US eases Cuban travel, money restraints

Robert Burns
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a measured break with a half-century of U.S. policy toward communist Cuba, the Obama administration lifted restrictions Monday on Cuban-Americans who want to travel and send money to their island homeland.

In a further gesture of openness, U.S. telecommunications firms were freed to seek business there, too. But the broader U.S. trade embargo remained in place.

The White House portrayed its changes, which fulfilled one of President Barack Obama’s campaign promises, as a path to promoting personal freedom in one of the few remaining communist nations. They also marked another major step away from the foreign policy priorities of the Bush administration.

But the moves fell far short of the more drastic policy adjustments that some — including Republican Sen. Richard Lugar — have argued are required to promote U.S. interests in Latin America and to bring about change in Cuba. For most Americans, Cuba remains the only country in the world their government prohibits them from visiting — a barrier to potential travelers as well as to the Cuban tourist industry that would like to see them.

Cubans welcomed the changes but said more should be done.

“It’s help that people really need,” said Ferminia Gonzalez, a 46-year-old housewife in the leafy Havana neighborhood of Vedado. “Right now, we have to work lots of jobs just to make ends meet.”

But few Cubans expect Obama to end the trade embargo or allow American students to visit the island without limits.

“He should do more and lift travel restrictions for all Americans,” said Alberto Val, a 68-year-old retiree. “Until he does that, I don’t think he’s doing much.”

see Cuba, page 2
Cuba  

continued from page 1

Lifting or substantially easing the economic embargo, as set forth in the Cuba Aces Council Regulations and administered by the Treasury Department, would require legislative action by Congress. The White House made no mention of any intention to seek such changes. Obama said as a presidential candidate that the embargo was a form of leverage to press for democratic reforms in Cuba.

Jose Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch welcomed the Cuba announcement but said more should be done. "If President Obama is serious about promoting change in Cuba, this executive order must be part of a larger shift away from the U.S.'s unilateral approach toward the Cuban government," Vivanco said.

Taking the other side, three Democratic lawmakers wrote in a letter to Obama on Monday that his decisions would have "devastating consequences." They said the Cuban government takes 30 cents of every dollar in U.S. remittances that enters the country as a usage fee.

"This income facilitates the regime's finance of an oppressive state security apparatus," they wrote. The letter was signed by Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Albio Sires and Robert Andrews of New Jersey. They recommended a more calibrated approach: doubling the amount of allowable money transfers to family members in Cuba rather than allowing unlimited transfers.

American policy toward Cuba has been frozen since 1962, when the Kennedy administration broadened a partial trade embargo imposed by the Eisenhower administration the previous year. The original aim was to bring down Fidel Castro's Marxist government at a time when U.S.-backed exiles, led by a Cuban army, failed, largely due to the political influence of powerful Cuban exiles, mostly in Florida, who were determined to isolate Cuba, strangle its economy and force Castro out. Castro, now 82, called the presidency to his brother last year due to illness. Raul Castro, 77, shows no sign of making any fundamental changes.

The White House portrayed the lifting of travel restrictions and money transfers to family members in Cuba — coupled with the telecommunications changes — as steps to bridge the gap among divided Cuban families.

"All who embrace core democratic values long for a Cuba that respects the basic human, political and economic rights of all its citizens," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said in announcing the decision. "President Obama believes the measure he has taken today will help make that goal a reality."

It had been known for more than a week that the White House would announce the Cuba changes in advance of Obama's attendance this weekend at a Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago. Cuba is excluded from that gathering of 34 heads of government, but a number of participants are expected to use the session as an opportunity to press the U.S. to improve relations with Havana.

There has been a growing chorus of congressional advocates for change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. In February, a Louisiana Democrat issued a report based on a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff visit to Havana that called for a reversal of the family travel and money transfer restrictions.

Lugar's report also urged congressional action to remove all United States travel restrictions, not just those for Cuban-Americans. Further, it advocated lifting travel restrictions on Cuban diplomats in Washington, who are not allowed to journey outside the capital area. It said this would encourage a reciprocal lifting of Cuban restrictions on U.S. diplomats, improving the U.S. government's ability to understand more fully the conditions that exist on the entire island.

Separately on Monday, a U.S. religious freedom advocacy group said it had been forced to call off a fact-finding trip after the Cuban government did not issue visas to its delegation. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said the visa had been applied for weeks earlier and it had received no explanation for why they were not granted.

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Cuba policy. We have a policy toward Miami and not toward Havana," Sweig added, however, that Obama's decision to authorize more telecommunications links with Cuba was a "potentially significant opening," particularly if the Cuban government follows through and allows those connections.

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Sebelius lowballed money donated from abortion doctor

Erica Werner

President Barack Obama's health secretary nominee got nearly three times as much political money from a controversial abortion doctor as she told senators.

The Health and Human Services Department said Monday that the omission was an oversight that Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius would correct.

In a response to questions from the Senate Finance Committee made public last week, Sebelius wrote that she received $12,450 between 1994-2001 from Dr. George Tiller, one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers.

But in addition to those campaign donations, records reviewed by The Associated Press show that Tiller gave at least $23,000 more from 2000-2002 to a political action committee Sebelius established while insurance commission to raise money for fellow Democrats.

Sebelius did not tell senators about that additional money, although Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., asked specifically about any Tiller donations to her PAC.

"There was an oversight in the initial answer provided to the committee," HHS spokesman Nick Papas said Monday. "Obviously donations to the PAC are a matter of public record. The governor is updating the answer to this question and will resubmit it to the committee."

It was the second time in her confirmation process that Sebelius had to explain a financial oversight to the Finance Committee. Earlier, she corrected three years' worth of tax returns and paid more than $7,000 in back taxes to fix improper deductions.

Anti-abortion groups have sought to make an issue of Sebelius' abortion stances and her ties to Tiller or his PAC.

Opponents have criticized Republicans on the Finance Committee for not asking Sebelius about Tiller or abortion when she appeared for her confirmation hearing April 2. Seniors raised the issue only in written questions submitted to Sebelius after her hearing, which were released last Thursday along with her responses.

Can you describe your relationship with Mr. Tiller?" Kyl asked. "Has he ever contributed to your campaign?"

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Mexico insulted by Burger King in ad

Mark Stevenson

An advertisement for Burger King's Tex-Mex Whopper burger that has run in Europe, shows a small wrestler dressed in a cape resembling a Mexican flag. The wrestler团队 up with a linky American comfort al-" food as his taught to illustrate the cross-border blend of flavors.

"The tone of Texas, with a little see Mexico, page 4

State Briefs

MORRO BAY, Calif. (AP) — The killer who decapitated a sea otter and elephant seal at Morro Strand State Beach is being sought by California wardens.

Department of Fish and Game wardens say the headless mammals were found on the beach this week. An agency biologist says the decapitations took place Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

Sea otters and elephant seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The sea otter is also listed as a fully protected species under state law and as a threate­ned species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

There are no arrests.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A mischievous computer program that tormented Twitter over the weekend is another reminder of the challenges facing the rapidly growing online communications service.

The mischievous program, known as a "worm," targeted Twitter's network with four different attacks starting early Saturday and ending early Monday, according to Twitter co-founder Biz Stone.
Mexico

continued from page 4

spicy Mexican," a narrator's voice says.

The taller cowboy boosts the wres­
tler up to reach high shelves and helps
him clean tall windows, while the Mexican
helps the cowboy open a jar.

Mexico's ambassador to Spain said
Monday he has written a letter to
Burger King's offices in that nation ob­
jecting to the ad and asking that it be
removed. Jorge Zernieno told Radio
Formula that the ad "appropriately used
the stereotyped image of a Mexican."

Press officials at Burger King's offices in
Miami, Florida, and Madrid, Spain, did not im­
mediately respond to requests for comment. Burger King
is known for its signature Whopper
hamburger.

One of the things that most an­
gered Mexican officials was a print
edition of the ad showing the wrestler
wearing what appear to be a Mexican
flag as a cloak.

"We have to tell these people that
in Mexico we have a great deal of re­
spect for our flag," Zernieno said.

Mexico has very strict rules about
using the flag. In 2008, the govern­
ment fined a foreign-owned publish­
ing house, Random House Mondial
SA, for showing disrespect to the
country's flag in a video posted online.
The video showed a literature fan
wearing a Mexican flag as a cape as
he4 Rapea into a book signing and rip­
a piece of it from the coat of Brazil­
ian writer Paulo Coelho.
It is not the first time that fast-food
outlets have offended Mexican sensi­
bilities.

In the 1990s, a Taco Bell ad featured a contro­
troversial pint-sized talking Chi­
budna that spoke with a Mexican ac­
cent.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Does the Kristin Smart case make
you think twice about walking home
alone at night? Why or why not?"

"No, not at all. That's a pretty
tragic case, but has no bearing
on my decision to walk alone
at night."
- Jason Anderson
civil engineering senior

"No, because I'm a guy. I feel
like if I was ever confronted, I
could defend myself."
- Andrew Longabaugh,
business senior

"It would, but I was always
taught to not walk alone. So,
it just reinforces what I was
already taught."
- Kando Oguhrinola,
environmental engineering
freshman

"I thought twice about
walking alone anyways, but
when I get closer to campus
I feel safer."
- Jessie Ysuhza,
nutrition freshman

Sebelius

continued from page 3

Sebelius responded: "I have been familiar with Dr. Tiller for many years
because he lives and works in Kansas.
Dr. Tiller, like many Kansas, contrib­
uted to my campaign for insurance
commissioner. I received $12,450 over
an eight-year period (1994-2001),
which represented 1 percent of my
total contributions during that time.
Since that time, I have received no
donations from Dr. Tiller or any PAC
related to him."

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Jennifer Titchcomb
Juniior Barrett

It's relatively cheap."

It's always kind of nice to get art and design

and packaging while Wirdak

Kids are sick of the normal shirts you

been placed by the Cal Poly community.
For there it's up to the customer to

specify their custom look. Color of thread,
Fabric tags, shirt and splatter paint are selected. Colvin
does the initial cutting and sewing while Wirdak

sense Splat's February debut, business cards and a MySpace page
have been created. The response has been positive: several orders have been placed by the Cal Poly community and beyond.

"Recently we got an order for $40 from some kid in Mexico. It's kind of fun to see who buys it," Wirdak said.

Whether it's the economy or the popularity of Bravo's reality show "Project Runway," Wirdak, Colvin and other college students are inspired and using their creativity to profit.

"I think it's a trend and a rather good one. It's always kind of nice getting something that is hand-made," Wirdak said. "It makes you feel good and it's relatively cheap."

Colvin adds, "Maybe it's because kids are sick of the normal shirts you

find at a surf shop and they want something that will be noticeable."

Local clothing designer Kate White has noticed an increased desire among her peers for a more individual look.

"A few years back you could tell when Urban (Outfitters) started taking vintage pieces and running and

matching and cutting and re-cutting and sewing them back together," she said. "I think it gave a lot of younger people ideas and they were able to run with it."

White doesn't feel threatened by other entrepreneurs. "I support it. I am a big fan of people's personal outlook on things. When people make clothes it's their own way of expressing themselves." A do-it-yourself culture has emerged perhaps inspired by shows like "Project Runway.

The competition pits 12 designers against each other and each week create new designs from fabrics and non-traditional materials. Past contests have included garments created from car interiors, furnishings, recyclable materials and food. According to Nicholson ratings the show has 3.6 million viewers.

"It's really inspirational and it's very nice to see other people with creativity," said history, modern languages and English senior and Mustang Daily arts editor Emilie Egger. "I definitely start sewing when I watch it."

Wirdak also enjoys the show. "Because I'm an art major it's always good to watch other forms of art. It's kind of nice to see what they do and it's creative. It's cool to watch and learn from."

Project Runway challenges incorporate non-fabric materials to appeal to a more green conscience society. People are reinventing clothing by recycling fabrics.

"I like to look in the unexpected. Like weird things I have of my grandma's, curtains or bed sheets or old clothes," Egger said.

White explained one reason she began sewing. "It was just the whole idea of being able to utilize the things I made instead of having to outsource, go in and purchase things."

In tough economic times, whether the creator saves money or not depends on the cost of the materials. "The chain stores have really good fabric but usually more expensive," Egger said. "I've been down to the garment district in L.A. and you can really find good stuff there if you bring someone that is good at bargaining."

Although Egger doesn't call herself a seamstress, and said she's still learning, she has been commissioned to make scarves and has sold bags before.

In the future she plans on selling her work on Etsy.com. The Web site features over 30 local clothing designers.

see Splat, page 6

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Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

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see Splat, page 6

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Splat
continued from page 5

categories of hand-made items from artists. Products range from jewelry to art, bags and clothing. The site is a helpful tool for entrepreneurs to sell their creations, as well as place consumers can go to find something truly unique.

Central Coast Surfboards, 855 Marsh St., has a reputation for being a local hot spot for budding designers, a place to showcase their talent. White left the busy Big Apple for San Luis Obispo where he is an assistant manager and designer for CCS.

“They were a good stepping stone for a lot of people and anyone that has gone ahead from this area has worked for CCS at one point,” she said.

Her line, SCISSOR, is completely handmade. “I have a feeling I’ll have to find some form of manufacturer in the next few years. As of right now, I sew everything, but I kind of like that and I can keep it at a small level,” she said.

For White, making clothing is more of a fun hobby than work. “So many people when they work are doing something just to pay the bills. I am doing something so much more than that and it just so happens to pay the bills.”

It is a hobby with a relaxing nature. “I like just doing something by myself and it’s quiet and I listen to music. And I do it in the middle of the night and it calms me down,” Egger said.

Cal Poly students have joined in on this therapeutic craft too. Suzanne Wardman, coordinator and facilitator of classes at Beverly’s Fabric store, has noticed an increase in student participation from middle school to college ages.

According to Wardman, the students that come to Beverly’s pick up sewing quickly and have original ideas. “They are very creative.”

Classes range from sewing basics to more advanced classes focused on specific garments. “All the schools did away with home economics. But there is still a need for learning those skills,” she said.

Not everyone has aspirations of taking their work to Bryant Park. Wardman said some students come in to work on school projects or costumes for parties.

Sorority members are no stranger to Beverly’s. “Any time there is a party on campus we know it first,” Wardman said. “We will see two or three groups and we will say ‘what’s the theme tonight?’ There’s a lot of fun and foolishness; it’s a learning process when they come in.”

Whether it be costumes just for fun or crafting wearable pieces people can take pride in their work. “It’s just kind of fun to wear your own stuff and be creative. The only way I really see it in my life is everyday living and being creative and expressing my own style,” Egger said. “I don’t really expect to be the next Marc Jacobs but it is fun to wear your own things, it’s part of who you are and it’s not just buying things from Target, even though they have cute clothes.”
You’ve seen ‘17 Again’ again and again

Christy Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — "17 Again" is one of those movies that requires you to suspend all disbelief and assume that someone who looks like Zac Efron could, in 20 years, turn into someone who looks like Matthew Perry. (Those must have been some rough years — either that or Rob Lowe wasn’t available.)

Can’t do it, you say? Well, that detail is just about as implausible as the film’s premise itself: Mike (Donny Osmond), a miserable father of two on the brink of divorce, gets a chance to relive his high school days and improve his future by becoming 17 in the present day, all thanks to the magical powers of a mystical jester (Brian d’Oyley-Murray).

It’s always some odd figure on the fringe who brings about this kind of fantastic transformation, isn’t it? This guy literally says to Mike: “I bet you wish you had it to do all over again.”

Well yes, there are a lot of elements in "17 Again" that feel awfully familiar. Director Burr Steers, a long way from his darkly comic, coming-of-age debut "Igby Goes Down," takes you places you’ve been before — many times — in more charming movies like "Big," "13 Going on 30," "Freaky Friday," "Never Been Kissed" and even "Back to the Future." The idea of going back to high school is so overdone, there was even an entire episode of "Family Guy" that parodied it. (Jason Filardi is credited with writing "17 Again").

But rather than changing his decision to abandon his dreams of basketball stardom and marry the girlfriend he knocked up, Mike realizes his true purpose is to reconnect with his wife, Scarlet (played as an adult by Leslie Mann), and teenage kids Maggie and Alex (Michelle Trachtenberg and Sterling Knight). The result is facile and feel-good, not engaging or insightful.

Efron maintains the dreamy presence that made the tweens scream in the "High School Musical" series — those eyes! those cheekbones! — which is on full display when Mike-as-adult-as-kid gets a makeover from the K-Fed get-up he initially wore in a feeble attempt at fitting in. He steps out of a Porsche, purchased by his nerdy childhood best friend Ned (Liamas Lennon of "Reno 911") who grew up to make it big as a computer geek, and with his aviator sunglasses and devil-may-care shag haircut, he looks like... well, he looks like Zac Efron. At least Steve knows how to capitalize on his star’s strongest attributes.

Efron also enjoys a couple of amusing scenes here as a grown-up delivering upright diatribes in a bony’s body and he connects with Mann in a way that surprisingly isn’t all that creepy. But he still seems too pretty and lightweight to be a persuasive leading man capable of carrying a film. It’ll happen, though. There’s time.

It certainly doesn’t help his cause that he’s been given such a cliched depiction of high school life in which to function. The jocks (the leader of whom is conveniently dating Mike’s daughter), the nerds, the awkward cafeteria moments though. There’s time.

It makes the singing-and-dancing hijinks of the East High Wild-cats look downright subversive by comparison.


Zac Efron, right, and Michelle Trachtenberg are shown in a scene from, "17 Again."
Even bad economy can’t crush spirit of a (green) entrepreneur

It is not the best of times for the green industry. We are sometimes susceptible to that pervasive feeling of dread and doubt that hovers over us like a thick blanket of Los Angeles smog.

With the prolonged credit crisis, there has been a significant drop in funding for sustainability-related enterprises. The Wall Street Journal reported a 53 percent decrease in venture capital investments towards the renewable energy sector for this quarter. The companies with the best balance sheets are doing their best to weather out the financial storm while many others go under. I, the Zeitgeist are thankful for your careful reading and understanding of crises, we are overwhelmed and fall prey to apathy when the renewable energy sector capital investments towards the financial storm while many others go under.

Face much uncertainty. The number of failed and failing states across the globe is staggering (and Thailand too, but). California is facing a severe water crisis. There is an island of plastic garbage in the Pacific Ocean the size of Texas. In the next 24 hours, deforestation of seventy acres of rainforests from the atmosphere as eight million people flying from New York to London. It is easy to fall prey to apathy when we are overwhelmed with a convergence of crises, both financial and ecological.

But regarding the current situation, we must always seek to overcome our own spirit of the entrepreneur and its ambitious sense of rational optimism, a pseudo-discontent with the status quo, and an understanding of the true power of innovation. In contrast to the Mustang Daily’s libertarian ‘openness,’ I feel that it is important to provide a viable sustainable balance of inspiration. Our overall outlooks are not diametrically opposed but are both aware of the inherent value of the individual. But we focus our energy in different directions. I hold the strong conviction that we need to transition America towards a sustainable business-based economy. That is why I feel at home when I got involved with the Environmental Policy Coalition. From policy wonks to environmentalists we are a diverse group of students who are seeking practical and appropriate solutions to the plethora of problems we are facing this century.

More than just a respectable career, a mission to help others is what motivates me most. But in recent years I have found that I have formed many strong opinions on business, environmentalism, and sustainability (in my opinion, but I’ll use it in the general sense) and politics as well, to the point that I feel I have something to say to everyone. So this is a least a duty to test things out and see if my ideas and opinions could advance these cases, bring people together to push the world forward.

In the next few weeks the Environmental Policy Poly will be hosting the California Student Sustainability Coalition’s annual Spring Convergence (CSSC for short). The CSSC is the largest student sustainability conference in the nation, and on April 24 to 26, these future leaders of America will be converging at Cal Poly to attend workshops, network with other students and learn how to affect positive change in their communities. It’s a great chance for you to get involved and make lasting connections across the state. Humanity needs that bright green future, a future that transforms our collapsing system through innovation and creativity, and finds a new path towards a sustainable prosperity that can be shared by all. That future is not a pipe dream. That future is the last best hope of humanity. Seeking that future is what I aspire to do every day.

As the non-climatic symbol goes, ‘danger’ plus ‘opportunity equals crisis.’ But the Chinese symbol for crisis is not one symbol but two. The symbols for crisis in Chinese are made up of these two words: we, I wish this for you too, you brave and curious soul who has woken up and is questioning the status quo.

I think the connection is pretty obvious. Jeremy is not saying that taking taxes is the same violent act as murdering others with a club. He is saying that in a state of nature, savages take things simply because they want them and use clubs to do so. We face much uncertainty in the 21st century because the government is the weapon of choice for those with less money who use taxes as a club to steal from the wealthy. Our society forgets that few and subsidized everything: education, healthcare, unemployment, mortgages, irresponsibility and the like.

So what do we have to happen? Well, the rich have to share their money out of them so we can pay for all the stuff we are entitled to. The entire point of the article is that legislation is the modern weapon of theft. That would be the area to criticize if you disagree, not that Jeremy is trying to set up a club as his metaphor.

Mike Response to “21st century cave-men”

Nice column. Unfortunately, you forgot to mention just how patriotic Obama’s appointees have been. I believe the count is now up to five for those that don’t pay their patriotic fair share of the taxes. If people raising our taxes aren’t willing to pay themselves, maybe we should all start taking “innocent” mistakes on our tax returns.

Basist Response to “April 15 is the New July 4”

just based off the level of writ­ing in this piece, I’m shocked you not only made it to college but that Mustang Daily editors let this be printed. Second, give up comparisons, you’re really no good at them. Third, while your loose premise somewhat describes the ways in which California voters vote, it does not represent the goals Obama has presented. He has made it clear from the beginning that the path we’ve elected to go down will require sacrifice from all of us. Personally, I want my country to be great, not subpar so I can keep my wealth and ideas that have weighty parents can get healthcare, and higher education. If we did that, well, all articles would read like this one.
Use of force needed to stop modern day piracy

We can put a man on the moon, we are working on a cure for cancer and we can even take a tumor out of your brain through your nose, but we still can’t stop pirates?

There has been a flurry of reports this past week about pirates ravaging international waters off the coast of Somalia. After capturing an Italian-flagged tugboat, another set of swashbucklers took over an American Maersk cargo ship and took the captain hostage on one of the ship’s lifeboats.

With these scours piling the high seas, it brings me to truly wonder — how far have we come as a human race if we still can’t stop pirates? Of course, these aren’t your stereotypical silver screen pirates, but weren’t we having problems with piracy 200 years ago? We can put a man on the moon, we are working on a cure for cancer, and we can even take a tumor off your brain through your nose, but we still can’t stop pirates?

Let’s compare, shall we, the marauding marauders of yesteryear to today’s open-water terrorists. The Get is much different. Unlike the pirates of centuries past, who were “all in a gowne tif to looke,” as Chaucer describes in “The Canterbury Tales,” today’s waiting scours can be seen in anything from camouflage fatigue to denim jeans and windbreakers like those photographed on the Maytik Alabama.

Weaponry has surely changed as well; today’s pirates aren’t going to loot your boat with cannons from their sailboats and ships, swords or hooked bands anymore. Instead, they utilize automatic machine guns and motor boats. Still, modern warfare tactics the Navy now employs highly outweigh the skill and scheme of any current pirates. They shouldn’t be considered any more of a threat than the sword-bearing pirates that existed as far back as the 1500s.

Unlike the pirates of the 1800s, many of which sailed from Morocco, modern pirates have no initiative other than money. The Moroccan pirates that captured the U.S. merchant ship Bevis in 1784, and those like them, saw piracy as a type of jihad, their religious views pushing them to plunder boats and siege ships because the American and British people were viewed as sinners. However, these Somali pirates, it is reported, have no religious or political motive. Money is their main concern and they will do whatever it takes to get it.

“This is a business to them. They are not intended on carrying what cargo we’re carrying. All they want to do is see a dollar figure,” said John Harris, CEO of Hollow Point Security Services, which specializes in maritime security.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for international actions against these terrorists.

“We think the world should come together to end the scourge of piracy,” she said.

There is no question that piracy is an issue which must be dealt with considering the high amount of sea trade that the entire world relies on to import and export goods. But what good is having a Navy and enough firepower to blow up a state on each vessel if we can’t save Captain Richard Phillips of the Maersk Alabama from a lifeboat that’s still in open water within hours of arrival?

Phillips gave himself up to the pirates as a hostage in exchange for the safety of his crew during the takeover of his ship last Wednesday. It was with the authorization of President Obama that the Seals were told to act accordingly if they felt Phillips was in imminent danger. After being presented with the opportunity, and seeing Phillips with a gun pressed to his back, Navy Seal snipers worked together and took their shots.

Thankfully, the captain was rescued Sunday, when he jumped overboard the lifeboat he was being held on, and the snipers shot and killed three of the pirates holding him hostage. A fourth pirate is being held in custody on the USS Bainbridge.

President Obama spoke Monday to a group at the Transportation Department saying that he was proud of the United States Navy and other agencies that helped in the rescue of Captain Phillips. President Obama also said that he aims to “halt the rise of piracy in that region.”

Unfortunately, Somali pirates have vowed revenge on the Americans and French sailors they came across. The French military stormed a yacht that pirates had taken over on Friday. In the ensuing battle, two pirates as well as one hostage were killed. In an interview with Reuters, a Somali pirate stated that they have killed seven Americans and that they will continue to fight until they capture the whole ship.

President Obama has a lot on his plate at this point. In the midst of a war in Afghanistan, as well as trying to pull military groups out of Iraq, this pending feud with pirates off the Horn of Africa could prove to be a dangerous and fatal venture on the part of the American government. Well thought-out and strategic precautions will need to be implemented quickly to ensure the safety of our shipping boats and their crews.

“Piracy may be a centuries-old crime, but we are working to bring a 21st-century response,” Clinton said.

I respect that the government is doing what they can to keep these plunders at bay. However, though there has been some effort made to protect the shipping lanes off the coast Somalia and other major ports, there has to be a way to stop pirates completely from attacking ships. This is an age-old brand of terrorism that should have been thoroughly dealt with 200 years back.

The human race needs our governments to realize that these nautical terrorists can be stopped and should have been a long time ago. I think we should call on the governments of the world to evolve, rise to this occasion and put piracy to an end.

Mikaela Allen is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily reporter.
one run and five hits in seven innings. The right-hander struck out 11 and walked none in his first home-opener start of his career.

"I wasn't expecting this," he said. "It was great to get out and jump on these guys."

Johnson (0-2) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 2 2/3 innings, struck out five and walked three.

Hudson's second homer of the season gave the Dodgers a 3-1 lead. The Giants tied it on Travis Ishikawa's RBI single in the fourth.

Both of Ethier's homers came on the first pitch. His first came off Johnson and gave the Dodgers the lead for good at 2-1. Rafael Furcal added a two-run single with two outs in Los Angeles' six-run fourth.

"After you throw 10 pitches to the guy before (Russell Martin), you're not expecting that he's going to swing at the first pitch," Johnson said. "It's not brain surgery."

Sixth, you're not expecting that he's intentional, and he scored a run.

Hudson was introduced numerically instead of by the starting lineup, so Ramirez, who wears No. 99, could test out last from the left-field pavilion. The crowd of 57,099 — the largest in stadium history — saved its loudest cheers for the slugger, who can opt out of the contract of the slugger, who can opt out of the contract of the contract.

Ramirez nearly homered in his first at-bat, sending Johnson's first pitch deep to right field before Winn snared it at the wall. Ramirez was 1-for-2 with two walks, one intentional, and he scored a run.

Sharks center Jeremy koeinick ended the second round, cementing their perceived status as hockey's biggest head cases, unable to maintain the mental focus that got them to the post season.

Koeinick's notes include several veterans imported largely for their past Stanley Cup successes, and general manager Doug Wilson expects that collective experience to start paying off immediately.

"The regular season is important for getting in the right playoff position and for developing good habits, but it's also like starting all over again," said 43-year-old Claude Lemieux, who might sit in favor of center Joe Thornton early in what seems certain to be a contentious series against the Sharks' biggest rival.

Sharks center Jeremy Roenick learned what Koeinick is trying to teach almost two decades ago. He was with the Chicago Blackhawks when they won the Presidents' Trophy in 1991, only to lose their first-round series with the Minnesota North Stars.

Of the 22 teams to win the trophy once the league began awarding it, only seven won the Stanley Cup. "You can be proud of playing well and happy that it put you in the position to have the Stanley Cup come through your building, but that's about it," Roenick said. "Nobody is here on anything other than we did. You don't have that luxury in hockey."
In a season of ups and downs, the Santa Clara baseball team is currently on an up. After stretching in which they lost 10 straight games, the Broncos (13-17) have now won three straight and are trying to turn their season around.

Cal Poly (24-8) stands in the way and will travel to play Santa Clara tonight at 6 p.m. at Stephen Schott Field. The Mustangs, currently ranked as high as No. 14, are coming off a weekend in which they took two of three at Pacific and have moved into a three-way tie for second place in the Big West Conference, three games behind UC Irvine. Freshman right-hander Jeff Johnson (6-1, 1.78 ERA) will make his third start for Cal Poly this year opposite Santa Clara right-hander Steve Kaluhu (1-3, 6.75 ERA).

Catcher Geoff Klein, who is batting .371 on the season with 15 doubles and 37 RBIs, leads the Broncos in hitting this season. The Mustangs may have re­ demption on their minds after los­ing two of three at home to Santa Clara last season, but this is a dif­ ferent team than the one that fin­ ished 24-32 a year ago.

## Mustangs set to take on streaky Santa Clara##

**Big West Standings 4.14.09**

**TEAM** | **BIG WEST** | **OVERALL**
---|---|---
UC Irvine | 8-1 | .889 | 22-9 | .710
Cal Poly | 5-4 | .556 | 24-8 | .750
Cal State Fullerton | 5-4 | .556 | 22-9 | .710
UC Santa Barbara | 5-4 | .556 | 19-10 | .655
Pacific | 5-4 | .556 | 12-18 | .400
Cal State Northridge | 3-6 | .333 | 14-20 | .412
UC Riverside | 2-4 | .333 | 20-9 | .690
Long Beach State | 2-4 | .333 | 14-17 | .452
UC Davis | 1-5 | .167 | 6-23 | .207

Cal Poly's offense is lead by freshman second baseman Matt Jensen, who is just one of seven Mustangs hitting above .350 this season. He also leads the team in doubles, walks, homeruns and RBIs.

The Cal Poly offensive attack has delivered against one of the nation's toughest schedules. College baseball websites Boydworld.com and WarrenNolan.com have the Mustangs playing among the 20 most difficult schedules this year. After the Tuesday game, Cal Poly will host Big West Confer­ ence foe UC Davis starting Friday at Baggett Stadium.

**Jensen named Player of the Week**

**MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS**

Cal Poly freshman second base­ man Matt Jensen continues to pile on the accolades as he was named co-Big West Player of the Week on Monday.

Jensen had another solid weekend for the Mustangs (24-8, 5-4) as they took two of three games at Pacific. He went 5-of-12 against the Tigers (12-18, 5-4), with all five hits of the extra-base variety.

Jensen, who has three doubles and two homeruns, drove in six runs over the weekend. He also scored three runs in helping Cal Poly to a 3-1 record over the week.

The Clovis East High grad­ uate has been consistent at the plate, collecting a hit in 19 straight games. He is currently leading the Mustangs in doubles (12), home runs (9), walks (23) and RBI (42).

Cal State Fullerton junior out­ fielder Kris Davis shared the award with Jensen. Davis went 6-of-14 over the weekend. He drove in six runs while scoring four times and also hit a homerun. The Titans were 2-2 dur­ing the week.

**Dodgers beat Giants 11-1 to win home opener**

**MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS**

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**Greg Beacham**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — And just like that, the greatest regular season in San Jose Sharks history is an un­ spoken memory.

When the Sharks showed up at work Monday for their first post­ season practice, nobody talked about the President's Trophy they earned over the weekend by finishing with the NHL best regular-season record. Nobody stooped in the glory of their unmatched 32-5-4 record in the Shark Tank, or the jaw-dropping 26-point margin by which they won the Pa­ cific Division title over Anaheim.

The Sharks are thinking about the Ducks, all right — but only as their opponent, in a first-round playoff series that could be the NHL's best opening matchup. The series pits two sometimes-bitter rivals against each other in the postseason for the first time.

"When you're in the same division with two California teams going at it, that's what it's about," said Sharks forward Travis Moen, who arrived in a trade with Anaheim just last month. "Definitely these teams have had some big games in the past, and we've already had some big games since I came up here: That's what's great about the playoffs: It's a whole new challenge now."

Discounting any achievement from the regular season ranks right up there with playoff boards among the post-pool spring rituals in hockey. Still, for a franchise that's never even been past the Western Conference finals since joining the NHL in 1991, this regular season was something re­ markable for the Sharks.

**Sharks start over after record-setting season**

**MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

San Jose finished with a franchise­ record 53 victories and 117 points, winning the conference's top spot by five points over the defending cham­ pion Detroit Red Wings. The Sharks clubbed their fourth Pacific title with several weeks left in the season, eventually finishing with the biggest margin among the league's six divi­sions champs.

"We're proud of what we accom­ plished, but there's enough guys in this locker room who know that what you do in the regular season doesn't always reflect on the playoffs," defenseman Rob Blake said.

Indeed, the regular season hasn't been a problem for the Sharks for about a half-dozen years. After their run to the 2004 conference finals, their last three post­season trips have been trips to the finals.

"It's a heck of a year, I didn't know I had the cycle going on," he said. "Neither did some of his teams­ mates, including Ethier and Pierre."

That said, the Giants won their first home opener since 2004, finishing 2-0-1 in the post­ season for the first time since joining the NHL in 1991, and the fifth in franchise history.

"Congratulations to Orlando," Parker said in a statement issued through the Dodgers. "I hope he appreciates he's in a very unique club. I can't believe only two people in 51 years (in Los Angeles). It's great fun to have a game like that. He'll be on a high for two weeks."