where it is now, or we can choose to let a budget crisis bring us down.

Have something to say about CBFs?

Submit a letter to the editor! Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
Be wary of what you read: History is written by those who win

Ideally, history is synonymous with fact. But reality often thrums such a vision. History is frequently misinterpreted, and facts themselves are twisted and confounded.

Successful political leaders throughout the ages have understood that history is a very powerful tool for molding attitudes and behaviors. In today’s climate of general ignorance, retelling history is especially effective and convenient weapon of persuasion. Given the easy success of blatantly erroneous historical accounts, politicians do not even have to trouble themselves with devising clever and slippery shadows of the truth nowadays. Politicians are simply following their natural inclinations, of course, and we ought not be surprised. After all, there is little motivation to adhere to a standard of truth when “we the people” are no longer dutiful or vigilant and much less educated, enough to enforce such a standard.

Among those who are deservedly held to a somewhat higher standard of history telling, that is historians, there is another method for obstructing the truth and that is the suppression of certain facts. I don’t, of course, mean to suggest that this suppression is necessarily willful or malicious; the omission of certain facts is frequently necessary to reduce history into manageable textbooks.

Suffice it to say that history is inevitably shaped and invented according to the set of facts which our perspective allows us to perceive. And in these limitations affect recorded history, so the fact left unrecorded and behavior.

Consider for example what is probably the single most important episode in our nation’s history, our revolution. Here, many different versions of the truth compete for center stage due to the abundant political rewards that may be achieved by distorting and altering the story of our nation’s birth.

Mainstream history frequently incorporates many of these errors. Take the following statement: Colonial Americans revolted against the British crown in order to acquire liberty and certain associated rights. This is a widely accepted notion that would not arouse much argument if brought before a general, or even an educated, audience.

The tale that is often painted for students is one in which colonial Americans were beawed and badgered by the cruel British until, finally, the proverbial back was broken with one last monstrous offense which only the British could conceive, a tax on tea. But the historical reality, which records attest, is that the early Americans were fighting not to acquire, but rather to preserve and enlarge the freedoms they already possessed.

The fact that a revolution did occur and that a quibble as slight as the tea tax could be interpreted as such an affront attains to an attitude among early Americans which is strikingly absent today. Early Americans were remarkably selfish and protective of their liberties, we, by contrast, can hardly recall those enumerated in our Bill of Rights.

I stress the contrast between the two historical interpretations for this reason. The prevailing interpretation is one which can (and is) easily be construed to support the notion that revolutions need not arise until a people feel properly pokicked, pinched andreddled. But, in many ways, the early Americans were in a far less servile and sodden state than we find ourselves in today. Unlike us, they were keenly aware of their liberties and attentive to even minor trespasses on their individual rights.

Ample justification exists for perpetuating the first historical interpretation. After all, if Americans today were aware of how relatively minor were the grievances that impelled their forefathers to rise in opposition to the world’s greatest power, how much more ready might we be to do the same today, having suffered multiple abuses of a much larger scale at the hands of our own government.

But such an understanding would greatly imperil our present emperors and would readily jeopardize the teaching positions of those historians who are in the emperors’ employ as part of our government-created and supported education system, so don’t hold your breath.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarians Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

More transparency needed for student fee vote

Perhaps the administration would have seen greater attendance at their forum had they considered more than their own personal schedules when planning the event. I, for one, would have loved to attend, but with the only campus-wide forum occurring between 3 and 4 p.m. on a Monday, it took only one class conflict to keep 30 percent of the potential audience for the forum, maybe the planners would have considered a 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. time slot, where it would have generally required two class conflicts to completely block being able to attend. Even attending half of such event would have been better than not being able to attend at all.

In regards to administrative salaries, I was appalled to hear the defense of President Baker’s salary was to compare his position to the salaries of CEOs in the private sector. As far as I’m concerned, if salary is an issue, then he is welcome to leave and find himself a well-paying company to lead. I want someone heading our school who is here because he is passionate about the students he is serving. Also, concerning the salaries of CEOs in the private sector, we are not all aware that the CEOs of General Motors and Chrysler have agreed to a $1 salary while receiving government aid. In addition, Steve Jobs has been on a $1 salary for several years, even before the recent economic trouble. I’m not saying the same of President Baker, but to say that he takes a salary of $328,000 with allowances over $60,000 to “do public service”? I would rather see a new faculty hired with money saved from administration cuts than hear another lame justification about how Baker’s salary is “peanuts” compared to top CEOs.

I attended the engineering forum for information on the proposed fee increase. My conclusion was that, although hard to justify financially for myself, the best thing for Cal Poly’s engineering program is to pass the fee increase. I feel like my department is being honest and level-headed about the situation, and that the money will be spent responsibly on maintaining the quality of education I expected to receive by coming to Cal Poly. However, I have heard rumors from other departments basically threatenin­ning to drop classes across the board if the initiative is not passed. Also, even though I feel my department is responsible, I don’t know that I can say the same about the university as a whole. I want to act in the best interest of my department, but is the uni­versity administration acting with the same intentions?

Let me make my point: The recent news about the pending UU Plaza renovation shocked me given the current economic situation we are facing. I understood that a committee was probably formed years ago to evaluate renovation, and the money was gathered to make the project happen, and that all of that probably happened before the economy began to collapse, but do we really need to follow through with the plans that have been made? Is it impossible to step back and re-evaluate how reasonable the proposal is given our current conditions? Personally, I would much rather see the $4.4 million spent on instructors and labs, things that contribute to the education of the students, rather than a new shape of concrete near the UU.

Also, I have heard about the additional course shortages that will likely occur if this fee does not pass, but I have not heard any suggestions that freshman enrollment would be scaled back to a sustainable level. It is not our fault that Cal Poly has been ac­cepting more students, and it is not our fault that the state has failed to reimburse Cal Poly for this growth, but shouldn’t the university consider not doing as the state suggests given the state is not fulfilling their promise back to the university?

I am disappointed with what I have seen from the university as a whole. Maybe it is just the lack of transparency, or information, but I just don’t always feel like the best decisions are made campus-wide.

Don’t Tread on Me

by Jeremy Hicks

I am disappointed with what I have seen from the university as a whole. Maybe it is just the lack of transparency, or information, but I just don’t always feel like the best decisions are made campus-wide.
Faith
continued from page 16

Although the Mustangs lost a 51-50 lead and fell 56-52, the audience dwarfed the crowd of 21 who took in the men's team's home game. They might get another shot at the Gauchos after finishing 19-10 — the best mark in the program's Division I history — the Mustangs earned a No. 3 seed to the conference tournament, and open up at home Thursday in Anaheim against an opponent to be determined.

A long time coming
continued from page 16

2005. The 49ers now have Smith under contract for the next three years at a salary more commensurate with his four up-and-down years with the club.

"I don't measure myself in my contract in terms of what I'm making," said Smith, who missed most of the past two seasons with arm injuries. "I've gone through what I've gone through the last couple of years, and being on the field, I guess I've got a different perspective on this game. When it comes to winning games and ensuring the contract, it's anything you do with ego, I just wanted the chance to compete." Smith hasn't been fully healthy since shortly after a promising 2006 season in which he'd backed up for most snap for the 49ers. His shoulder problems, which began with a sack in the 2007 campaign, steered Smith toward the idea of having his arm operated on, and his two shoulder surgeries, including the one last season, have left Smith's arm strength severely limited.

"There won't be a lot of love on the court for either team," the Mustangs' coach Faith Mimnaugh said of a 40-12 run that triggered a 51-40 lead and fell 66-62, the start of 13 unanswered points, the start of 13 unanswered points.

As footage of the loss made its way to the Mustangs' locker room, Mimnaugh could see on the wall, Mimnaugh can see the history — the Mustangs have earned a No. 3 seed to the conference tournament, and open up at home Thursday in Anaheim against an opponent to be determined.

The program's 721 victories, the men's team's 721 victories, have included Division II at UC Santa Barbara. The program's history — the Mustangs have earned a No. 3 seed to the conference tournament, and open up at home Thursday in Anaheim against an opponent to be determined. Smith was looking forward to the post-season games, which he had wanted for so long, and was going to be a great opportunity for him.

As Smith underwent shoulder surgery after the season, but then broke a bone elsewhere in his shoulder last year. He didn't play at all last season, undergoing more surgery in October to clean up his shoulder.

The restructuring contract allows Smith to join the 49ers on Monday for their first preseason team meetings and a minicamp next weekend under Jimmy Raye, San Francisco's fifth offensive coordinator in Smith's five seasons. Smith, who believes his often injured shoulder is healthy enough to suit up for the minicamp, couldn't have participated in the workouts without a new contract because of insurance liabilities.

After Mike Singletary replaced Nolan midway through last season, Smith became more outspoken about his desire to stay in San Francisco. Smith has passed for 4,679 yards in 32 career games with the 49ers, throwing 19 touchdown passes and 31 interceptions.

"There's definitely a different feeling around the facility with coach Singletary here, and some of the people he's brought in," Smith said. "It's pretty easy to see when you're out here, especially when I think back to my first few years and what was going on out here. Top to bottom, I think we're headed in a better direction. I really feel like we're close, and when you look at last season and what happened with Arizona, it's just a good example of what can happen.

The 49ers' pursuit of free agent quarterback Kurt Warner was rebuffed last week, Smith is expected to head into training camp in competition for the starting job with Shaun Hill, who is 7-3 as a starter over the past two seasons. San Francisco also signed veteran quarterback Damon Huard to a free-agent contract.

Smith is looking forward to the friendly competition with Hill, who served as a groomsman in Smith's wedding Feb. 21 in San Francisco. "Shaun has played well, and we're really good friends," Smith said. "He's done a really good job in there, that's obvious. I'm glad it's against Shaun. He's a great guy. I can't think of a better guy to compete with. Shaun and me, it'll all be on the table."
Mimnaugh reflects on past, present and future

Donovan Aird
SPECIAL TO MUSTANG DAILY

California dreaming

Time is something Mimnaugh has had.

From 1997-98 through last season, Mimnaugh went 141-185 and didn’t put an overall winning record in any of those 11 seasons at Cal Poly. But she has the key to the backstop for final decisions, and blame comes my way,” she says. After Evansville, she weighed her options and discovered Cal Poly, where she started as an assistant to Karen Booker in June 1994, making her the first woman to do so. She followed her then as a head coach at Evansville, (according to the Sacramento Bee state prep database, she now makes $640,250 a year.)

“T knew there were flowers, like surrendering 18 unanswered points in the first two minutes of a 71-69 loss to Cal in 2001, or, for reported underage drinking, suspending six players a day before the start of the 2003-04 conference tournament, which the Mustangs quickly exited with an opening-round loss.

“God’s in control of my future, and I’m always just going to give it my absolute best,” Mimnaugh says.

Both Mimnaugh and Cone say she has another season after this one.

The time is now

In her office, Mimnaugh points to Mustangs, team photos from each of the past 11 years like an NBA historian playing a game of ‘What if?’ about Bill Walton. ‘The time is now,”’ Mimnaugh concludes, “to get started. She was somewhat reserved, but this year, she says, Cal Poly athletic director Allison Cone, one of just 29 female athletic directors among Division I comprised of more than 300 schools. ‘She’s a person of great integrity. She was a good technician of the game. She’s an extremely hard worker,” Mimnaugh says.

Mimnaugh, one of the 13-coach department’s three female ands, signed a two-year extension heading into the 2007-08 season.

It came after peaks, such as a 76-70 win in 2001 that snapped the 11-game winning streak of UC Santa Barbara (which finished ninth in the previous year’s AP poll) and prompted the Santa Barbara News Press to proclaim, “The nearby Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant has never produced this much electricity in one game before.”

Or in 2006, a comeback from an 11-point halftime deficit at the hands of Oregon State in win 64-63 sealed the program’s first victory over a Pac-10 school since 1978.

A die-hard University of Notre Dame fan, like surrendering 18 unanswered points in the first two minutes of a 71-69 loss to Cal in 2001, or, for reported underage drinking, suspending six players a day before the start of the 2003-04 conference tournament, which the Mustangs quickly exited with an opening-round loss.

“God’s in control of my future, and I’m always just going to give it my absolute best,” Mimnaugh says.

Both Mimnaugh and Cone say she has another season after this one.

Beyond the numbers, she says she doesn’t publicly comment on coaches’ job statuses in the middle of the season, but did add, “Certainly, there’s been progress. This year, many people special. There’s significant talent there. They’re playing together as a team. Very good things are happening in the program right now.”

Mustangs continue to roll

softball

GAME 1: CAL POLY 3, PROVIDENCE 1
GAME 2: CAL POLY 12, PROVIDENCE 1 (5)

The Cal Poly softball team won its ninth and tenth consecutive games sweeping a doubleheader against Providence on Tuesday at Bob Jam- son Field.

Sophomore pitcher Anna Cahn continued her stellar play with a four-hit complete game in the early game with the Friars (3-12).

With Providence leading by a run midway through the third inning, the Mustangs (16-6) tied the game after a leadoff triple by senior center fielder Jessica Rogers was followed by an RBI single from freshman right fielder Nora Sobrak.

The Mustangs would capitalize on an error in the fifth inning to score the final two runs of the contest.

Cahn would shut down Providence for the remainder of the game, scattering four hits while striking out five. She lowered her ERA to 1.46 in the win.

In the second game of the day, Cal Poly never let the frustrated Friars into the game, scoring seven runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to close the door.

Junior first baseman Krysten Cary homered twice for the Mustang, hitting a two-run shot in the third and a solo homerun in the fourth.

Caith, who participated in the second game as designated player, and senior shortstop Melissa Pera also homered for the Mustangs.

Pera finished with two hits and four RBIs for Cal Poly.

The Mustangs have the next week off as they prepare to host the Nor­ ro­m­ento State-hosted Capital Classic starting March 21.

baseball

NO. 11 PEPPERDINE 16, NO. 17 CAL POLY 6

Starting his first collegiate game after only having one inning of expe­ ri­ence, Cal Poly freshman pitcher Jeff Johnson (0-1) was roughed up for six runs in three innings. Johnson walked four and struck out two in the loss.

Senior closethrower  B.J. Kell (1-0) pitched the final four innings to close the door with three strikeouts.

The Mustangs were out-hit 18-7 as Pepperdine took advantage of the Mustangs’ errors, six total, to score their 16 runs.

Although Cal Poly allowed 12 runs in the loss, 11 of them came in the third inning. The Mustangs could only muster five hits while being struck out nine times.

“Johnson will be fine, he just needs to throw more strikes,” Mimnaugh said.

With her hands dead-seriously clasped at a Feb. 9 news conference, five days before the 15-10 season loss to Pepperdine, Mimnaugh turned her attention from reporter to reporter, ready for anything. She hardly blinked at the questions came, seemingly wanting to stare into the world an understanding of how important the week was to them.

Had she ever been involved in this big of a regular­ season game?

“No, the said of the Coach, the smartest of four

Niners keep Smith with restructured contract

Associated Press

Alex Smith, shown above during preseason workouts last year, will take a big paycut to remain with the San Francisco 49ers this season.

Greg Beacham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Alex Smith easily could have started over with another team. Instead, he's deter­ mined to finish what he started in San Francisco.

The former No. 1 pick is stay­

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Alex Smith easily could have started over with another team. Instead, he's deter­mined to finish what he started in San Francisco.

The former No. 1 pick is stay­ing with the 49ers after agreeing Tuesday to a restructured con­tract sharply reducing his base salary.

Smith was due to make nearly $16 million in the upcoming sea­son under the deal he signed in

see Smith, page 15