Lynch sentencing postponed; new federal policy possible

Alex Keck
MUSTANG DAILY

He had written his mother's phone number on his arm before arriving at his sentencing as well as a letter to his family with various information they might need in his absence. At the Los Angeles federal courthouse on March 23, former Morro Bay medical marijuana dispensary owner Charles Lynch was prepared to go to jail.

"In a way I felt like I was going into my funeral, walking through all these people looking at me, wishing me well, feeling bad for me; it was just kind of an odd situation," Lynch said. However, the sentencing didn't go as he expected. Federal Judge George H. Wu postponed sentencing until the Department sends a written reply about a possible change in federal policy — a policy under the Bush administration that considered marijuana a "schedule one narcotic," the same as heroin.

We's request caught Lynch off guard.

"Yeah, actually I was pretty surprised at the judge's decision, everybody was really," Lynch said. "It kind of threw my case with various information they might need in his absence. At the federal policy — a policy under the Bush administration that considered marijuana a "schedule one narcotic," the same as heroin.

We's request caught Lynch off guard.

"Yeah, actually I was pretty surprised at the judge's decision, everybody was really," Lynch said. "It kind of threw my case..." (saying) 'I want it written down so I know what to do in this case.'

Lynch's case is the first nationally publicized trial brought before a federal judge since U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder declared "a new American policy" regarding medical marijuana, one consistent with President Barack Obama's campaign position.

In August 2007, during his campaign, President Obama said, "I would not have the Justice Department prosecuting or raiding medical marijuana users. It's not a good use of our resources."

Charles Lynch, the former medical marijuana dispensary owner, discovered his sentencing was postponed due to federal policy changes.

Due to a poor economic climate and low attendance, various Sierra Nevada resorts are closing up shop earlier than usual this season.

Martin Griffith
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Sierra Nevada ski resorts are beginning to shut down lifts for the season after what some operators are calling a "very challenging year" because of the economy's downsill run.

The Boreal, Soda Springs and Homewood resorts around Lake Tahoe closed on Sunday, a week before the nearby Alpine Meadows, Heavenly, Northstar-at-Tahoe and Diamond Peak ski areas plan to halt operations.

A message on the resorts' Web site, Alpine Meadows executives acknowledged the economy is prompting an earlier-than-usual shutdown of their slopes. Last year, the resort closed May 4.

Art Chapman, president of JMA Ventures, and Jim Kercher, chief operating officer and general manager of Alpine Meadows, said it was "a very challenging year" for the industry as skiier counts and revenue were down sharply at all Tahoe resorts.

"Our decision to close April 19 was driven by the unfortunate fact that we are not seeing the number of skiers necessary to cover our operating costs on weekdays or weekends," they wrote.

Alpine Meadows also wants to make sure it has the necessary capital to make upgrades for next season, they added.

Other resorts said skier numbers were down, but for different reasons such as a later start of snow and a snowy Presidents Day weekend that kept crowds away.

"We weren't significantly down because our prices are cheaper than other resorts," Boreal spokesman Jon Slaughter said Sunday.

Val Resort Inc. spokesman Amy Kemp said total skier visits for the company's Heavenly resort on Tahoe's south shore and four mountain resorts in Colorado were down 5 percent for the season as of March 1. Lift ticket revenue, which includes some season pass revenue, was down 8 percent.

"The ski industry is not immune to the economic climate," Kemp said. At an April 1 conference in Keystone, Colo.,

Vail Resorts Chief Executive Officer Rob Katz said his company also has faced a dramatic decline in ski school participation and high-end retail spending this season.

"We've seen such huge declines, especially during some of the key weeks," said Katz, whose company is the nation's largest ski operator.

Most Sierra resorts plan to close by late this season.
Steve Lawrence

SACRAMENTO (AP) — If state Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña has her way, buyers of California homes built a little more than a decade from now would not have to worry about paying big electricity bills. The homes would produce power themselves.

The San Diego Democrat has introduced legislation that would require all homes built starting in about 2020 to be so-called zero net energy buildings. That means they would be extremely energy efficient and produce enough power to offset any electricity they draw from the grid.

That homegrown power would probably come from solar panels. But it also could be generated by nearby wind or geothermal plants, said Berenice Del Chiaro, a clean energy advocate with the group Environment California, which supports the bill.

The measure is on the agenda of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Monday. It is one of more than 400 bills scheduled to be considered this week as lawmakers return from an Easter recess.

"What you do is use the grid like a giant battery," Del Chiaro said. "You send surplus energy during the day to the grid and then offset that by drawing energy from the grid at night. That's how you basically get the bill down to nothing."

Saldana's legislation would require new homes to meet zero net energy requirements by Jan. 1, 2020, or when the California Energy Commission determines that use of solar systems is cost-effective, whichever comes later.

Del Chiaro said she expects that currently available state rebates and federal tax breaks will create enough of a mainstream market for solar systems over the next 10 years to cut their cost in half.

Saldana said her bill would help cut the emissions blamed for global warming by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

"About a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions are related to buildings — heating and cooling them," she said. "Looking at ways to build smarter will have significant and beneficial impacts on reducing greenhouse gases and avoid more impacts of climate change."

Tina Coyle, senior vice president of the California Building Industry Association, said new homes being built in California today already are highly energy efficient. He said Saldana should be looking for ways to reduce electricity use in older housing instead of targeting new construction.

"If the goal is to reduce fossil fuel dependency, why not go where the problem is?" he said.

New solar-equipped homes are popular with buyers, he said, but including that equipment can add $35,000 to $50,000 to the cost of construction.

"That's a pretty pricey premium to pay on a new home," Coyle said.

Saldana said the additional cost could be recouped by cutting electricity bills over a period of years.

She introduced essentially the same bill last year. It passed the Assembly but died in the Senate. She's hopeful that it will clear both houses this time.

Here are some of the other bills up for consideration this week:

SHOPPING BAG FEES — Bills by Assembly members Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica, and Mike Davis, D-Los Angeles, would require supermarket, large drug stores and convenience stores to charge customers a 25-cent fee for a single-use plastic or paper bag.

The nearly identical measures are intended to provide funding for inter­change programs, prevent plastic bags from ending up in the ocean and encourage consumers to use cloth carryout bags. "By virtue of charging 25 cents, I think people's awareness will encourage consumers to use cloth carryout bags," the Assembly member's spokeswoman Jessica Villegas said.

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Resorts

continued from page 1

month, despite stories in recent days that dropped up to 20 inches of snow.

Northeast still has 7 feet of snow on top and 3 feet at mid-mountains, spokeswoman Jessica Villegas said.

"But with spring, interest in skiing starts to wane a bit," she said. "People prefer the sun, ski, and pull out their bicycles and golf clubs."
President Obama's daughters name their new puppy 'Bo'

Philip Elliott

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bo?

No pet.

The first family has settled on its first pet — a 6-month-old Portuguese water dog that the Obama girls are naming Bo.

The selection was one of the White House's most tightly kept secrets.

President Barack Obama's daughters, 10-year-old Malia and 7-year-old Sasha, picked a black and white pup, a White House official speaking on the condition of anonymity told The Associated Press Saturday night.

The dog is a gift from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who owns several Portuguese water dogs himself.

"We couldn't be happier to see the joy that he is bringing to Malia and Sasha," Kennedy said in a statement. "We love our Portuguese water dogs and know that the girls — and their parents — will love them, too."

The Washington Post reported in its online editions Saturday night that Obama's daughters chose the name Bo for the pup because first lady Michelle Obama's father was nicknamed Diddy. The name for the dog was an apparent reference to the singer "Bo" Diddy.

White House aides told the AP that the office of the first lady arranged an exclusive deal on the dog story with the Post. The officials, who demanded anonymity because of the deal with the Post on exclusive details, said the dog was not in the White House as of Saturday evening.

Throughout the day Saturday, celebrity Web sites and bloggers were abuzz with rumors of the first family's selection of a Portuguese water dog, one site even claimed it had pictures of the future first pet.

In this undated photo released by the White House, the Obama family's new dog, Bo, a 6-month-old Portuguese water dog, is shown at the White House in Washington.

The president had embraced the frenzy: "Oh, man, now, that's top secret," Obama joked Friday to reporters.

Obama promised his daughters a puppy during the campaign. "This is Washington. That's a campaign promise," Obama said when he appeared on Jay Leno's talk show last month, as the audience roared with laughter. "No, I'm teasing. The dog will be there shortly."

The president and first lady had said their choice was down to either a Portuguese water dog or a Lhasa apso. The president said he needed to live during the day and not be in pain, be comfortable.

"With the marajuana I could do what I need to do during the day and not be in pain, be comfortable," Beck said in the interview, adding that he felt like the "hurricane" pain medication would dull him out and make him fall asleep.

The president and first lady have a Portuguese water dog named8. The U.S. government does not permit government property to be used for growing marijuana, although the president has said he would support legislation to allow medical marijuana under federal law.

Lynch, according to Lynch, who is possibly facing five to 10 years in jail, the most important factor regarding his case involves the 10th Amendment and protecting state rights.

"The California state laws are based on the 10th Amendment, which talks about state rights; all these laws make war to uphold the Constitution," he said. "They should be punished for breaking our constitutional rights to me this is a constitutional battle, not just about medical marijuana, it's a fight for our rights as Americans."

"The only way to end this "civil war" is to release the prisoners locked up for using or distributing medical marijuana in compliance with California law," Lynch said. "If Obama is really going to end this civil war then they should... release the marijuana patients in jail and stop taking prisoners such as myself and throwing them into federal prison — that's how this war is going to end."

Yet, sometimes it's not so black and white, said Jerret Gras, San Luis Obispo County chief deputy district attorney.

"The problem with the passage of a new law is the potential of whether it's going to be retroactive or not and how it affects people that have already been convicted of that crime or (any) awaiting sentencing," he said. "We have cases pending, what if a guy served four years, how do you give those years back?"

Lynch's sentencing will take place April 30 as long as the Justice Department sends a written reply of the possible policy change by April 17, Lynch said.
State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Malibu man has pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles to sexually assaulting a Santa Monica College student at the school's library.

The district attorney's office says 40-year-old Chase Reynolds pleaded not guilty Thursday in Superior Court to felony sex assaulting a Santa Monica College student late Saturday afternoon at the college's library and sexually assaulted her, then stole her house key. Santa Monica police arrested the suspect Tuesday.

Reynolds faces up to 13 years in prison if convicted.

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The U.S. price of gasoline increased nearly 10 cents a gallon during the past three weeks, but remains well below year-ago prices.

That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday.

Analyst skinny Lundberg says the average U.S. price of regular grade gasoline was $2.05 a gallon Friday, up from $1.95 a gallon recorded on March 20, but down $1.27 from the price at this time last year.

National

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AP) — The remains of five Army soldiers killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq were expected to arrive Sunday night at Dover Air Force Base.

The bomber driving a truck detonated a ton of explosives near a police headquarters in the northern city of Mosul on Friday, killing the men in the deadliest attack against U.S. troops in more than a year.

The U.S. military said Iraq police were the bomber's target and that the Americans were caught up as bystanders.

Two Iraqi policemen also were killed in the midnight bombing near the Iraq National Police headquarters. At least 12 people, including one American soldier and 27 civilians, were wounded, officials said.

ALTON BAY, N.H. (AP) — A massive fire damaged or destroyed dozens of wood-frame buildings, mostly unoccupied summer homes, at a 140-year-old Christian center on Easter.

The fire erupted at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, when Christians were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But the season hadn't begun yet at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center on Lake Winnipesaukee, and state Fire Marshal William Segnan said no injuries to civilians had been reported.

International

ALONG THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER, Israel (AP) — Faceted with a night-vision camera just before Israeli narcotics officers pounded from nearby bushes, the video shows a Lebanese courier lobbing half kilo packages of heroin over the border fence into Israel and an Israeli courier throwing back packages of $100 bills.

Israeli soldiers and Hezbollah guerrillas have been battling for years along this frontier. But a quieter war goes on here every night, one between Israeli Gals Rangers' narcotics teams and the smugglers who have turned this jumpy border into the main conduit for heroin bound for Israeli drug markets.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Conservationists have discovered a new population of orangutans in a remote, mountainous corner of Indonesia — perhaps as many as 2,000 — giving a rare boost to one of the world's most endangered great apes.

A team surveying forests nestled between jagged, limestone cliffs on the eastern edge of Borneo island counted 219 orangutans, indicating a "substantial" number of the animals, said Erik Meijaard, a senior ecologist at the U.S.-based Nature Conservancy.

Friends

“What breed would you choose for your presidential puppy and what would be the name?”

“I would choose an Argentine Dogo. I would name him Buzz Lightyear.”

—Kevin Geriche, agricultural business junior

“I'd probably go for a Husky and I'd probably name it Hank the Husky or something like that.”

—Eric Valticillo, electrical engineering senior

“I would get a Golden Retriever and name him The General.”

—Keri Scheldt, biomedical engineering sophomore

WORD ON THE STREET

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- STA Travel

*In the event of rain, the Fair will be held in the Business Breezeway (Building 3)
America's uninsured haven't shown collective power

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the uninsured were a political lobbying group, they'd have more members than AARP. The National Mall couldn't hold them if they decided to march on Washington.

But going without health insurance is still seen as a personal issue, a misfortune for many and a choice for others. The uninsured may not realize the struggle alone instead of turning their frustration into political action.

Illegal immigrants rolled in Washington during past immigration debates, but the uninsured linger to the background as Congress struggles with a health care overhaul that seems years away from the best odds in years of passing.

That isolation could have profound repercussions.

Lawmakers already face tough choices to come up with the hundreds of billions it would cost to guarantee coverage for all. The lack of a vocal constituency won't help Congress decide to cover the uninsured slowly, in stages.

The uninsured "do not provide political benefits for the aid you give them," said Robert Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard School of Pub-

lic Health. "That's one of the dilemmas in getting all this money. If I'm in Congress, and I help out farmers, they'll help me out politically. But if I help out the uninsured, they are not likely to help members of Congress get re-elected."

The number of uninsured has grown to an estimated 50 million people because of the recession. Even so, advocates in the halls of Congress rarely have the uninsured to blame.

The most visible are groups that rep-

resent people who have insurance, usually union members and older people. In the last election, only 10 percent of registered voters said they were uninsured.

The grass-roots group Health Care for America Now plans to bring as many as 15,000 people to Washington Tuesday to lobby for guaranteed coverage. Campaign director Richard Kirsch expects most to have health insurance.

"We would never want to orga-
nize the uninsured by themselves because Americans see this as an affordable and that is the key thing," he said.

Besides, added Kirsch, the uninsured are too busy scrambling to make ends meet. Many are self-employed or others are holding two or three part-time jobs. "They may not have a lot of time to be activists," he said.

Vicki and Lyke White of Summerfield, Fla., know about such predicaments. They lost their health insurance because Lyle had to retire early after a heart attack left him unable to do his job as a custodian at Disney World. Vicki, 60, sells real estate. Her income has plummeted due to the hous-

ing collapse.

"We didn't realize that after he had the heart attack no one would want to insure him," said Vicki. The one bright spot is that Lyle, 64, has qualified for Medicare disability benefits and ex-

pects to be getting his card in July.

But then for the Whites have to pay out of pocket for Lyle's visits to the cardiologist and his medications. The bill came to about $5,000 last year. That put a strain on their limited budget because they are still making payments on their house and car.

"I never thought when we got to this age that we would be in such a mess," said Vicki, who has been mar-

ried to Lyle for 43 years. "We didn't think we would have a heart attack and it would change our life forever."

While her own health is "pretty good," Vicki said she suffers chronic si-

nus infections and hasn't had a check-

up since 2007. "If I have just learned to live with it," she said.

The Whites' example shows how the lack of guaranteed health care ac-

cess undermines middle-class families and puns them at risk, but that many of the uninsured eventually do find coverage. Lyle White has qualified for Medicare, even if the couple must still find a plan for Vicki.

Research shows that nearly half of those who lose coverage find other health insurance in four months or less. That may be another reason the uninsured have not organized an ad-

vocacy group. At least until this recession, many have been too busy to fix the situation themselves.

"The uninsured are a moving tar-

get," said Cathy Schoen, a vice presi-

dent of the Commonwealth Fund, a re-

search group that studies the prob-

lems of health care costs and cover-

age. Even if gaps in coverage are o-

timeary, they can be dam-

aging. "Whenever you are un-

sure Uninsured, page 7

Applications asi.calpoly.edu 754-1298

UNIVERSITY UNION ADVISORY BOARD (UUAB)
Nominations for Chair are being accepted on
April 14 & April 21, 2009
at the
UUAB Meeting
UU216, 3 p.m.

The UUAB Chair is a member of the ASI Officer Team. The position is open to any person enrolled Cal Poly student who meets USAC membership requirements. Any currently enrolled Cal Poly student may submit the name of an eligible student for nomination at this UUAB meeting.

Merchant ship captain grateful to U.S. Navy for rescue from pirates

Dena Potter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of Capt. Richard Philip-

perts' crew have hailed their leader for saving them and their ship from being hijacked by pirates, but the skipper insists it's the U.S. Navy and other rescuers who deserve to be called heroes.

"I'm just the byline. The be-

ows are the Navy, the Seals and those that have brought me home," the shipping captain told his boss, Maersk Line Limited President and CEO John Reinhart, who relayed the phone message to reporters hours after Phillips was liberated Sunday from his captors' clutches aboard a lifeboat.

Phillips, 55, of Underhill, Vt., emerged unharmed following a brief firefight that killed three of the four pirates who were holding him off the Somali coast, ending a five-day high-seas hostage drama in the Indian Ocean.

Richard Phillips was preparing to return home in the next couple days along with his crew, but was not specific. Reinhart called it a good mo-

ment and a great day for the nation, the industry, the military and for Phillips' family.

"Richard exemplifies some of the best traditions and behaviors and ethics of an American merchant mariner," Reinhart said. "He's a leader of men. He's a brave and courageous man. He persevered through difficult times and he's shown real heroism."

Crew members said as pirates hu-

laded themselves on board the Maersk Alabama, shooting in the air. Phillips told them to lock them-

selves in a cabin and offered himself in exchange for their safety.

Reinhart said the 19-member crew was challenged with the or-

der to leave the captain behind and head for safe harbor in Mombasa, Kenya, where they arrived Saturday night.

"But as mariners, they took the order to preserve the ship and they knew the Navy would preserve their captain, so they did that tough choice and they took the ship away," he said. "When I look at it, I think Richard has exhibited the true spirit of an American."

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(or in the Business Breezeway in the event of rain)
Student shoots 3 in Greek college, kills himself

A teenage gunman who wounded three people at a college in Greece and killed himself had warned of the attack hours earlier on an Internet posting that included photographs of him posing with weapons, police said.

The 19-year-old man, armed with two handguns and a knife, opened fire at a vocational training college in western Athens and then shot himself in the head, authorities said. He died in hospital several hours later.

One student was shot in the chest and seriously wounded and two men were shot outside the building and suffered less severe injuries, police and Health Ministry officials said.

The gunman left a note accusing his fellow students of picking on him, and posted the message on a social networking site.

"I have no reason to continue living. But, unfortunately for you, I’m too selfish to leave and let you keep living," he said in the note, which was written in Greek.

"For you, I am all garbage. Whoever I see on the morning of April 10 will immediately become a target," he wrote, adding that he had been "rejected" by someone he had fallen in love with. "Until now, I have received nothing but rejection and contempt from those around me."

Police confirmed the man seen on the posting on the site was the 19-year-old gunman, whom they identified as Dimitris Panaitisis, an immigrant from the Georgian breakaway region of Abkhazia. Included in the posting — put up about three hours before the attack — was a photograph, several of which showed the man pointing a gun at the camera.

Police seized a computer from the youth’s home. They also said they were trying to determine where he got the weapons he used.

According to the police account, the gunman arrived around 5:45 a.m., a quarter of an hour after lessons had started at the OAKI state unemployment agency’s training college in the Athens Enidai district.

He shot the student victim on a college stairwell leading to the second floor before running out. He then shot two workers at a nearby shop who tried to stop him, one in the leg and the other in the arm. Then he went to a park close to the school and shot himself in the head, police said.

The injured 18-year-old student was shot in the chest, arms and legs, and the other two men had lighter injuries, the Health Ministry said.

The two were identified by police as a 33-year-old Greek and a 47-year-old Albanian.

Fellow students and college staff described the gunman as a loner who favored black clothing and long overcoats.

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BASEBALL vs UC DAVIS
BAGGET STADIUM 6PM

SUNDAY

BASEBALL vs UC DAVIS
BAGGET STADIUM 1PM*

* Jersey Day: All youth, 12 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game!

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Differing views in GOP on voting rights case

Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The GOP’s struggle over its future and the party’s fraught efforts to attract minorities are on full display in the differing responses of Republican governors to a major Supreme Court case on voting rights.

The court will hear arguments April 29 about whether federal oversight of election procedures should continue in 16 states, mainly in the South, with a history of preventing blacks, Hispanics and other minorities from voting.

In 2006, as Republicans sought to improve their standing with minorities as advance of congressional elections, the GOP-controlled Congress extended for 25 years the Voting Rights Act provision that says the Justice Department must approve any changes in how elections are conducted. Republican President George W. Bush signed the extension into law.

But some Republicans said the extension was not merited and that some states were being punished for their racist past. A legal challenge has made its way to the high court.

GOP Govs. Sonny Perdue of Georgia and Bob Riley of Alabama have asserted in court filings that the continued obligation of their states to get advance federal approval for all changes involving elections is unnecessary and expensive in view of significant progress they have made to overcome blatant and often brutal discrimination against blacks.

Perdue pointed out that President Barack Obama did better in Georgia than did Democratic nominees John Kerry in 2004 and Al Gore in 2000.

“Congress’ insistence that Georgia has ‘a continuing legacy of racism’ is nonsensical when an African-American candidate for president receives a greater percentage of the vote than his white predecessor candidates,” Perdue said.

Riley said blacks in Alabama voted in 2008 as they did in 2004 and 2000, according to official returns. When asked if he would continue to seek advance approval if the Voting Rights Act were to expire, Riley said, “I don’t plan very well when I don’t get needed follow-up care, skip taking prescription medicines and put off seeking help when they develop new symptoms.”

But both Perdue and Riley face term limits that prevent them from running for re-election in 2010.

Living without health coverage

There are some estimates that nearly 52 million will be without medical coverage if the unemployment rate reaches 10 percent.

Number of uninsured

At 10% unemployment: $1.5

Healthcare delivered: 9/02

No health coverage

30

60

90

120

150

180

210

240

270

300

330

360

390

420

450

1997: 31 million

2007: 45.7 million

 bais on a national basis.

Of those uninsured, 30,000 work,” Schoen said. “People don’t plan very well when they are going to get sick or injured.”

Indeed, the Institute of Medicine, which provides scientific advice to the government, has found that a lack of health insurance increases the chances of bad outcomes for people with a range of common ailments, from diabetes and high blood pressure to cancer and stroke. Uninsured patients don’t get needed follow-up care, skip taking prescription medicines and put off seeking help when they develop new symptoms.

Such evidence strengthens the case for getting everybody covered right away, Schoen said. But she acknowledges the politics may get tough.

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Bridget Veltri

In need of a second honeymoon? Couples looking for love in the form of breakfast and lunch will no longer need to travel to Pismo Beach to indulge in the delights of Honeymoon Café. The quaint cafe still resides in Pismo Beach but now has another location at 1074 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

see Honeymoon, page 11

Stenner Glen
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The Honeymoon Café recently added a new Higuera Street location in addition to its site in Pismo Beach. The café specializes in organic treats that are simple yet fulfilling.

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I pledge to create a welcoming, inclusive, and accepting environment for all individuals at Cal Poly and to speak out in the face of intolerance, hate, or discrimination of any form. AND

I pledge to recognize my own prejudices, to be an agent of tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding and challenge myself to actively increase my awareness of diversity.

A PROJECT OF THE CAL POLY RESPECT CAMPAIGN, A COALITION OF STUDENTS SEeks TO PROMOTE RESPECT, ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Muralist Kent Twitchell shows L.A.'s many sides

John Rogers
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — No, Kent Twitchell says, he never set out to be the muralist who helped define Los Angeles' quirky, electrifying edge. By putting its larger-than-life pop stars, movie heroes and its just plain hard-working folks on the sides of buildings and freeways everywhere.

He simply showed up one day, fresh out of the Air Force in 1966, and started painting on everything he saw.

Before he knew it, there was a portrait of Steve McQueen covering an entire side of a two-story home near downtown. Then a few years later, pop artist Ed Ruscha emerged, six stories tall and gazing intensely across the downtown skyline from the side of the federal Job Corps Center.

Nearby, a couple were celebrating their wedding on the side of an old factory building. On the other side of the street, a tower wall overlooking a cemetery, another couple's wedding was being blessed by a rabbi.

Meanwhile, members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra, instruments in hand, were spread out across the top of an eight-story parking structure overlooking a freeway.

"The hippie days were just beginning and everybody was just sort of expressing themselves in visual ways," Twitchell, a modest, unassumingly man of 66, said recently, as he passed from overseeing installation of some of his works for a larger-than-life exhibition at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. "A lot of people were painting on clothes and vans and window shades and I was just one of them.

Although he may have been "one of many" in a city where anyone with a can of paint can fancy himself a street artist, there was something different about Twitchell's works from the beginning. Highly detailed and vivid in color, they more closely resembled those of other Renissance painters he admired.

"Both the scale and the detail are there," says Peter Frank, editor of the arts publication THE Magazine Los Angeles and curator of the Twitchell retrospective at Los Angeles' Look Gallery.

"What happens is when you see one on a wall, at first you see it from a distance and it's almost like seeing a figure on TV" says Frank. "But as you get closer the scale changes. Not the person but the scale. These are real people and he keeps them real despite the fact that they have assumed monumental size."

The exhibition, "The King of Pop Meets the King of Cool: Exploring the Lost Works of Kent Twitchell," opened Thursday and continues through August 31. Its centerpieces are a gigantic, never-before-seen painting of Michael Jackson and a new version of the two-story portrait of McQueen.

"That's the first one I did that I actually signed," he says of the McQueen work that he completed in 1971. (As with all of his paintings, he got the owner's permission before re-decorating his buildings.)

He had been doing the kind of psychedelic paintings that were popular at the time, Twitchell says, when he decided to return to his roots. In the Air Force he had been an illustrator, and as a child he had always drawn people.

"As soon as I had his head done on that house, I knew I was back home," he said.

The Jackson mural, eight stories tall, was to have been placed on a Hollywood theater as part of an urban renewal project. But about the time it was completed, the pop star became the target of a child molestation investigation and it was placed in storage.

Also on display are two other murals, as well as several smaller pieces. Like all street muralists, Twitchell has fought his share of battles to keep his art before the masses.

He redid the McQueen mural for the show, his original having been painted over by mistake years ago. His Ruscha work was erased deliberately in 2006, in violation of state and federal laws, and Twitchell sued and won a $1.1 million settlement.

One of his best-known works was the Let's Go! Jetwash Dodger Stadium, has become so saged by graffiti that it is almost unrecognizable, a fate common to many L.A. murals.

But seemingly driven to create, the small, slightly built, white-haired artist keeps cranking out new works, cleaning up the old ones when he can and then moving on to the next project.

Over the years he's developed a technique in which he sketches out his mural ideas on canvas, then paints them on the mural surface.

"It was a great experience," Pickut said after the lecture. "It has an important figure—a fundamental one."

While Pickut said race was a factor in the Guild's downfall, he explained that in inclusion of pianist Carla Bley also proved extremely problematic and highlighted the bias against women among jazz musicians, a problem he said he still exists today.

"I think one would have to be completely blind to not realize significant, incremental change," Pickut said. "There are a lot of women in jazz. However, a lot of these kinds of stories continue, and there are plenty of people a lot smarter than me writing and commenting about it. It's still incredibly difficult for women."
Honeymoon
continued from page 8
Cal Poly alumni Chris Rivera, owner of the original Honeymoon location and Russell Thomas owner of Two Cooks Catering, met at Cal Poly College of Arts and Letters and now operate the San Luis Obispo location together. They are not only friends, but business partners.
"You can't just partner up with just anyone for something like this," Thomas said.
For lovers that have difficulty tearing themselves away from the sheets and the loungers that just got a late start, Honeymoon Café serves breakfast all day long.
The bright but soothing interior, painted in plum, olive green and yellow will enhance the mood of those who are raring to go at 7 a.m. while gently soothing those whose eyes are still sleepy crusted. While the breakfast menu is not very intricate, it offers up basics like fruit, quiche, sandwiches, bagels, omelet, eggs and breakfast burritos. It has some specialties like huevos rancheros with corn cakes and the machaca on toast with fork tender beans. The café also put its own special spin on the egg special with fork tender non and served with black beans. The café also put its own special spin on the bagel sandwich; the Honeymoon version comes with avocado, cream cheese, lemon pepper, fresh tomato, red onion and spinach.
This café-style café is a conscious one serving up quality ingredients while making a substantial effort to support local businesses.
"We are locavores," Thomas said. 
"I am not a corporate-minded person," Rivera added. "We've got to keep it in the community."
And while most of the food they serve is organic, they don't do it for the bragging rights.
"Being organic is such a trend now," Rivera said. "We don't advertise
the because we just believe in good food."
While currently closed on weekends, Honeymoon Café is serving up something for just about everyone. They have the usual Caesar and Cobb salads which are available with chicken or steak for an additional charge. But two of their side salads are the ones that shine. The strawberry fields salad comes with spinach, strawberries, goat cheese, pomegranate, sugared bacon and red onions tossed in blueberry pomegranate balsamic vinaigrette. The Tortellini salad includes cheese tortellini, black olives, arugula hearts, sun-dried tomatoes and dry salami in Italian dressing.
The café also offers daily soup specials that are served with pita and a half sandwich or salad option. The butter:in squash soup is good enough to make a daily trek downtown to see if they have it.
Honeymoon Café has taken standard sandwiches like the BLT and grilled cheese and made them unique. "BLT; doesn't sound appealing? Well it is, adding mozzarella, avocado and arugula to the basic BLT. If you like the comfort that a grilled cheese sandwich provides, they have that, too, but for those who dare to venture out, try the grilled cheese dux served on sourdough with tomato, avocado and tomato. The Seven Peaks veggie sandwich is bound to tempt even the most ravenous of carnivores with pesto, roasted vegetables, sprouts and mozzarella peeking up lovingly from an open-faced pita. The Chicken fajita quesadilla is a fusion of Mexican favorite's green and red bell peppers, Spanish onion, organic chicken, fajita seasoning, sour cream and salsa.
Honeymoon Café also offers deli sandwiches as well as burgers and garden burgers.
So get away from it all and head for a honeymoon a little closer to home; if you've eaten at the original it will make you fill in love all over again.

Twitchell
continued from page 10
his works, then paints them in sections on what he calls parachute paper, a thin but durable substance. From there he applies them directly to a wall, a method that allowed him to mount a three-story portrait of basketball great Julius Erving, decked out in a chic, double-breasted suit, on a wall in Philadelphia as just one day.
It also allows him to cover his murals with protective coating and to remove them from a wall if necessary, as he did with the "Freeway Lulu."

The giant portrait of a wise-looking, white-haired woman greeted travelers along the Hollywood Freeway for years until it became scarred by graffiti. Twitchell removed it, and after the show he plans to install it on the wall of a Los Angeles art gallery.
He also keeps busy scouting new locations.
"My dream is to go around to all the major cities and do a mural or two or three stories high of the great historic figures of that city," he says.
"Could you see a mural of Mark Twain in St. Louis? We could do it in two months and then hang, it's off to the next city."

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April 15 is the new July 4

By Marlize van Romburg

I've always half-heartedly joked that when I make my first million, I'm going to storm the one on the Cayman Islands. The joke of course being that I'm a journalism major and won't be making my first million anytime soon.

And besides, I shouldn't be joking like that, it's un-American to joke this early! April 15 is the new July 4. Tax day just two days away, and according to some of you, Congress/President Joe Biden, now is the "time to be patriotic." If you're like the average college student and have perfected the art of procrastination, you may well be scratching to fill out that 1040 and get it mailed in on time. Many of us, however, tend to do this chore early so we can get that refund that much faster. I'm always bemused at how excited everyone, including me, get at the sight of an IRS check in the mail — almost as if it isn't just a refund of your own money, but actually a gift bestowed on you from your ever-caring government.

"How nice of Uncle Sam to send me some cash for beer, just when I was getting a little broke!"

Yet viewing a tax refund as a kind of cultivated-gift, rather than a refund of your own earnings, is a hazardous line of thought. Under this view, the fruits of your labor are only yours by the grace of government, not the other way around.

The new administration's budget identifies $634 billion in tax increases and spending cuts to help pay for President Obama's proposed government health care and other social programs. In a speech to Congress at the beginning of March, Obama said that his budget team has "already identified $2 trillion in savings" to help tame record budget deficits — yet about half of "these savings" are actually tax increases.

"Since your income is White House slang for "savings," it shouldn't come as any surprise when our taxes start going through the roof in the next several years. How else do you expect to pay for these trillions of dollars in bailouts, stimulus packages and war expenditures!? The Treasury's printing presses can onlyprint so fast. And here in California — the American tax capital until a few weeks ago when New York stepped in to claim the title — the average person will work for 109 days this year just to pay their 2009 taxes.

Yet these statistics, shocking as they are, begin only to scratch the surface. Taxation is not only a huge burden of the economy and workforce needs. It's more disheartening that even the staunchest big-government advocates have favored the higher tax rates that allow them to fund extravagances. Excessive rates were supposed to be ones that believed in small government and low taxes — although that can hardly be said to hold true anymore.

In this new "era of responsibility," it's more fashionable than ever to tax more, and the rich the most. Doing whatever it takes to benefit "the greater good" is back in vogue; taxes aren't seen as a necessary evil anymore, but as a patriotic duty.

In an interview with Kate Snow on "Good Morning America," Biden leaned forward and says "You go it, Kate. It's time to be patriotic, time to jump in, time to be part of the deal, time to help America get out of the rut."

We have to spread the wealth — and pain.

Suppose it would be one thing if we were all "equally patriotic" in our tax-paying duties. But we're not. Consider that the bottom 50 percent of taxpayers contribute only 3 percent of the nation's federal income tax revenue, while the top 1 percent pays almost 40 percent. Under our progressive taxation system, the average American currently gives away 13 percent of his income in taxes, while the richest 1 percent gives away 23 percent. By the time you add state income taxes into the mix, the average person will work for 169 days this year just to pay their 2009 taxes.

With all the abuses of illegal immigrants in the United States, the last thing these activists ought to do is encourage more folks to illegally cross the border. That's just what the Dream Act would do.

I changed my name when I got married for two reasons. Neither had to do with tradition or expectations. First, I want to be easily recognized as being a duo and having the last name makes that very easy in keeping up with friends. Second, I want my husband, my kid and myself to be part of the same family name. No hyphenated kids' name or kid takes mom's or dad and someone is left out. My given name was awesome, beautiful even, but I changed it because the symbol of unity was worth it, weather I take his or he takes mine or we make up a new one. I am not into following tradition for tradition's sake, but there is something to a family sharing the same family name. I have a brother and tons of male cousins to carry on the name for my grandma, the one who really cares about this stuff. If I didn't, perhaps I would feel differently.

 Plenty of women continue to use their original last names for work purposes but legally change it to their husband's last name at some point. Whatever it takes to benefit "the greater good" is back in vogue; taxes aren't seen as a necessary evil anymore, but as a patriotic duty.

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Korea’s missile launch: ignoring rules may give green light to other nations.

It’s a well-known adage that rules are made to be broken. Although there is some truth to that statement, it stops well short of its inevitable ending: the consequence.

In some cases, however, rules truly are made to be broken. It all depends on who is making the laws and how serious they are about carrying them out. For example, I have never been pulled over for not wearing my seatbelt. That’s against the law. Point being that a rule is only as strong as its enforcer.

Last Sunday, North Korea put that saying to the test as they launched a rocket from Pyongyang that sailed over Japan until it finally crashed in the Pacific Ocean. In doing so, they disregarded two UN resolutions.

The launch is seen by South Korea, the United States and Japan as a threat, a disguised test of a long-range missile designed to carry warheads to the U.S. However, North Korea claims a satellite was launched in the process. Reports from Japan claim that no satellite was released during the flight.

Immediately following the launch, North Korea warned that they would take “strong steps” if any action was taken against them in response to the launch. They threatened to boycott six-nation disarmament talks and restart a plutonium plant that makes bomb-grade plutonium. They also warned of military action if anyone tried to remove debris from the rocket.

Now, the UN’s five permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — and Japan have a critical decision to make. Are they going to punish North Korea? Or give them another warning?

It turns out that rules are made to be broken, or at least that’s the message the UN is sending to the rest of the world.

The UN is split about the decision, but is currently working on compromise that would make a statement (a step less than a resolution) tightening existing sanctions by singling out North Korea.

Japan, the U.S. and South Korea were actively pursuing a more serious reprimand of North Korea. However, China and Russia were holding back, saying that any punishment would be “counterproductive.”

Clearly, getting involved in a military show down would not be a good decision. The UN just doesn’t have the military stamina to get involved in a potential war. The world is exhausted by the Iraq war, even outside parties.

However, a legitimate response to the North Korea’s provocative act would be to issue economic sanctions. China supplies North Korea with 80-90 percent of its energy, as well as food and other humanitarian needs. The problem with this solution is that China did not want to do anything. I guess when they drafted the original resolution they never actually thought they would have to stand by it.

An outside aspect of this dilemma is that whatever the UN chooses to do, Iran is watching closely and making decisions based on the precedent.

“The response of the UN to date has simply indicated to Iran that it’s got a green light,” senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and UN critic Amre Yazerly said. “They’re not serious about sanctions.”

It turns out that rules are made to be broken, or at least that’s the message that the UN is sending to the rest of the world.

Clinton McFar is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.

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Tony the Tiger also lost a cereal endorsement and his place on the U.S. Olympic Swim Team.
Monday, April 13, 2009

Facebook

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to follow recruiting guidelines could face penalties such as being denied tickets or even being formally "diss-launched" from the athletic program. Adam Kissel, director of the Individual Rights Defense Program at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, said the NCAA can impose rules on its member colleges, but universities—especially public ones—can't enforce them if it means punishing students in any way for expounding their First Amendment rights because of a conviction.

"A student does n't lose First Amendment rights because of a conviction," he said.

Moosley, the student, didn't respond to a request for comment, but the group has been renamed "Bring a National Title back to NC STATE!", he said.

Through an athletic department spokesman, UK head of compliance Sandy Bell declined to comment on whether the department has taken any action in response to such groups.

Facebook did not respond to an e-mail request for comment.

Kissel, of the education rights group, and Allen Fine of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that the university is "educating" them about the rules. He added he was not aware if the NCAA had ever initiated any action related to a Facebook group or notified an institution about one.

But doers of Facebook groups are still up in plain site for current

Baseball

continued from page 16

less to say the time they spent at the ballpark was probably the most enjoyed.

Pacific apparently got enough kids to come and try out this year and was able to put together a team. I think it's really neat that all these other schools are trying to get their sports programs competitive, though it might be best to take it a little slower and maybe set up some games with Brownstone Community College, or Tift, you know some confidence builders before they have to play Poly.

It was a great weekend to rehabilitate one of our veteran catalysts, someone Cal Poly has counted on for three years, Wes Darrell, that's right, he's back. In lieu of his absence however, our hosts have been getting out there and doing damage; case and point, Matt Jensen. Have you been to a game yet this year? If you have then you've seen his work, usually along the lines of doubles in the gap, line drives through the infield and nine home runs in the first half of the season. The kicker is that he's not even an honorable mention for freshman of the year. Yeah, pretty ridiculous, but definitely the likes of a freshman all Americans. Can it be truly speculative? Not in my book.

The Mustangs took two out of three against the Tigers while Pacific learned a valuable lesson this weekend. Cal Poly was able to get a few new guys in the lineup to see some action, as well as regulars, such as Yoder, who was able to raise his average by nearly 20 points hitting 500 for the weekend.

As far as the trials of monotony go, you probably didn't hear a bunch of whining and complaining when the Mustangs got on the bus and headed for Stockton. No remarks like, "Coach, do we really have to spend the whole weekend up there? Can't we just send 12 guys to go play them?" The ball club sucked it up and did what they were supposed to do, which I'm sure that Pacific truly appreciates it. On the upbeat at least our ball club got something out of it, a series victory. Thank you UOP!

As for the games this week, Santa Clara is going to lose some sleep followed up by a long weekend for the Aggies as UC Davis comes to town for a three-game series. The games might be a bit one sided this week, but hey, that's good for our boys isn't it? Keep winning games regardless of how the competition plays; sure it may not be an action packed edge of your seat nine innings, but there is so much more to the ballpark that has to offer.

Take for example the second biggest rivalry on the Central Coast, the 6-year-olds vs. the event staff. It's amazing, every time a foul ball is hit the scene is reminiscent of the beaches of Normandy in '44. You've got a herd of roughly 30 "knees high to a grasshopper" kids doing about 120 mph toward their prize. As the dust clears you can begin to make out a yellow jacket which in disbelief appears to be demanding the kid give up the baseball. Right, great idea Jim, might as well jump into pool of ravenous perch with squid tied to your supplies.

If that doesn't catch your fancy, then there's always Kreukow corner, all you can eat, drink and heckle for an incredibly fair price. Ultimately I can say with confidence that there's something for everyone at the ballpark, be it baseball, food or sundresses in the warm spring air, irony or the foul ball crew. Regardless of your preferences, how bad could it be? It's baseball on the Central Coast in the spring. Until next week.

Jacob Eisner is an animal science senior and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.

www.tshirtguy.net

Sports designer: Kate Nickerson

High School basketball phenom John Wall, shown above, is being heavily recruited by students at several universities through Facebook.

and threatened sanction came from the university.

"The school is potentially finding themselves in a tricky situation, because of the NCAA rules, but that doesn't mean public universities can cease lawful speech," Fine said.

Christianson dismissed the free speech argument, saying courts have upheld the NCAA's right to set recruiting rules for members.

"We don't see it as a free speech issue. What we see is it as a recruiting issue," he said. "We want to be sure that we limit the level of minu­tion that comes into their lives."
Cal Poly (28-9, 7-2 Big West Conference) came away with a sweep in a critical three-game set against conference-leading Long Beach State on Friday and Saturday. The Mustangs rode three sensational pitching performances, allowing just two runs in the three game series.

Cal Poly entered the series trailing the 49ers by a game in the Big West but with the sweep is now tied with Cal State Fullerton (19-17, 7-2) for the conference lead.

The Mustangs lost two of three to the Titans earlier this year meaning Cal State Fullerton would currently own a tiebreaker.

Junior first baseman Krysten Cary’s 12th home run for the Mustangs, provided the only run in Cal Poly’s 1-0 series-opening win on Friday.

Sophomore leftfielder Anna Cahn (18-5) scattered just five hits in the shutout win.

Cahn’s performance was matched in game two by junior Helen Pena (9-4) who struck out six 49ers in the second game of Cal Poly’s doubleheader sweep on Saturday.

Saturday saw Cal Poly win where it had left off. Not only did she allow just one run in another complete game effort, she also drove in the tying and eventually the winning run in the sixth inning.

Her single scored senior second baseman Stephanie Tam and a throwing error by Long Beach State’s Casey Barba allowed sophomore catcher Stephanie Correia to score the eventual winning run.

The Mustangs go on the road for two weeks beginning Saturday with a three-game series at Cal State Northridge.

Cal Poly sophomore Boris Novachkov will continue to see Facebook, page 15

Mustangs Swept Doubles and Won Three Singles Matches en Route to clinching third place in the Big West Conference.

Cal Poly (10-9, 3-2) got singles wins from sophomores Alexander Sonesson and Blake Wordman and junior Robert Foy to secure the victory.

After dropping the first two singles matches, Sonesson defeated Hunter Lee, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) at No. 3 singles to get Cal Poly on the board. Foy followed that up at No. 4 with a win over Tyler Lee, 6-3, 6-1.

Wordman secured the victory with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Nick Amardhi.

“It was great to get another conference win,” Cal Poly head coach Justin McGrath in a statement. “I give a lot of credit to USC. Davis. They fought really hard to-day and nearly pulled out a victory.”

Cal Poly will compete in the Big West Conference Championship beginning Friday when they take on UC Riverside.