Baker postpones
decision to raise CBFs

Cal Poly President Warren Baker agreed to postpone his decision whether to raise College Based Fees (CBFs) after a request from California Education Chancellor Charles B Reed following questions surrounding the CSU system budget.

The quarterly fee increase, originally proposed by several Cal Poly deans, was overwhelmingly passed by students last quarter and would increase CBFs to $862 a quarter next year and up to $1,076 a quarter by 2011. Forty-eight percent of students voted and of those, 78 percent voted to increase fees.

"In light of the uncertain economic environment, the chancellor of the CSU system has asked the CSU campuses to defer any decisions on implementation of campus-based academic fees until the 2009-11 state budget and impact on the CSU," Baker said in a press release sent Wednesday.

In an e-mail sent to students Wednesday, Baker thanked them for their participation and restored the chancellor's wishes that the CSU system want to increase student fees until the state budget system clears up.

Numerous forums were held in departments, colleges and campus-wide to debate the increase during the weeks before the March 30-11 vote. Proponents of the increase argued that the increase is necessary to uphold Cal Poly's quality of education while critics say it is unfair to increase students' financial burdens.

Student arrested on
suspicion of forgery

A Cal Poly student was arrested Monday on suspicion of forging prescriptions at a local Rite Aid Pharmacy.

Luke Marvos, 23, is being investigated for the burglaries of a Santa Maria doctor's office and an elderly San Luis Obispo woman's residence, according to the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Marvos spoke to police on Sunday regarding the burglary of an elderly San Luis Obispo woman's apartment.

Marvos was arrested Monday on suspicion of forgery.

Marvos was arrested Monday on suspicion of theft.

The Long Drugs Store on Murch Street had filed a prescription for Marvos recently and the doctor listed on it had recently had his office burglarized and suspected his prescription pad to be stolen.

When Marvos went to pick up the confirmed fraudulent prescription from Rite Aid, he was arrested and consented to a search of his residence in the JB Apartment complex on Football Boulevard.

Officers reportedly found evidence that Marvos was selling prescription drugs, including drugs in other people's names, a small indoor marijuana grow and drug paraphernalia.

He was booked into the county jail for prescription forgery, cultivation of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The Cal Poly natural resources management department had no knowledge of a student fundraiser regarding a greenhouse, which Marvos had reportedly claimed he was collecting donations for while going door-to-door.

Obama and Brown: G-20
deal will fight recession

G-20 delegates and guests attend a dinner at Downing Street, in London, Wednesday. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's meal for G-20 leaders at Downing Street features seasonal, local produce slow-roasted Welsh lamb is the main course for Wednesday's dinner. U.S. President Barack Obama, is seen seated 8th from right. While summit host Britain's Prime Minister is seated 4th from right.

Jane Wardell

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doggedly optimistic in the face of doubts, President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown predicted Thursday's emergency G-20 economic summit would produce a significant global deal to tackle the deepening worldwide recession.

Others weren't so sure. France warned on Wednesday that neither it nor Germany would agree to "false compromises" that soft-pedal a need for tougher financial regulation to curb abuses that contributed to the spreading chaos. And outside the carefully scripted meetings, protesters smashed bank windows and pelted police with eggs and fruit.

Thousands surged into London's financial district, blocking the Bank of England and breaking into a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Elsewhere, however, inside the meetings, Obama said differences among the presidents and prime ministers of the Group of 20 rich and emerging countries, were "vastly overstated."

"I am absolutely confident that this meeting will reflect enormous consensus about the need to work in concert to deal with these problems," said Obama, who is under pressure to make a good showing in his first major international appearance.

With economic chaos spreading, Brown, the host of the summit, predicted agreement on a coordinated strategy, including a possible $1 trillion fund to finance global trade, tighter financial rules and action to support economic growth and job creation.

G-20 leaders are also in general agreement on a plan to double the money available to the International Monetary Fund, to some $200 billion, to help emerging countries.

Consensus on further measures is by no means clear.

Brown initially trumpeted the gathering as "a new Bretton Woods — a new financial architecture for the years ahead." But the meetings so far have been little-studied by the 1944 New Hampshire conference where the eventual winners of World War II gathered to set postwar global monetary and financial order.

Washington has eased off on its push for other governments to pump more money into economic stimulus programs after heavy opposition from European countries, who contend their biggest social safety nets make more spending unnecessary.

Germany and France have instead campaigned for tougher rules to rein in financial market excesses. That disagreement has lowered expectations for the London summit and weakened confidence in the world's ability to quickly pull out of the downturn.

Global trade is plummeting, protectionism is beginning to make inroads and unemployment is rising.

French leader Nicolas Sarkozy, who had earlier implied he might walk out if key demands on tighter regulation were not met, presented a more conciliatory stance at a joint London news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, saying he had"confidence in Obama." He still warned, however, that France nor Germany would reject "false compromises" and considered concrete steps on tax havens, hedge funds and rating agencies crucial.

Paris and Berlin want definitive agreements on a crackdown on tax havens and action on other regulatory issues, rather than simple commitments to reform. The summit is also expected to consider lightly regulated hedge funds and how to clear bank balance sheets of shaky securities.

Sarkozy said that "without new regulation there will be no confidence. It's a major non-negotiable objective." Merkel said both she and Sarkozy had come to London "in a very constructive mood." But she said, "We do not want results that have no impact in practice." Even free trade remains the subject of potentially bitter disputes.

In their meeting in November, the G-20 members vowed to avoid protectionism that could stifle trade. But since then, 17 have acted to pass subsidies to protect their own industries or see Summit, page 2
California prepares to expand 3 prisons

Don Thompson

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The head of California's prison system said Wednesday that he will soon ask state legislators to approve expanding three prisons to hold an additional 2,800 inmates, adding to what already is the nation's largest state prison system.

The construction projects would be the first to draw money from a nearly $8 billion bond measure approved by lawmakers two years ago. The money has been stalled ever since by drafting problems that were corrected in the budget legislation that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law in February.

Corrections Secretary Matthew Cate said he plans to seek approval within weeks to build cells for about 900 inmates each at high-security Kern Valley and medium-security North Kern state prisons, both near Delano.

He also wants to convert a juvenile lockup near Paso Robles into a prison for 1,000 older men.

Adding cells is part of the state's response to a federal court finding that it must reduce prison overcrowding.

The $80 million Cate will seek from legislative budget committees would pay for those three expansions, plus building a re-entry center in Stockton for 500 inmates who are nearing the end of their prison terms. It would be the first of several planned regional re-entry centers to help inmates adjust in the months before they are paroled.

Actual construction of the four facilities will depend on when the bonds mature next year. Cate said because bonds to pay for construction can't be sold until then, Building the facilities would take about two years, he said.

Legislators approved $7.8 billion in revenue bonds in April 2007 to build more state prisons and county jails. Cate also plans to soon ask legislators to approve expanding medium-security Wesley State Prison, though details are still being worked out, he said in an interview after his confirmation hearing.

The Senate Rules Committee plans to vote April 22 on whether to let Cate keep the job he has held for nearly a year. He needs approval by the full Senate by mid-May to continue to hold the post.

The proposed construction comes as a special panel of three federal judges is preparing a final order that could force the state to free a third of its nearly 170,000 inmates. About 153,000 are in the state's 55 adult prisons, with the remainder in conservancy camps, community correctional centers and private prisons in other states.

The judges tentatively ruled in February that severe crowding is causing unconstitutional conditions for physically and mentally ill inmates.

To that end, Cate said he is working with J. Clark Kelso, the federal court-appointed receiver who controls prison medical care, to see if some of the new cells Cate plans to build could be used for sick inmates.

Cate also is considering if some of the cells could be used for mentally ill inmates as part of a treatment plan due to be filed with another federal judge within 60 days.

"Let's maybe kill two birds with one stone," Cate said. "There are a number of options we are exploring.

The state prison system will have to spend more money on specialized treatment and housing.

The state will have to spend more money on specialized treatment and housing.

Schwarzenegger's administration has argued it can use the $7.8 billion approved by legislators two years ago instead of approving up to $8 billion in additional borrowing sought by Kelso to improve inmate care.

But Cate told senators Wednesday that the $7.8 billion will likely not be enough to bring prisons up to constitutional standards. He said he is negotiating with Kelso to determine "the minimum we can live with in these tough times."
Internet hoaxes launched for April Fools’ Day gag

Jake Coyle

While the potentially dangerous Colicter worm was being tracked throughout April Fools’ Day, more harmless hoaxes were being fired out across the Internet. Everyone from Google to The Guardian were rolling out prank Web sites Wednesday. It’s become an April Fools tradition on the Web to showcase absurd technological breakthroughs and silly pseudo-innovations.

New media mockery was everywhere. Google unveiled “Gmail Auto-Pilot.” It alleges that it will help you weed through your inbox by replying to e-mails with automated responses tailored to your preference for emotions.

Google also claimed to have mastered artificial intelligence with an entity named “CAIMIE.” That technology led Google to claim, among other things, that it could now “read your brain.”

The 18-year-old British teen Fools, page 4

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- Expect to have a two-way conversation. Your ideas, values and interests are crucial to the career planning process. We want to know more than what job you want, we want to cover all your bases, come in with an idea of what you want to get out of your appointment. We want to know more than what job you want, we want to cover all your bases, come in with an idea of what you want to get out of your appointment.
- Be honest. With us for sure, but especially with yourself.
- Have realistic expectations. Know that you are ultimately responsible for making your own decisions and finding your own job. However, your counselor will give you the tools, etc. that will help you accomplish these tasks now and throughout your lifetime.

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State

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Getting an acceptance letter from Stanford University is harder than ever Stanford said Wednesday the university only admitted 7.6 percent of its freshman applicants, its lowest admission rate ever.

Officials say only 2,300 of the more than 30,000 applicants received an offer of admission. Admissions officers had expected about 25,000 applications, but received 20 percent more.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The University of California, San Deigo accidentally sent a welcome e-mail to about 20,000 applicants who applied accidentally sent a welcome e-mail to about 20,000 applicants who applied.

The e-mail sent Monday evening invited all 47,000 students who applied to an admitted student day on campus.

UCSD Admissions Director Mac Brown apologized for the mistake Tuesday and explained that the e-mail was supposed to go to about 18,000 accepted students.

National

MILFORD, Conn. (AP) — In a April Fool's joke, a baby bunny really does have two noses. A Connecticut pet shop worker found the nose-y bunny in a delivery of six-week-old dwarf rabbits that arrived at the Milkstone Ltd. last week. Both noses have two nostrils. The owner of the Pet-Pets Pet shop says he's never seen anything like it in 25 years in the business. He says the bunny can drink and hops around like the rest of the litter.

DALLAS (AP) — The police officer who pulled out his gun and threatened an NFL player with jail instead of allowing him inside a hospital where his mother was dying resigned Wednesday.

Officer Robert Powell had been placed on paid leave pending an investigation of the March 16 incident.

"I made this decision in the hope that my resignation will allow the Dallas Police Department, my fellow officers and the citizens of Dallas to better reflect on this experience, learn from the mistakes made, and move forward," Powell said.

International

SEUL, South Korea (AP) — Two California journals de- tailed in North Korea could land in a notorious labor camp for not being sanctioned to charge for illegal entry and "hostile acts." But the regime was more interested in using the reporters as leverage in talks with the United States.

They could provide Pyongyang with an edge in any negotiations with Washington following its planned launch of a rocket sometime in the coming week.

LONDON (AP) — Claming G-20 protesters clashed with riot police in central London on Wednesday, overwhelming police lines, vandalizing the Bank of England and smashing windows at the Royal Bank of Scotland. An effigy of a banker was set ablaze, drawing cheers.

More than 30 people were arrested after some 4,000 anarchists, anti-capitalists, environmentalists and others nagged London's financial district for what demonstrators branded "Financial Fool's Day."

Jobless rates rise in all US metro areas in Feb.

Students and alumni of the City University of New York line up for a job fair in New York March 20, 2009. The U.S. Labor Department reported Wednesday all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw their jobless rates rise in February from a year earlier.

MARK LENNIHAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK LENNIHAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fools

continued from page 3

newspaper The Guardian said it would become "a Twitter-only publication," limiting its reports to 140 characters or less.

One example from 1927 read: "OMG! first successful trans-Atlantic air flight was, pretty cool!" (The North Carolina alternative weekly Mountain Express announced a similar reconfiguration, calling itself "the nation's first Twospaper.")

Yahoo created a new "Ideological Search" that filters results to fit your personal beliefs. On it, you can get either Republican or Democrat results to a query like "stimulus package.

A startup called Moneate launched a spoof of the photo-sharing site Flickr. With "sniff," the site claims it has brought scent to social networking: "It's like Flickr but for your nose."

YouTube offered its latest innovation in online video: upside-down viewing. To experience it, you use your personal navigator to turn around a scene and playing your head — or moving to Australia.

The online marketplace Amazon.com announced that it had brought cloud computing to the skies. Though "cloud computing" is simply a metaphor for a kind of interconnected computing, Amazon said it had used "the latest in server technology" to "put computers in the sky (with blimps)."

You or your child must be at least 1 month of age or older and have a diagnosis of bacterial conjunctivitis.

If you or your child have not had symptoms for more than 4 days and not used any medications for treatment, you or your child may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study using an investigational medication.

Those who qualify will receive at no cost: Study-related medical care.
Study-related medication.

You or your child may be reimbursed for time and effort if eligible.

Fool's Day 2009: Office workers in the newsroom simulated a revision of "nominal wages" — like a chargeable gum and "personal kitchen."

The travel booking site Expedia.com on Wednesday began offering flights to Mars. It's a steal, too, with flights for just $99. "Save over $3 Tril­lion" read the spoof.

FunnOrDie.com, the comedy video Web site co-founded by Will Ferrell, announced that it had been bought by country star Reba McEntire. The site was temporarily renamed "Reba of the" and its home page was populated entirely with videos featuring McEntire.

"We get to be bought by someone, at least it's Reba," said Ferrell.

There were countless fake press releases and news reports issued Wednesday.

But most of the most popular pranks were obvious and light-hearted.

If anything, what was evident Wednesday was the full breadth of media playing April Fools' gags.

Microsoft's Xbox unveiled a mock version of the popular video game "Guitar Hero." "Alpine Legend," this version is for yodling, rather than guitar playing.

On Facebook, various applications posted joke alerts like "Barack Obama confirmed you as a cousin."

The blog for How Stuff Works explained Willy Wonka-like inventions — like replaceable gum and "per­manent kissers."

FrenEcon.com, the Web site for the serious magazine, said it was applying the roller-coaster ride of the economic collapse to a theme park, naturally dubbed Econoland.
Jennifer Tietcomb

Release the child within and escape to the magical snow-covered land of Narnia.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" musical is based on the first novel from C.S. Lewis' series "The Chronicles of Narnia." Theatreworks USA has been performing the musical since 1993 and it's been one of its most successful productions.

The musical tells the tale of four children who find a portal to the land of Narnia while playing hide-and-seek in a magic wardrobe. The White Witch represents evil and casts a spell on Narnia that makes it winter forever but never Christmas. The children fight to break the spell and bring King Aslan back into power.

Theatreworks USA's portrayal of the book is unique because the entire story fits into a 60-minute performance.

"I'm actually really anxious to see how they will do this," said Peter Wilt, Program Manager for Cal Poly Arts.

Wilt said he has had good experience with the company in the past. "They do a great job of taking books and making them into musicals.

The small cast consists of five actors that play four or five different characters each throughout the musical. "It is very lexer staged and it's never confusing for audience members," Dwyer said.

Distinguishing between the different characters is made simple using headgear and costumes.

Are you involved with a humanitarian project or research? The University Honors Program wants to hear about it!

Cal Poly is proud of the compassionate work its students are doing, and we want to recognize you for it. We want to reward YOU for your efforts so you can continue to help OTHERS!

So how does it work? Submit a proposal telling us about your project. Short, sweet, and to the point. During Week 3 of Spring Quarter, a student panel selects the top 7 submissions.

Then things get interesting... chosen applicants will receive an initial funding of $500 so they can get moving. Keep us updated throughout Spring Quarter, and then show us what you've got! On a date to be announced, you'll display your discoveries and progress to the world.

A group of students will pick three contestants to be awarded additional funding to continue their research. The winners and their faculty advisors will be honored at a special event at the end of the Spring Quarter (Date TBA).

It's that simple!

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Proposal details are available online at honorsprojects.com/husel.php

QUESTIONS? Student Contact: Casey Kelleher - cckelleh@calpoly.edu
Faculty Contact: Sema Alptekin - salpteki@calpoly.edu

So what are you waiting for? Let's do SeL!
“Bromst” stays true to pop music but shows maturity

This spring break was a rediscovrery of life, love and most importantly myself. Important life lessons were learned as mistakes were repeated, reviewed, refined and refined over plastic cups of gin and ginger ale indoors and out. But I am supposed to review a record, not waste space on such trivialities as how I spent my spring break. So I’ll take the easy way out and tell you about “Bromst,” the new Dan Deacon album off of Carpark as if the album were the soundtrack to my spring break.

The mantra “SB ’99: So fine!” started off the break with a sense of insecurity but would eventually build momentum and become a proud phrase to be shouted out of cars on various road trips. You see, I was the mammal behind the rhino, but I was too afraid to share it with my life partner Grumblum in the very beginning. I was concerned with how he would respond. It certainly wasn’t as good as his “Spring Break ’96, show us your tits!”

“Bromst” seems to start off with a similar insecurity. Dan Deacon starts off his album with a similar anxiety, hoping that his newest venture will be able to stand up to his last album, “Spiderman of the Rings,” which was something outrageously fun and electro-pop. The first 30 seconds of “Build Voice” are a hesitant silence leading, eventually, into the faintest whisper of music. So far, so good. Then the words become faintly audible, building up into a confidence that “Bromst” will be even better than “SB ’99 - So fine” could ever be.

Then the album gets going with spastic dance beats and high pitched vocals that inspire nothing less than a slightly clearer desire to jump on top of anybody else that thinks they are going to be having fun with you. Like drinking gin without knowing how it is going to affect you, the album is surprisingly intoxicating.

The fourth track, “Snookered,” is without a doubt, the best song of the album and likely to be one of my favorites of the year. My play counter doesn’t even come close to comprehending how many times I’ve listened to this song and just been inspired to do something stupid just to make sure that the night will end in tears. Dan Deacon turns off whichever one of the myriad of wires and switches that makes his voice sound like a chipmunk and clearly states that he has “been wrong so many times before, but never quite like this (incoherent mumble) F’n in the rain, but the rain all turned to dust.” I just want to howl to this song and throw water at pedestrians from a moving car at pedestrians according to the story of the White Witch tempting one of the children with the dessert. Other song titles include the opening number “Far Away,” “Something Greater” and “A Field of Flowers.”

Dwyer said the musical is great for the whole family. “It has something for everyone. It is wonderfully staged, fantastic music and marvelous performers.”

Cal Poly Arts along with Theatreworks USA will present the musical on April 3 at 3 p.m. at Spreckels Theatre. The musical is sponsored by the Embassy Suites Hotel, KJUG 98.1 FM and The New Times.

Tickets are $14 for children and students and $18 for the general public.

Open Letter to Cal Poly Students:
Thank you for your careful consideration of the issues surrounding the proposal to increase College Based Fees. Almost half of you voted March 11-12 on this very important and difficult matter and we appreciate that you became informed and cast a thoughtful and meaningful vote. We look forward to working with all of you through College Based Fee committees to ensure continuing support for the high quality academic programs and experiences that are and will continue to be Cal Poly.

David J. Wehner, Dean
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Mohammad Noori, Dean
College of Engineering

R. Thomas Jones, Dean
College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Linda H. Halisky, Dean
College of Liberal Arts

Bonnie Konopak, Dean
College of Education

Philip S. Bailey, Dean
College of Science and Mathematics

Dave Christy, Dean
Orfalea College of Business

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Narnia continued from page 5
Dwyer said the actors can’t be too heavily made up into one particular character because they must quickly switch from human to animals and from witch to beast. Dwyer explained that one actor wears a special helmet-like hat to transform into the beaver character.

Dwyer said the Narnia sets are kept simple. “We find that one of the best ways to engage audiences is to have the viewers use their imagination.”

The musical features 12 songs inspired by scenes from the book. The song “Turkish Delight” tells the story of the White Witch tempting one of the children with the dessert. Other song titles include the opening number “Far Away,” “Something Greater” and “A Field of Flowers.”

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www.stennerglen.com

“Bromst” is the latest release from American musician Dan Deacon.

(Courtesy Photo)
Actor from ‘Angel’ dies at 33 of heart disease

Erin Carlson
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Seven students have been punished for violating the code of conduct at Oprah Winfrey’s school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa, the second controversy to hit the fledgling institution since it opened in 2007.

Winfrey representative Don Halcombe said Wednesday that four students were expelled and three were suspended last week from her Leadership Academy for Girls outside Johannesburg.

Halcombe declined to say what led to the violations because there are minors involved. Lisa Halliday, a spokeswoman for the academy’s foundation, said it was a confidential school matter and would not “confirm any personal information or disclose any details related to these expulsions.”

South African media have reported that the seven girls were accused of trying to force students into relationships and to engage in sexual contact.

“I’m disappointed that several of our students chose to disregard the school’s rules,” Winfrey said in a statement issued by her production company HARPO. “It’s disheartening when any student has to be suspended or expelled and it’s a process that involves serious review and consideration. We will not tolerate a violation of school policy and dishonesty.”

This isn’t the first time events at the elite girls school have upset Winfrey. The talk-show queen said she was devastated after a woman over­seeing a dormitory at the academy was accused of abuse and sexual assault months after the school opened. The woman’s trial has not yet ended.

The institution opened in January 2007 with about 150 girls in 7th and 8th grades. The Academy is expected to grow by one grade each year until it reaches full capacity in 2011, with approximately 450 girls in grades 7 through 12.

Winfrey poured $40 million into the 28-building campus, which is spread across 22 lush acres. It has computer and science labs, and a library, theater and wellness center. Each girl gets a two-bedroom suite.

It’s the fulfillment of a promise she made to former South African President Nelson Mand­ela and aims to give poor girls a quality education and prepare them for leadership positions in a country where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of white-minority rule.

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Erin Carlson
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Seven students have been punished for violating the code of conduct at Oprah Winfrey’s school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa, the second controversy to hit the fledgling institution since it opened in 2007.

Winfrey representative Don Halcombe said Wednesday that four students were expelled and three were suspended last week from her Leadership Academy for Girls outside Johannesburg.

Halcombe declined to say what led to the violations because there are minors involved. Lisa Halliday, a spokeswoman for the academy’s foundation, said it was a confidential school matter and would not “confirm any personal information or disclose any details related to these expulsions.”

South African media have reported that the seven girls were accused of trying to force students into relationships and to engage in sexual contact.

“I’m disappointed that several of our students chose to disregard the school’s rules,” Winfrey said in a statement issued by her production company HARPO. “It’s disheartening when any student has to be suspended or expelled and it’s a process that involves serious review and consideration. We will not tolerate a violation of school policy and dishonesty.”

This isn’t the first time events at the elite girls school have upset Winfrey. The talk-show queen said she was devastated after a woman overseeing a dormitory at the academy was accused of abuse and sexual assault months after the school opened. The woman’s trial has not yet ended.

The institution opened in January 2007 with about 150 girls in 7th and 8th grades. The Academy is expected to grow by one grade each year until it reaches full capacity in 2011, with approximately 450 girls in grades 7 through 12.

Winfrey poured $40 million into the 28-building campus, which is spread across 22 lush acres. It has computer and science labs, and a library, theater and wellness center. Each girl gets a two-bedroom suite.

It’s the fulfillment of a promise she made to former South African President Nelson Mandela and aims to give poor girls a quality education and prepare them for leadership positions in a country where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of white-minority rule.
I'm not interested in politics, polls or any politician. I'm not interested in ideology, or even government as an institution. I am interested in forward-thinking ideas and in how policies affect individuals. I see America's positive potential, both for the benefit of our country and for countries and continents abroad. I'm interested in "vision over visibility," as Bonzo croons in one of U2's new songs "Moment of Surrender"— the idea that we are not in competition with what we could be.

I label me a socialist, communist or naive, but I think the majority of Americans voted for Barack Obama because of his intelligent optimism, knowing that our best days as a nation are still to come and that he has the thoughtfulness to allow those better days. This, among many policy reasons, is why I voted for Obama and still trust his decisions.

However, President Obama's decision to ask General Motors' Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner to step aside in order for GM to continue to receive government bailout funding has been scrutinized this week by news pundits and political analysts, and it was majorly desconcertizing to me.

The news story that has been running for the past week is that the government stepped into the private business sector and fired Wagoner. Stu Varney, an economi-
cies journalist, ranted Monday on FOX News' America's Newsroom that "the writing is on the wall for any private company that takes government money. The government is going to tell you who you can fire — who you can fire, how much you can pay them, the perks that they can receive, their business practices and basically what product you can put on." Varney went on to say with an air of finality, "I think President Obama asked Wagoner to step aside as the bank CEOs hoard their bailout funds and then distribute the money gratuitously to their partners, the rest of America is just making ends meet. Is it humane for tax dollars to be so freely allocated to millionaires while elderly Americans choose between food and medicine, and some families file for bankruptcy due to high hospital bills?"

President Obama has expressed outrage over the AIG executives who swept for financial assistance and then expected it to be acceptable for them to distribute bonuses to certain employees. By asking Wagoner, an irresponsible CEO, to step aside, President Obama demonstrated the responsibility he has taken upon himself to insure that our tax dollars are not misused by corpo-
rate America again. It's a forward-thinking idea that should increase America's confidence that he will retain the same concern for the middle class that he had on the campaign trail.

Nevertheless, Wagoner's removal as CEO of GM should not set a precedence for gov-
ernment interventions into the private business sector. If we are to forge a new path of policies in America, we must always focus our values on what is possible, not accepting the status quo as a reality.
For those of you who left the country over spring break, your currency exchanges may have left you with a bit less cash in your pocket than you planned. On the Wednesday prior to break, the Federal Reserve (Fed) announced it was monetizing one-trillion dollar notes. This note has to your elected government, the Federal Reserve Act once he realized the potential to manipulate the financial system in a way that touches every American. The act delegated to the Federal Reserve system entirely, would require a careful step towards the devaluation of the dollar. Despite the news outlets and Congres being embarrassed in the AIG bonus scandal at the time, the commodities markets and exchange rate reacted quickly and sold, with a dollar note posted at the biggest daily fall in value compared to major world currencies since 1985, and the prices of commodities such as crude oil, gold and silver jumped. As of this writing, exchange rates with the dollar have not yet regained their losses. This instability in value is undesirable in the world of major currency states with a vested interest in the stability of the dollar voiced their concerns over the devaluation of the dollar in the days following the announcement, and their concerns with our central banking system should not be taken lightly. The Fed’s move prompted officials from China, Russia, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund to make announcements regarding the stability of the dollar as the world’s primary reserve currency. Trailed by the euro, the dollar is the world’s first choice by states for storing and transacting large sums of money. Its status as the major reserve currency was established at the Bretton Woods conference during World War II. Although the Bretton Woods standard system, which provided for a stable value dollar, collapsed in 1971, the dollar continued as the major world reserve currency. The era may soon come to an end if current trends continue, with possibly disastrous consequences for America. President Woodrow Wilson later regretted signing the Federal Reserve Act once he realized the potential of the system to enable the manipulation of the financial system in a way that touches every American. The act delegated as authority granted to Congress by the Constitution to a private banking system not held fully accountable to the Treasury or to Congress. As the complexity of the banking system grew, so did the influence of the Fed. The Fed has become influential to the point many take it for granted. Its existence is manifested every time you use paper currency. When you take money out of your bank account or withdraw cash from an ATM, you are using fiat currency, a type of currency that is declared legal tender by the government and is acceptable for payment for goods and services. Fiat paper currencies inevitably collapse eventually due to abuse by their creators. Fiat paper currencies inevitably collapse eventually due to abuse by their creators. One alternative to circumventing the Fed’s influence is to repeal the law authorizing the use of Federal Reserve notes as legal tender. Congress is not authorized by the Constitution to declare which forms of currency are legal tender and states are limited to gold and silver as forms of legal tender per Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution. The framers knew the dangers of paper money without a commodity backing and therefore left it up to the free market to determine the value of currency. Many foreign coins were in circulation prior to the establishment of the first U.S. mint in 1792 and continued to circulate even after. Now U.S. code does not permit foreign gold or silver coins to be used in transactions in the United States and private mints are sometimes shut down in the name of counterfeiting, even when they are producing coinage not ressembling official government currency. Hard money or competing currencies do not necessarily need official recognition to be accepted by merchants. In addition to gold and silver coins, the U.S. government also issued gold and silver certificates at one time. These paper notes were redeemable for gold or silver, making hard money more convenient. Until 1935, commercial banks were able to issue their own banknotes in promissory notes of payment in gold or silver. Merchants were free to accept them as payment or not based on the currency’s stability as a store of value. Ending the Fed’s monopoly on declaring the value of currency and its quantity would eventually eliminate the reserve’s authority. We must look to history to determine the best monetary system to follow. Fiat paper currencies inevitably collapse eventually due to abuse by their creators. The Federal Reserve system continues to abuse its position as the source of currency, and unless significant steps are taken to make the dollar as unattractive as possible, the dollar will eventually become worthless. The blow to the world economy would cause keeping a watchful eye on this one of the most pressing issues for our age. Pay close attention to the Fed’s actions and let your representatives know your opinions. It may not be too late to harness or slay this monster.

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**Pardon**

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When we couldn’t beat him in the ring, the white power establishment decided to beat him in the courts,” Burns told the AP in a telephone interview. Burns’ 2005 documentary, “Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson,” examined Johnson’s case and the sentencing judge’s admitted desire to “send a message” to black men about relationships with white women.

Bush and King said a pardon, particularly one from Obama, would carry important symbolism.

“It would be indicative of the distance we’ve come, and also indicative of the distance we still have to go,” McCain said.

Burns, however, sees a pardon more as “just a question of justice, which is not only blind but color blind,” adding, “And I think it absolutely does not have anything to do with the symbolism of an African-American president pardoning an African-American unjustly accused.”

Burns helped form the Committee to Pardon Jack Johnson, which filed a petition with the Justice Department in 2004 that was never acted on. Burns said he spoke about the petition a couple of times with Bush, who is governor of Johnson’s home state of Texas, proclaimed Johnson’s birthday a “Jack Johnson Day,” for five straight years.

Bush gave Burns a phone number which led to adviser Karl Rove. Burns said, but Rove told him a pardon “ain’t gonna fly.”

“Rove doesn’t recall any such conversation with Burns, his spokeswoman Sheena Tahmam said, and ‘if he had been approached, he wouldn’t have offered an opinion’.”

While remaining positive can help motivate the Mustangs, the bottom line for Walsh and his staff remains to celebrate the team’s talent.

“I really do feel the players are comfortable and I think they’ll get more comfortable as we move along in the process,” Walsh said. “During the meetings you get to know (the team) as guys, but now we want to get to know them as football players.”

**Football**

*continued from page 12*

“The game is supposed to be enjoyable,” Walsh said. “It’s supposed to be. Let’s go out and play football because we love to do it. As coaches we’re supposed to show the players that we love what we do too. So I think the enthusiasm and the positive energy will be contagious from both sides.”
Mustangs spring into first practice of new year

Pardon sought for first black heavyweight champ

Scott Silvey

The heartbeat wind may have reminded players of the weather during the fall sports season, but for the Cal Poly football team, yesterday’s first spring practice was more about unfamiliarity.

An entirely different coaching staff led by new head coach Tim Walsh oversaw the team’s first official practice since the Mustangs were eliminated from the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) playoffs in November.

The coaching staff isn’t the only thing that’s changed.

The Cal Poly offense will be totally revamped this year after losing most of their starters from last year’s 8-3 team. The Mustangs will have a completely new look at the skill position after losing starting quarterback Jonathan Ryan Mole. Senior running back Jonas Grayson is one of the players likely penciled in to fill the shoes of Noble and Mole, who helped lead Cal Poly to the top overall offense in the FCS and the third best rushing attack.

The quarterback position is not the only one for the taking, as players will jockey for spots on both sides of the ball and special teams. Walsh said players would be watched and evaluated in terms of performance and athletic ability to determine where they fit. "Senior running back Jonas Grayson is one of the players likely penciled in to fill the shoes of Noble and Mole, who helped lead Cal Poly to the top overall offense in the FCS and the third best rushing attack."

Cal Poly junior quarterback Tony Smith takes a snap during the team’s first practice of the spring.

Walsh said the quarterbacks would be tried in both the position of a leader and its good to have that confidence of a seasoned vet," Grayson said.

Grayson, like the rest of the coaching staff, got his first look at some of the younger players and liked what he saw. "We looked good for the first day," he said. "Not as sharp as we should or could look, but not bad for our first day. We’ve got a lot of young guys with a lot of talent and it’s good to see what they have."

While the offense may have a lot of new personnel, the defense will have a new look altogether Walsh plans to change Cal Poly’s defensive scheme from Ellerson’s double eagle flex to a more traditional 4-3, a difference that will force many players to adjust to new roles. Walsh said a main priority being worked on is getting the team understanding the concepts of their new roles.

"The first two days of non-padded practices is going to be a lot of learning,Grayson said. "The coaches seem like they’re trying to get us better and better and better."

Walsh said the quarterbacks would be monitored closely throughout the spring. "The quarterback position has a lot of things to (look at)," Walsh said. "You’re looking at how they break the huddle, how they handle the line of scrimmage, pre-snap and post-snap. We look at a lot of different things as well as their performance."

The first practice of the new year

Washington — Sen. John McCain wants a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, who became the nation’s first black heavyweight boxing champion 100 years before Barack Obama became its first black president.

McCain feels Johnson was wronged by a 1913 conviction of violating the Mann Act by having a consensual relationship with a white woman — a conviction widely seen as racially motivated. "I’ve been a big fight fan, I was a mediocre boxer myself," McCain, R-Ariz., said in a telephone interview. "I had admired Jack Johnson’s prowess in the ring. And the more I found out about him, the more I thought a grave injustice was done."

On Wednesday, McCain will join Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., filmmaker Ken Burns and Johnson’s great niece, Linda Haywood, at a Capitol Hill news conference to unveil a resolution urging a presidential pardon for Johnson. Similar legislation offered in 2004 and last year failed to pass both chambers of Congress.

King, a recreational boxer, said a pardon would “restore a closed chapter that’s been over the American sporting scene ever since (Johnson) was convicted on these trumped-up charges.”

“IT ITIMES the moment is now," King said.

Presidential pardons for the dead are rare. In 1995, President Bill Clinton pardoned Lt. Henry O’Flipp, the Army’s first black commissioned officer, who was drummed out of the military in 1882 after white officers accused him of embezzling $3,800 in commissary funds.

Last year, President George W. Bush pardoned Charles Winters, who was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act when he conspired in 1948 to export aircraft to a foreign country in aid of Israel.

Johnson lost the heavyweight title to Joe Willard in 1915. In 1913, Johnson was convicted of violating the Mann Act, which outlawed transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes. The law has since been heavily amended, but has not been repealed.

Authorities first targeted Johnson’s relationship with a white woman who later became his wife, then found another white woman to testify against him. Johnson fled the country after his conviction, but agreed years later to return and serve a 10-month jail sentence. He tried to renew his boxing career later in life, but failed to regain his title. He died in a car crash in 1946 at age 68.

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