Off the straight and narrow
Exploring Cal Poly's spectrum of sexuality

Genevieve Loggins

Adjusting to Cal Poly can be challenging for new students, but those whose sexual identity falls outside the heterosexual sphere often have even more hurdles to overcome.

When history senior Jay Ledbetter walked into an elective course, it didn’t matter whether the professor refers to Ledbetter as a he or a she, the student prefers to be referred to in both.

“I use both he and she interchangeably, and I don’t care anybody because I like both. I don’t want one or the other, but it’s hard when people don’t know what to use,” Ledbetter said. “Maybe I really don’t care when you call me, most people switch all the time and I never correct them.”

Ledbetter came to Cal Poly as a transfer student, and by the end of the first quarter, came out as a lesbian. About a year later, the student realized that her gender identity was fluid, and began identifying as a transgender or gender queer person.

“Basically, I told everyone that I knew I was a lesbian, and the more people that knew, the better,” Ledbetter said. “Once I was out, I was fine not hiding it, but my gender identity was something I needed to understand.”

When Anthony Kust came to Cal Poly as a freshman, he found that adjusting to college life was almost like starting all over again. The Pride Center helped him with coming out and acted as a place for acceptance.

“I wasn’t in high school, so coming to college made it interesting,” Rust said.

Ledbetter quickly became involved in Cal Poly’s Pride Center, an organization in Student Life and Leadership whose aim is to support and raise awareness about issues of diversity and inclusion on campus.

“Once students become comfortable with their sexuality, the Pride Center helps in the beginning stages of coming out and adjusting to a new LGBT lifestyle. However, before that establishment is made, people often feel lost and hopeless,” Ledbetter said.

“Cal Poly is good once you have that queer connection, for a lot of students it can be a scary place, and a very homophobic space,” she said. “I don’t know whether we turn on campus, I know at the queer community, and how to handle coming out, PRISM, a project Ledbetter has been working on for two years, acts as a counseling tool to deal with coming out issues.

“Some people who have been out in high school come to college and it makes them feel like they’re back in the closet,” Ledbetter said.

She started PRISM as a side project in the Pride Center as a place for students to feel comfortable with expressing their identities. When students find a community they’re comfortable in, a burden is lifted.

Tom Raum

LONDON (AP) — Desperate but divided on ways to lift their nations from economic misery, world leaders converged for a big summit, small hopes; leaders meet on economy.

Fromm acknowledged that there have been few examples of international gains in times of crisis. “The depression was made much better than from text books.”

Another way Cal Poly continues to expand its programming is by hosting the Western Regional queer conference next February. The conference will hold workshops with various events, speakers and performances put on by students, graduate students and members of the community.

Ledbetter said, “The Pride Center is moving onto the second floor of the UU, which I think helps send a better message to other students on campus.” Rust said.

“Off the straight and narrow” is supported by the Student Life and Leadership Office and the University Lectures and Events Office.

Rust is a member of the speaker’s bureau and active in PRISM, helping students seek out their identity and counseling services.

Cal Poly continues to make the experience of being an LGBT student more acceptable, and there are incredible amounts of support from the community, Ledbetter said.

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One global change is being acknowledged as important. “The PRISM conference is helping — an idea that holds little interest for Europeans wary about debt.”

Obama plans a round of meetings with leaders on Wednesday, including Queen Elizabeth II, summit host British Prime Minister
Summit
continued from page 1
Gordon Brown and the presidents of Russia and China.
The world economy is in far worse shape than when the group
of rich and developing countries last met in November and set lofty
goals for international cooperation.
Trade is deteriorating, pro-
tec tionism is on the march and joblessness is rising. Street dem-
On the page:
ostrations have increased, and widespread protests are expected in
London this week.
Brown, the host, had initially trumpeted the gathering as "a new
Bretton Woods — a new financial
architecture for the years ahead."
But the meeting was shaping up as
bearing little similarity to the 1944
conference in New Hampshire
where the winners of World War II gathered to set postwar global
monetary and financial order.
Brown's spokesman said the prime minister had spoken brief-
ly by telephone on Tuesday with
Obama, who was on Air Force One.
"It's an opportunity for both of
them to take stock of where we were," Brown's spokesman Michael
Ellman said.
World Bank President Rob-
ert Zoellick called for the G20 to
back a $50 billion liquidity fund to
keep global trade moving. In rich
countries, he said, "people talk of
bonuses or no bonuses. In parts of
Africa, South Asia and Latin Amer-
ica, the struggle is for food or no
food."
London does not have a good
history for successful economic
summits. One held in London in
1933, attended by more than 2,000
world leaders and financial officials
— although not President Franklin
D. Roosevelt — met for six weeks
and then gave up.
Still, most leaders were upbeat
Tuesday as they headed to Lon-
don.
"It is important and necessary
for the summit to take credible de-
cisions which will help to halt and
reverse the current slowdown and
to instil a sense of confidence in
the global economy," said Indian
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
Summit partners will meet for
dinner on Wednesday evening,
then hold a business meeting on
Thursday.
A draft of the communiqué cir-
culating ahead of the meeting sug-
gested that global leaders will em-
brace stimulus spending totaling
about $2 trillion. But that includes
a number of measures already an-
nounced.
Leaders of European countries,
led by Germany's Angela Merkel,
continued to resist calls for more
stimulus and for printing money as
the U.S. Federal Reserve and the
Bank of England have done to try
to jump-start a recovery.
"The gravity of the current ex-
waniation is on the mareli and
the global economy," said Indian
Finance Minister P. Chidambaram.
At the same meeting, Chidambaram
will have a meeting with the
Chinese Finance Minister.
Secretary Robert Gibbs emphasized
Obama's meeting with Hu is
likely to touch on recent Chinese
concern about the safety of its mil-
Liard holdings in U.S. Treasury bonds,
given dollar-eroding U.S. stimulus
programs. China surpassed Japan
last year as the largest holder of U.S.
debt, and any Chinese flight away
from those investments would rock
global markets.
On the way to Europe, Obama
aided make clear expectations have
been lowered.
Instead of focusing on the ad-
dditional stimulus spending the U.S.
had sought, White House press sec-
try Robert Gibbs emphasized
what already has been accom-
lished. G20 nations have spent so
far an amount equal to 1.8 percent
of their collective gross domestic
product, he said, calling that "a sig-
nificant commitment."
Gibbs also said he expects a joint
pledge that the leaders will act fur-
ther if developments warrant, and
he said that commitment satisfies
Obama. He also toured new regu-
larly proposals and the intention
to boost contributions to the IMF.

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Workers say Obama treated autos worse than Wall St.

Jeff Karoub

Many assembly line auto workers reacted with skepticism and anger Monday to the Obama administration's tough tactics, which stoked long-simmering feelings that the people who put the country on wheels get treated differently than the wizards of Wall Street.

"It's the age-old Wall Street vs. Main Street smackdown again," said Brian Fredline, president of UAW Local 602 at a plant near Lansing. "You have all kinds of funding available to banks that are apparently too big to fail, but they're also too big to be responsible."

But when it comes to auto manufacturing and middle-class jobs and people that don't matter on Wall Street, there are certainly different standards that we have to meet — higher standards — than the financials. That is a double standard that exists and it's unfair," Fredline said.

Many workers — not generally known for their affection toward executives — even sympathized with Rick Wagoner, who was forced to step down as chief executive of General Motors Corp. He was by turns called a "sacrificial lamb," "scapegoat" and "fall guy."

"We knew someone was going to have to take the proverbial bullet, and it would have made it a lot easier to accept that the CEO of the banks also been required to give up their jobs," said Jim Graham, president of a union local in Lordstown, Ohio, where GM produces the Cobalt and Pontiac G5 fuel-efficient cars.

While CEO oustings haven't been widespread among the banking industry, the government did in September reserve the right to remove senior management at American International Group Inc. as part of the agreement to give the insurer $85 billion in emergency aid. AIG Chief Executive Robert Willumstad stepped down as part of that company's bailout package, and the government hand-picked his successor.

Also, banks don't have the union and legacy costs that the automakers do, which make their products more costly versus foreign rivals.

President Barack Obama said he was "absolutely committed" to the survival of a domestic auto industry that can compete internationally. He raised the possibility of controlled bankruptcy for one or both of the troubled automakers.

Obama said the administration will offer GM "adequate working capital" during the next 60 days to produce an acceptable reorganization plan. The government gave Chrysler LLC 30 days to overcome hurdles to a merger with Fiat SpA, the Italian automaker.

Many workers say the government hasn't dictated such terms to insurance giant AIG or the banks in which it's taken an ownership stake. Obama's actions come amid public outrage over bonuses paid to business leaders and AIG executives.

"To see the very people that drove this economy into the ground be rewarded through bonuses while receiving tax dollars is just galling," said Dan Muloney, a machine repairman at auto supplier Delphi Corp.'s plant in Rochester, N.Y., and a union local president. "In light of that, the administration is taking it out, I believe, on the automobile sector."

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Pistachio warning could signal food safety shift

Workers at Setton International Foods Inc. head back to work after a break Tuesday in Terra Bella, Calif. The company at the center of a nationwide pistachio recall says it believes the salmonella contamination is likely not from a human or animal source inside their plant.

Garance Burke
Associated Press

It could take weeks before health officials know exactly which pistachio products may be tainted with Salmonella enterica. The alert issued a sweeping warning to avoid eating the nuts or foods containing them.

The move appears to indicate a shift in how the government handles food-safety issues—forsaken warning until contaminated foods surface one-by-one and roving that more people are linked to the problem right away, even if the message is vague.

Officials wouldn't say if the approach was in response to any perceived mishandling of the massive recent recall that started last year only that they're trying to keep people from getting sick in new detail-surface down the California plant at the center of the pistachio scare.

What's different here is that we are acting proactive and are putting out a broad message with the goal of trying to minimize the likelihood of consumer exposure," said Dr. David Acheson, FDA's assistant commissioner for food safety. "This is the logical advice to consumers is to say: 'OK, consumers, put pistachios on hold while we work this out. We don't want you exposed, we don't want you getting salmonella.'"

Acheson said management corrected the problems that day, and said staff was processing pistachios to giants of the food industry—such as Kraft foods Inc., as well as 36 wholesalers across the country.

"We care about our business and our customers greatly," said Mcrae Rowland, an avocado pistachio eater in Aptos, Calif.

"It's good,"

Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, the president's new acting commissioner who started Monday, made it clear staff needed to move quickly. Acheson said the agency announced Monday that Setton Pistachios of Terra Bella Inc., the second-largest pistachio producer in the nation, recalled more than 2 million pounds of its roasted pistachios.

Suspect nuts were shipped as far away as Nevada and Mexico, Acheson said Monday. One week after authorities first learned of the problem, they still had a little idea what products were at risk, he said.

As federal health inspectors take samples inside the plant and try to identify a Salmonella source, a whole range of products from nut bars to ice cream and cake mixes remain in shelves on grocery store shelves.

Company officials said Tuesday they didn't think that four previous pistachios may have been contaminated by Salmonella-tainted raw nuts they were processed with at the hauling facility.

Roasting is supposed to kill the bacteria in nuts. But problems can occur if the roasting is not done correctly or if roasted nuts are re-exposed to bacteria.

The firm sells its California-grown pistachios to giants of the food industry—such as Kraft foods Inc., as well as 36 wholesalers across the country.

"OK, we're about to run a business and our customers greatly," said Lee Cohen, the production manager for Setton International Foods Inc., sister company to Setton Pistachios. "We've never had an illness complaint before but obviously this affects the whole industry. It's not good."

California supplies 95.99 percent of the U.S. pistachio market, according to the California Pistachio Board.

"What's scary is that it's after the nuts have been processed that this stuff is getting into it, so it's really makes you wonder," said Maria Rosal, an avocado pistachio eater in Aptos, Fla.

The FDA learned about the problem March 24, when Kraft notified the agency that routine product testing had detected Salmonella in roasted pistachios. Kraft and the Georgia Nut Co. recalled their Back to Nature Nantucket Blend trail mix into the next day and expanded the recall to include any Planters and Back to Nature products that contain pistachios Tuesday.

Kraft spokesperson Laurie Guarini said her company's auditors visited the plant early last week, and observed employee practices where raw and roasted nuts were not adequately segregated and that could explain the spoilage contamination.

She said she didn't know specifically what they saw.

Federal inspectors last visited the plant in 2003, and the California Department of Public Health was there last year, Acheson said. Federal officials made note of several problems—an open door into one of the nut rooms, and an employee wearing street clothes that weren't adequately covered—but nothing that posed a food safety threat, he said.

Acheson said management corrected the problems that day, and said he did not have access to California inspectors' records.

Cohen said the plant had never had an illness complaint, followed industry health guidelines and had its huge metal silos and warehouse inspected regularly, but refused to provide additional details or records.

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When future employers ask if you aggressively seek out new opportunities, prawning isn't what they mean.

Auto
continued from page 5

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm told Obama's moves "a bit of tough love," yet recognized a disconnect between the financial and auto industries.

"I do think that there has been a different look at those who manufacture than those who make money by flipping paper and I'm hopeful that the financial industries get as tough a scrutiny as the auto industry. He did say speaking after an event Monday in Macomb County's Chiton Township, about 20 miles northeast of Detroit.

Despite Granholm's criticism and what many workers see as the president's unduly harsh treatment, Obama's actions might not have a lasting effect on voters.

"It will be accepted, grudgingly perhaps, but accepted by anybody and everybody with a brain in their head," said Bill Ballenger, editor of a Michigan political newsletter and a former Republican state lawmaker.

Still, Bill Rastetter of Public Sector Consultants, a Lansing-based nonprofit think tank, said Obama's actions carry some risk.

"I think this could have some impact four years from now if the state's economy doesn't begin to turn around," he said. Michigan's unemployment rate rose to 12 percent in February, marking the eighth straight month increase.

Workers watched Obama on large-screen TVs in the lobby bar of a hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center, home to GM's headquarters. Several wearing GM badges declined to comment afterward, but one man whose fortunes are nearly as tied to GM as its employees expressed hope for the future of the company and industry.

"It's definitely a move in the right direction," said Tony Konis, who owns a restaurant and real estate development firm in the building. "Something has to happen."

In Ottawa, Granholm agreed that Washington just might get it right — if only because the stakes are too high to fail.
I don't have Internet so I came to use the Internet to do some research for my architecture project and Skype with my parents. -Paul Diaz, architecture sophomore

I laid out in the front of Yosemite Hall and read a book for nutrition and went to the gym. -Heather Donovan, nutrition freshman

I went to Pismo and played volleyball, barbecued and visited with friends. -Zachary Dietz, philosophy senior

I spent it at the beach and came to work at Julian's Cafe. -Shannon Allen, animal science senior

Several plaques on the firm's office walls showed the firm won industry awards for food safety excellence. No illness have been tied to contaminated pistachios. Two people called the FDA complaining of gastrointestinal illness that could be associated with the nuts, but the link hasn't been confirmed, Achesson said. While consumer advocates praised the government's swift action, they said the recall reflects the need for more oversight in the entire food production process, said Jeff Levy, executive director of Trust for America's Health.

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You passed your final. Will you pass the Ultimate Test?
CT scan reveals hidden face under Nefertiti bust

Patrick McGroarty

BERLIN — Researchers in Germany have used a modern medical procedure to uncover a secret within one of ancient Egypt’s most treasured artworks — the bust of Nefertiti has two faces.

A team led by Dr. Alexander Huppertz, director of the Imaging Science Institute at Berlin’s Charite hospital and medical school, discovered a detailed stone carving that differs from the external stucco face when they performed a computed tomography, or CT, scan on the bust.

The findings, published Tuesday in the monthly journal Radiology, are the first to show that the stone core of the statue is a highly detailed sculpture of the queen, Huppertz said.

“Until we did this scan, how deep the stucco was and whether a second face was underneath it was unknown,” he said. “The hypothesis was that the stone underneath was just a support.”

The differences between the faces, though slight, creases at the corners of the mouth, a bump on the nose of the stone version, suggest to Huppertz that someone expressly ordered the adjustments between stone and stucco when royal sculptors immortalized the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten 3,300 years ago.

“Changes were made, but some of them are positive, others are negative,” Huppertz said.

John H. Taylor, a curator for Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum in London, said the scan raises interesting questions about why the features were adjusted, but that answers will probably remain elusive.

“Changes were made, but some of them are positive, others are negative,” Huppertz said.

“The findings are particularly significant for the information they shed on the constructional process and the subsurface condition of the bust, which will be of value in ensuring its long-term survival in good condition,” Taylor said.

The bust underwent a similar CT scan in 1992. But the more primitive scanner used then only generated cross sections of the statue every 1.5 millimeters, not enough detail, Huppertz said, to reveal the subtlety of the carving hidden just 1-2 millimeters under the stucco.

Egyptologist Ludwig Borchardt discovered the bust in 1912 and added it to Berlin’s Egyptian collection on Museum Island, a cluster of five neoclassical art halls that make up one of the city’s most familiar landmarks.

Currently on display at the Altes Museum, the bust will move next door when the Neues Museum reopens in October after a lengthy restoration by British architect David Chipperfield.

In 2007, Wildung denied a request from Egypt’s antiquities chief to borrow the bust for an exhibition, saying it was too fragile to transport. Huppertz said the results of his scan added credence to that claim.

Taylor, the British Museum curator, said the better understanding of the bust’s structure will also help preserve it.

“The findings are particularly significant for the information they shed on the constructional process and the subsurface condition of the bust, which will be of value in ensuring its long-term survival in good condition,” Taylor said.
Twitter could be the demise of tabloid magazines

Candid photos, home-made video, details of their personal lives—what more could celebrity-crazed America want from their favorite stars? And even better, all that voyeuristic content is being produced by the celebrities themselves, posted to the Internet instantaneously.

With the publishing-made-easy format of the social network, Twitter gives celebrities their own voices and the ability to connect directly with their fans — instantly and whenever they want.

Back up, what is it? Twitter is a micro-blogging Web site. Unlike Facebook or Myspace, there are no photo albums or walls, just 140 character status updates that can be made from the web or a cell phone. It’s painfully simple, but highly effective.

Once you sign up for Twitter, you can “follow” other people. You don’t have to know them personally, you just have to be interested in what those people are talking about. Twitter is all about the conversation.

Celebrities on Twitter By using Twitter, celebrities don’t have to go through a public relations person or hold a press conference or a backstage event to talk to fans or clear up rumors. Celebrities can just be themselves and say what’s on their minds.

And that’s just what they do. "You have two choices on a boat rocking in rough seas," musician-songwriter John Mayer tweeted Monday evening while traveling. "Think about getting sick or play Van Halen and pretend it’s an amusement park ride."

Mayer twitters so frequently that it cost him his relationship with Jennifer Aniston (a non-twitterer), but that’s another column in and of itself.

Other stars in the Twitterverse are Ashton Kutcher and his wife Demi Moore, F-Diddy, Jimmy Fallon, Shaquille O’Neal, Lance Armstrong and Ellen Degeneres, just to name a few of the most popular.

Authentic vs. ghost twitterers First we need to make a distinction. There’s a difference between true celebrity Twitterers and celebrities who hire public relations staff to update their Twitter (and you can always tell the difference). All of the aforementioned twitterers update their own accounts from their computers and cell phones.

Britney Spears and Barack Obama are examples of famous people who don’t maintain their own accounts.

"Make sure you guys vote for Britney in Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people!" tweeted her manager, Adam Leber, last week.

Spears’ account is updated very infrequently and by people other than herself, thus eliminating the freedom factor. It’s far less interesting than authentic twitterers who let us into their minds and lives without the oversight of managers.

How celebs are connecting to their fans see Twitter, page 8
So I figured that it is a new quarter and it's time for me to do something new: Review a Marvel comic. For all of you Marvel comics fans out there I'm sure, but most of the comics that Marvel puts out are, well, crap. I understand the appeal of big-name heroes, like Captain America, Spiderman, and the like, but when you get right down to it, modern Marvel comics have been plagued by awful writing. Marvel isn't alone in this endeavor, but it seems to be the rule rather than the exception for Marvel comics as of late. I mean, how many X-Men titles can you possibly have at once? And don't even get me started about the recent universe-wide event, "Secret Invasion."

However I have to admit, I've been a big fan of Marvel's re-examination of an oft-forgotten character dating back to superhero comics' weaker years, the '70s and '80s, that of Moon Knight.

Moon Knight appears to be a direct knockoff of DC's greatest detective, Batman. Like Batman, Moon Knight fights crime at night, uses an array of gadgets, like the all too similar moon shaped "butarangs," has a secret lair under his mansion at night, and even has his own personal demons in Marvel's recent comic. But there are some immense differences between Moon Knight and Batman that set him apart like his origin. Prior to Moon Knight's hero days, he was an ex-military mercenary, working for men without a conscience. On his last such mission, he would-be Moon Knight, whose real name is Marc Spector, refused to bow to the whims of his would-be employers Bushman, and was murdered in an Egyptian tomb of the god Khonshu, the god of Vengeance. Eying to the tomb, Khonshu offered Spector a second chance at life, his spirit in this world, at the price of exacting his vengeance upon evil men.

Thus Moon Knight is a moral quandary. To keep the blessing of Khonshu, he must kill evil men, but in doing so he questions the justice of his own actions. And the questions continue. Is Marc Spector truly speaking to a long-forgotten Egyptian god of vengeance, or is he merely mad? Are the alter-egos Spector has created beneficial to his battles against evil, or are they helping him lose his grasp on reality? Can Moon Knight find the gap between his command to kill evil men, and his own moral concerns.

If you can probably see, Moon Knight is not just a crappy Batman, but a glimpse into the human psyche. I was truly astonished by this when I first picked up issue No. 1 of the new Moon Knight series back in 2006. I was even more taken aback when I picked up the collected issues of the first Moon Knight series, and realized how good they were. When Marvel and DC were plagued with vulgarities, anti-drug propaganda and horrible plot lines.

If you like me and have a grudge against recent Marvel comics, or just want to read something a little different than the typical superhero story, where villains get punched in the face over and over, then pick up a copy of collected Moon Knight stories, either "Moon Knight Volume 1" or "Moon Knight The Bottom." You won't be disappointed. Well, unless you think comics are dumb. Then you might be.

Jon Monteth is a history student and Mustang Daily's comic book columnist.

Twitter continued from page 7

Katie Tamse, a student in Maryland, recently received a custom-made Twitter background from Mayer himself.

"I am looking for a person who can design a Twitter page for me," Mayer tweeted. "Best reply wins a hard-drawn, scanned and e-mailed background for their page."

Tamse's winning response: "I should win because I wrote a three-page paper based (off) something you said about iPods!"

Shortly after Mayer announced that Tamse was the winner, he asked her via Twitter to tell him more about herself so he could incorporate personal elements into the art. In no other medium would a celebrity be able to interact with fans so directly and easily. And he's not only doing it in the cyber world.

Last week, Mayer posted a photo of his friend and his brother on Twitter with an address and said the first two to find them get free tickets to his Mayercraft concert — including backstage access. The two winners had their photos taken by Mayer and posted to his Twitter, with Mayer tweeting: "What it means for tablets: There's a whole new relationship developing between the computer people and the stars. Although it won't be enough to put the tablets out of business yet, the potential is there. Celebrities are filling the voyeuristic void fans crave without being filtered through the sensationalism of mass media. From their cell phones and within their homes, celebs are posing photos and videos from their lives. The best example of this is Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore, who stream live video from their home via a cell phone camera."

Through Twitter, celebrities are showing us the thoughts that tabloid-based "friend-of-a-friend" sources could never reveal. We're hearing about their lives straight from their mouths (or keyboards, rather).

And then there's the flip side: They're reading about our lives at the same time. Unlike a tabloid that exploits the famous in a one-way channel, Twitter allows for the two-way interaction.

So while the death of the tabloid or TV newscast may seem a bit far-fetched in the distance, it's not impossible. As the Internet continues to evolve, it will only open more doors for the famous and the rest of us to communicate freely.

Laura Rahina is a journalism sophomore and the Mustang Daily online and multimedia editor.
What’s in a degree?

An education by other means could be worth as much

by Jeremy Hicks

Today, let us be bold and venture a question which is almost taboo to our social class: Is the college degree worthwhile?

Many more students are attending college than any time in history. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, almost 70 percent of recent high school graduates matriculate at some college. The reason behind this phenomena is that higher educators hail this as an absolute success, a trend which we should devote our nation’s resources towards accelerating and to be proud of.

But such an endeavor lacks some basic ingredients of common sense. Believe it or not, the college degree holds little utility for most careers. It is best reserved as a special and costly option for those with particularly keen academic appetites or those in pursuit of careers requiring years of rigorous specialization, like medicine.

For the rest of us, those of average intelligence, average aspirations, and fate to toil in average careers, the college degree is a bit of a waste, to put it mildly. The majority of college graduates will tell you this without hesitation. Their degree has little to no relevance to what they spend their careers doing. Whatever particular knowledge and skills required are generally imparted by the employer himself.

So why make such extraordinary sacrifices, both in time and money, to earn a degree which has little relevance to your future?

Maybe you are an academic purist, here for enlightenment? Splendid. But I have to ask the obvious question. Why do you spend thousands of dollars on an education that could be obtained for free at the library? Perhaps you’re not the most sensible intellectual.

For the rest of you, the great majority of you, you’re here for a very simple reason: to improve your career prospects. You’ve been told that there is an unmistakable correlation between a college degree and a successful, comfortable career.

But there is little guarantee, despite all the hollow rhetoric, that a college degree will lead to a certain income bracket, and that guarantee is worth less now than ever. The supply of college graduates has grown by leaps and bounds, but one must ask, do jobs and salaries and rewards these applicants’ credentials just magically appear? Is the creation of college graduates balanced by a similar number of jobs requiring college degrees? An increase in supply does not necessitate a consequent increase in demand.

But that can’t be true! You’ve been told that you live in a "knowledge-based economy." We all know that this unclear phrase is meant to imply that a college degree is a good thing, even a requirement for many jobs, and, as if by some

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don’t be fooled by Liberal Lens arguments

Liberals use the same argument every time teacher performance pay comes up. Either they’re just stupid, or they are getting paid off by the teachers union.

Despite what liberals claim, our state, and our country as a whole, spend a lot of money on education, but sadly money doesn’t fix education by itself. The prime example of this is Washington, D.C., which has one of the highest per-pupil expenditure rates and also has the lowest state public school system in the entire country. The other liberal argument that galls me is that charter schools help widen the gap between rich and poor. It doesn’t matter if other schools fail. The places that charter schools have worked the best are in poor minority areas like Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C. Even if there is a shred of truth to the argument that wealthier areas are helped disproportionally, so what? Shouldn’t every student get the best education he or she can, no matter what? Holding back certain kids in order to help the other is unacceptable. Between good and bad students is a disastrous policy for everyone, no matter what their income level is.

Richard Vinson
business administration junior
Write a letter to the editor!
Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

If I could have any superpower, it would be the ability to turn into a giant, green Hulk!..Good one, Bruce. Mine would be the power to cure diseases to save dying children, but hey, big green Hulk...

Although Dr. Banner initially felt like a jerk, his superpower wish was ultimately granted over that of his pretentious colleague.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0225

Across
1 Base coat (6)
2 "More than I need to know," in modern lingo (6)
3 Turn over (6)
10 U.S.-Mexico border city (9)
14 Games.org (9)
16 Tiny bit (4)
17 Ha nuts for (3)
18 Chart shape (3)
19 Little sucker (5)
20 Component of bronze (6)
21 Puffier Price entered (5)
24 Big lug (3)
25 Mostly fed animals (6)
26 Ride with runners (4, 4)
28 Zion Church (3)
29 Makes evolutionary changes (6)

Down
1 Indian encountered by Columbus (7)
2 Stand that a speaker might take (7)
3 Randomizing device (7)
4 Burgers on the hood (7)
5 42 Meal on a blanket (7)
6 More than I need to know." (7)
7 Hoof (7)
8 Tiny bit (4, 4, 4)
9 Insatiable (4, 4)
10 Some lazz (4, 4)
11 Randomizing device (7)
12 Some lass (4, 4)
13 Rescue crew, briefly (6)
14 Strategies (4, 4)
15 Aspiring atty's (4)
16 It may need an upgrade (4)
17 Some (4)
18 Boosting (4)
19 Exam (4)
20 One with the inside track at the track? (4)
21 Like a towel (4)
22 Summer cooler (4)
23 Pride for a fellow (4)
24 Ready to serve (4)
25 Res乐观ly (4)
26 John's side to Yoko (4)
27 Make a father of (4)
28 Singe; Vixi (4)
29 Make a fader (4)
30 1970 war film (4)
31 Steps, with "on" (4)
32 Res乐观ly (4)
33 En route (4)
34 Brand of clothing or energy drink (4)
35 Schoolmaster's selection (4)
36 A-Team (4)
37 Like a towel (4)
38 Arena where 37-Down (4)
39 Figgs (4)
40 CD burners (4)
41 Burgers on the hood (4)
42 Star in Ursa Major (4)
43 Even chance (4)
44 Radio no-no (4)
45 Graber's device (4)
46 Resistance units (4)
47 It may need an upgrade (4)
48 What 21- and 31-Down were used: Abbr. (4)
49 Some (4)
50 Construction order (4)
51 Some (4)
52 Checks out Morally (4)
53 Oklahoma tribe (4)
54 Zoya's live (4)
55 Approving art's exam (4)
56 Bonny one (4)
57 Mix (4)
58 Graff's "...by Altar" (4)
59 "...by Altar" (4)

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**Spartans continued from page 12**

...time on the clock, Izso missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Every time he bowed home 100 free throws to remind himself not to let another opportunity slip through his fingers. The young men who play for him learn that lesson early.

"He probably wants more for me than I want for myself," said senior Travis Walton, who's borne the brunt of Izso's tough love for four years. "I love him. I'm pretty sure he loves me the same. We're going to hopefully continue to ride each other." Walton added, "and ride this team."

Truth be told, it's mostly a one-way street, which is why Izso seems perpetually gruff and his voice always hoarse. But he's not afraid to ask for help, either.

Last Monday at 9 a.m., already back on campus after the win over Southern California, Izso made the short walk from a conference room to the visitor library to return the Louisville game tape he had been studying. The Spartans had to beat Kansas in Friday's Midwest Regional semifinal just to get a shot at the Cardinals, but Izso believed in doing his homework early. When he ran into a viewer in the hallway, instead of being embarrassed by the prospect of having to do it all over again, he was uncharacteristically honest.

"Like our chances," he said breezily about a possible matchup against Louisville, the overall No. 1 seed.  

But it was more than a hunch. Izso's team was a very impressive 29-10 overall in the NCAA's at that point, but downright scary at 13-2 in the second round of every round. He

revised the game plan for Louisville several times, including just ahead of Sunday's tip but had no problem selling it to his players.

"One thing he does is stick to his promise," Walton recalled. "He said, 'You get me through Friday, I'll do my best to get you through Sunday.'" The Spartans cracked Louisville's vaunted pressure and minimized turnovers with smart guard play, then sliced up the half-court defense by deploying Goran Suton in the high post as a shooter or passer, depending on where the Cardinals' rotation broke down.

"It was a grind 'em game," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said afterward. "They're probably a little bit better at that style. We couldn't get out on a break as much as we wanted. The tempo was definitely in their favor."

Pitino knew what he was getting into. Leading up to the game, he couldn't have said more flattering things about Izso if he tried. He praised him not just for doing things right on the court, but for the Michigan State program at every turn — subjects Pitino knows plenty about.

Louisville is his sixth head-coaching stop while Izso, who had as many as three assistants from the NBA and other top-college coaches, is still at his first. Soon after taking over from Jud Heathcote, he convinced his first big-name recruit, Mateen Cleaves out of gritty Flint, Mich., to stay home and help build something to rival Kentucky, Kansas, North Carolina and Duke.

Izso kept that promise, too. Every kid that stood behind Izso that year made it to a Final Four. Michigan State can't boast the tradition those programs have, but he's making up ground in a hurry. After Sunday's win, you only had to see him hugging Magic John­son — who won the Spartans' only pre-Izzo title 30 years ago — to know how much he appreciated East Lan­sing's native who was showing up to cheer the current crop on.

College basketball is a better place because Izso is in it for the week. Detroit might be, too. The tough economic times have been reflected in the thrinned-out crowds at nearly every tournament site this year. Until his Spartans made their reservations, predictions that crowds of 72,000 would fill up Ford Field for next weekend's game sound like wishful thinking.

Now, maybe not.

Another Michigan State title, even in front of a packed house, won't be enough to make a dent in Michigan's decades-long slump. You can't stop pride, after all. But if only for a short while, it would make everything else on a less-than-full plate taste just that little bit better.

Jim Liske is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.
**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Athletes bit by comic bug**

Laughter is a well-known remedy for pain and stress, so it's no wonder why Cal Poly athletes across all sporting fields appreciate the release therapy that comedy provides.

Between juggling the pressures of life, school and sports, athletes have little time to themselves, and even less time to ditch the anxiety that comes along with it.

But when they throw on "Pineapple Express," or even just a clip of "Frank the Tank" sneaking down the halls into the gymnasium, everything is suddenly forgotten as laughter ensues.

"Movies like that help me relax before a big game," junior baseball player Adam Fischer said.

Included as a beneficial side-effect of comedic relief is bonding. Many friendships were started because of a shared laugh and some of those laughs were evoked because of a hilarious quotation. Some of the most recognized and enacted lines come from comedic giant Will Ferrell. Senseless ramblings like, "If you ain't first, you're last," "Honey, is KFC still open?" and "shake and bake" are ranked near the top of the athletes' list.


After a careful examination of the list, many can agree that most of the films mentioned have little redeeming social value. Unless, of course, two brainless buddies traveling across the country to return a briefcase to a Mary Samsonite, whose name is confused with the manufacturer of the luggage piece, has some underlying theme that was never recognized. In short, it's the dumb movies that get the best response.

"My favorite movie out right now is "Step Brothers,"" junior baseball player Wes Dorrell laughed. "We all like it on our team. We like all the dumb movies."

And most other athletes would agree. The unrealistic, outrageous, "did they just say that?" comedies are among the most-loved genres.

Action movies come in a close second, followed by sports-drama and "Dumb and Dumber". The one type that even the dumb movies leave out is the horror film, but even that was for the laugh.

"Me and my friend in high school used to go to the movies to make fun of [horror films]," junior basketball player Becky Trotter said.

The most celebrated sports film among Mustangs' athletes is "Remember the Titans." Whether this movie made them tear up, boil or get up, the players got some kind of rise out of it.

"After seeing a movie like that, it definitely makes you want to get out there and try harder," freshman basketball player David Hansen said of movies like "Miracle" and "Remember the Titans."

For those ruling the court, "He Got Game" is a motivating film.

"Remember the Titans' always gets me really emotional and 'He Got Game' gets me really pumped up," sophomore forward Nicole Anderson explained.

For the baseball team, as should be expected, the baseball classic "Bull Durham" was echoed as a driving force behind their goals.

"Bull Durham" is what playing in the minor leagues is all about and they have it to a T," Dorrell expressed.

Movies like "Breachheart," "Gladiator," " 8 Seconds" and "Any Given Sunday" were also considered as some of the best inspirational movies.

Before a game, though, players don't want to have to sit through all the dialogue and uneventful scenes to get their adrenaline pumping. They want fleeting scenes from opening to closing credits.

According to freshman basketball player Dylan Reeve, one of the best movies to satisfy that need is "Rambo." However, sophomore football walk-on Joe Burrell preferred the dumb movies that get the best response. "Step Brothers," "Burn after Reading," "Knocked Up," "Mean Girls," "Talladega Nights" and "Tombstone."

**Cal Poly handles the Trojans**

The Cal Poly baseball team got back on track with a 7-5 win over USC last night at Baggett Stadium. The victory stops a three-game skid for the Mustangs (18-7), who had been swept by UC Irvine over the weekend. Junior Adam Buschini led Cal Poly with three hits, including a home run.

**A Hoops stimulus: Spartans come home bearing gift**

Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo surprised many skeptics by taking his Spartans to yet another Final Four appearance.

**Jim Lute**

"So he blew up your brackets. Get over it and root for someone else," he quipped.

His Michigan State Spartans are the only ones coming to the Final Four this year. A stimulus package you might even say.

"I'm just hoping," Izzo said after his team beat Louisville to punch its ticket to Detroit, "we're a little in what's been kind of a cloudy year for us. I'm hoping that we're the sunshine, something to embrace."

Nothing against the other coaches and teams arriving in the Motor City later this week to decide college basketball champion. Jim Calhoun, Jay Wright and Roy Williams are good guys all, and their squads, Connecticut, Villanova and North Carolina, respectively, are better than Michigan State — or paper. Of course, so were the Louisville Cardinals.

Besides, none of them can do as much for the city state and even the NCAA this year as Izzo and his kids already have.

In a corner of the world all too familiar with bad news, he's been nothing but good since the day he got the job in East Lansing about 90 miles from Detroit. Izzo won a national title in 2000 and is taking Michigan State to the Final Four for the fifth time since 1999, mostly with recruits drawn from the upper Midwest that he was doing his part to boost the state's fortunes even before that.

Izzo grew up in a town of 15,000 that sits hard by the mines in the Upper Peninsula's Menominee Iron Range. The place was about hard work, a habit Izzo comes by honestly. His great-grandfather was a miner, his grandfather a shoemaker and his father a handymen.

In high school his best friend was Steve Mariucci, who went on to coach the NFL's 49ers and Lions and now works as a TV analyst. Together they took Izzo Mountain High to a regional final as juniors, but with his team trailing by one point and no