Penalties rise for underage drinkers, party hosts in SLO

Nikol Schiller
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

San Luis Obispo's new social host ordinance may cause some party planners to rethink who they'll be including on their guest list starting next month.

Starting May 8, San Luis Obispo's revised social host ordinance will hold party hosts legally and financially responsible for underage drinking at their home. This modified ordinance states that any host of a party where three or more minors are present - and at least one minor is drinking alcohol, will be charged with committing a misdemeanor and could face jail time along with a fine.

The first citation issued to a host includes a $350 fine; plus a "penalty assessment" and a number of additional fees that typically make the total fine considerably higher. San Luis Obispo Police Department Operations Captain Dan Blanke said, the second offense within a 12-month period raises the fine to $750 and the third offense hits $1,000. Under California state law, minors who possess alcohol are also guilty of the misdemeanor.

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Swine flu hits San Diego County, no cases reported in SLO

Swine flu, a virus contracted from pigs that's currently raging central and southern Mexico, is spreading globally, including as close to Cal Poly as San Diego County. There have also been confirmed cases in Imperial County and Sacramento County.

Cal Poly students who visited Mexico over spring break and are currently healthy most likely don't need to worry about contracting the virus since there is an eight-day total incubation period for the virus, said Health Center Director Marty Bragg.

"Cal Poly students who haven't reported it yet probably won't get it," he said.

According to a San Luis Obispo County Health Agency press release, there were no cases of swine flu in the county as of Monday.

A Cal Poly Academic Affairs e-mail released yesterday regarding swine flu symptoms, the college advised students on ways to avoid the spread of the flu. They also said that although none of Cal Poly's swine stock is known to be infected, they are keeping in close contact with the San Luis Obispo County health department to monitor the outbreak situation.

Cal Poly Health Center Dr. David Harris said that he and his colleagues are taking precautions.

"If someone does come to the health center with a fever, nausea, congestion, sore throat, or a cough, we're going to ask them to put on a mask;" he said. "We don't want to alarm people, we just want to be careful. We want to try and contain any upper respiratory sickness we see."

Dr. Harris added that unlike Mexico, where swine flu has turned into a pandemic, U.S. citizens have access to better healthcare and thus the flu is less likely to turn into an epidemic.

See Flu, page 2

ASI ELECTION COVERAGE

Meet the presidential candidates: Jon McElroy

Communication. Safety. Sustainability. These are a few of the issues at the top of the agenda for computer science graduate student and ASI presidential candidate Jon McElroy.

"I am running for ASI president because first off, I love Cal Poly, I love the campus," McElroy said. "I think it's a great school and I'm so glad I came here." One of three candidates in the upcoming election, McElroy said he is looking forward to providing a fresh perspective on issues affecting his fellow students as well as representing their interests at the university and in San Luis Obispo.

Having spent four years at Cal Poly, McElroy said he's dedicated to the local community. "I plan on living here after graduation and I care about Cal Poly's affiliation with the city, how we're represented within the city," McElroy said.

McElroy acknowledged that while he has little formal experience in student government, he said his fresh ideas and personal approach to problem solving will benefit the student body.

"I don't think it requires two years of Board of Directors experience to really represent the students, to be the voice of the students," he said. "Maybe I don't know everything about the senate, but that's why I came to Cal Poly, to learn by doing."

According to the tech-savvy candidate, a McElroy presidency would be characterized by effective communication and transparency, utilizing the Internet to address students' concerns. A key component of that transparency would be posting information about ASI's finances on his Web site, he said.

"The top issue every year is communication with students as an organizational leadership model," he said. "What I want to do a little different is I want to really use the Web more to keep people as informed as I can ... I got a hold of the budget for last year of UUB and ASI and I'm going to put it up on the Web site and I'm going to write up summary paragraphs or something, really trying to break it down. You know, what does this huge number mean? Where is our money actually going?"

Considering the amount of construction that the campus will undergo next year, the changing bus schedules and poor lighting just outside of campus, another major issue McElroy wants to address is student safety.

"Safety is something that I really like to talk about," he said. "Most guys feel safe, but a lot of the women have told me that right off campus where a lot of people park their cars, when they're walking back to their cars at night, there's not good lighting out there. I'm going to try to communicate with the city, you know, this is where we really need better lighting. That's important."

As ASI president, McElroy said he intends to put into practice Cal Poly's pledge to create a greener campus.

"On the issue of sustainability, what I would like to see is the UU and the Rec Center moving away from paper and into more electronics: TV screens, putting everything online," he said. "Paper is printed regularly in there and I think in the long run, it would be cheaper and more efficient to make everything electronic. It's also easier to update; it just takes one person to put up a JPEG instead of printing out all this paper."

Another issue is jobs, McElroy added. "Really supporting the number of jobs that are offered on campus through ASI and through the different organizations (like the bookstore), campus dining, I think jobs are really important and I think they help people in their studies. Working 10 to 15 hours a week really helps with schoolwork because it gives you a little break and you're getting something in return, you know, that week."

"McElroy also said that students' access to healthy and inexpensive food on campus could be improved.

"Really, food is a big issue. It's just too expensive ... It affects everyone and obviously the president has no direct authority to do anything, but to influence the administrators and campus dining and really..."

See Campaigns, page 2
Flu
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He also suggests eating healthy and maintaining standard hygiene habits. Washing hands often is one of the main ways to keep from contracting an illness including swine flu. Bragg also recommends keeping one's hands away from one's eyes, nose and mouth, and steering away from coughing into an elbow rather than into hands. However, both Bragg and Harris said there was no need for Cal Poly students to panic.

The Center for Disease Control issued the count from seven to 11 confirmed cases of swine flu in California on Monday, but reported it to be self-contained and two of the infected people had underlying conditions. All individuals have recovered since contracting the virus. As of 1 p.m. Monday, there were 33 other laboratory-confirmed cases in the United States, one in Ohio, two in Kansas, two in Texas, and 28 in New York City, according to the CDC's Web site.

Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has declared the situation a public health emergency. She insists that people keep in mind that although it is being called an "emergency," the government is simply asking people be cautious. It does not mean that it has reached pandemic status.

Symptoms of swine flu are very similar to that of the common seasonal flu including coughing, nasal congestion, body aches, and joint pain, but longer and more importantly, fever.

"If people are sick and have a fever they should stay home," Harris said.

— Mike C. Alton contributed to this report

CALLING ALL STUDENTS

The Mustang Daily is looking for a diligent and talented leader to be the next editor-in-chief.

The only requirement is that you will be a full-time student during the 2009-2010 school year (all class levels are open to free). If interested, stop by the Journalism Department office by May 5 to submit a letter stating your qualifications and describing how you envision the Mustang Daily meeting the needs of its audience under your leadership.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Wellness Directory

The student's guide to mind + body health

To place an ad in this directory please contact 805-756-1143 or mustangdailysads@gmail.com
Elephant exodus reported from troubled Zimbabwe

Three elephants also roamed into the eastern border city of Mutare this month and state wildlife authorities "want to shoot them before they kill somebody," he said.

The task force and a Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force appealed to the public to stay away from the area "as the elephants are in their reproductive stage," he said. "We will deal with them after they have calved." sighting of a golden lion was reported last week.

As many as 400 elephants have crossed the Zambezi River, which separates Zambia from northern Zimbabwe, in recent months, said Johnny Rodrigues, head of the task force.

Tourists and photographic safaris have dropped sharply during years of political and economic turmoil since the often violent seizures of thousands of white-owned farms began in 2000, disrupting the agriculture-based economy in the former regional breadbasket.

Longtime ruler President Robert Mugabe blames Western sanctions for the economic crisis that has led to acute shortages of food, gasoline and the most basic goods.

Rodrigues said more animal fencing was needed at wildlife preserves to combat poaching and the escape of animals from their natural habitat after being made skittish by gunfire.

Conservationists already have raised the alarm for Zimbabwe's rare rhinos after a sharp increase in poaching over the past year because of a breakdown of law enforcement in the country.

He said one rhino poacher, identified as a former Zimbabwean army officer equipped with a heavy caliber rifle, was shot and killed by rangers in southern Zimbabwe last week. The poacher's accomplices escaped.

"Rhino poaching is now becoming a very serious problem for us. We now have to answer serious questions at CITFEX," he said.


Angus Shaw
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growing pressure from poaching and human encroachment in Zimbabwe has driven hundreds of elephants to migrate from the country and at least one leopard to stalk an upmarket Harare suburb, conservationists said Monday.

The independent Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force appealed in its latest monthly bulletin for more action — and money — to preserve the troubled nation's wildlife.

"The problem is funding for the relocation," Rodrigues said. State game rangers "won't wait much longer before destroying the elephants," he said.

In northern Harare, rangers also searched the area in three days for the possibility of poaching, conservationists said.

He said one of the elephants, which crossed the Zambezi River, was caught and transported to Cipinda Pools, believed to be their original home area 125 miles (200 kilometers) to the south.

"The problem is funding for the relocation," Rodrigues said. State game rangers "won't wait much longer before destroying the elephants," Rodrigues said.

In northern Harare, rangers also wanted to track and kill at least one leopard, which also is suspected of having a cub. Rodrigues said the task force set up drogued, baited traps for predators so they could be returned to the wild, but none has been caught since a guard dog was attacked earlier this month.
Drinking
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and can be arrested or cited.

The original ordinance, passed in 2001, enabled police to issue an infraction and a first-citation fine of $100 to people who hosted parties with five or more minors in attendance with at least three consuming alcohol.

However, in the past eight years, only five infractions have been issued. According to Blank, officers had a difficult time identifying five minors within a reasonable period of time.

"The new ordinance is expected to be much more enforceable from our perspective," Blank said. "The new requirement of identifying only three minors means it can be accomplished with fewer officers."

When the ordinance was first approved, the Associated Students Inc. Board of Directors issued a statement in opposition to such a law, placing the responsibility of underage drinking on the minor. ASI's current Board of Directors has not yet released a formal statement regarding its position on the issue, but ASI president Angela Kramer said that everyone is "on board" with the new ordinance. She said she supports the recent regulations.

"I'm not in any way an abstinence advocate," Kramer said. "In my opinion, the goal is to stop underage drinking altogether; it's to create a safe and responsible environment."

The new ordinance aims to control the "free-for-all" parties around Cal Poly that sometimes result in people getting hurt, she added.

Frank Warren, prevention programs supervisor for San Luis Obispo County Drug and Alcohol Services, agreed that the main focus of the new ordinance is to crack down on the larger parties where people are getting injured.

"The point is not to punish a group of roommates watching the Super Bowl, where one of them is 20 years old and holding a beer," Warren said. "Parties where high-risk behaviors occur will be most affected, he said.

"The parties that the social host ordinance will actually affect are the ones where we've actually seen the most high-risk behaviors that sometimes end up with violence, fights, sexual assault, rape, memory loss and then unfortunately sometimes overdose and even death."

Warren related the adult and minor's responsibility to the responsibility of a bartender, saying that both bartenders and party hosts are held responsible for serving alcohol.

"(Bartenders) are trained to know when a person has had too much and is potentially dangerous," Warren said. "A party host needs to be held to some accountability since they are providing the same drug — however, without training or regulation."

Cities throughout California have adopted similar ordinances, some with harsher consequences. Violating Santa Barbara's social host ordinance results in a $1,000 civil penalty for the first citation. A second offense totals a fine up to $2,000.

"The social host ordinance results in a $1,000 civil penalty for the first citation. A second offense totals a fine up to $2,000."

Drinking
Note to possessive significant others: stay away

Do you remember when I shaved my head? My hair has grown out a lot since October, so I understand if you don't. It's not something one does everyday, so I anticipated most of the comments I ended up getting - "Your head is so round!" "You look like Natalie Portman!" "It's so cool that you did that for charity!" "Wow, I'd never be brave enough to shave my head!" The one response I wasn't prepared for was yours. "I can't believe your boyfriend let you do that."

You, my friend, are the possessive significant other, and with all due respect, you can suck it.

You are the guy who will beat the shit out of the drunk guy downtown who is a bit too handsy with your girlfriend, not because you are particularly chivalrous or desire to prevent a similar assault on other unsuspecting ladies, but because damn it, that fine ass is yours. I'm surprised you don't just pee on her to ward off potential competitors.

You are the girl who threatens to leave your boyfriend if he grows out that handlebar mustache he's been joking about. Seriously? Your relationship can't withstand the forces of... facial hair! What a magical connection you two must have.

I guess, in your defense, you can't really help it. Society has been conditioning you to accept this relationship-equals-ownership thing...
Ohio city hands out tickets for free Leno show

James Hannah

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Residents rocked by thousands of layoffs at the local airport or otherwise struggling to survive in the shaky economy are hoping that laughter is the best medicine.

By late afternoon Monday, an estimated 3,900 tickets had been handed out for next month's free comedy show by Jay Leno, who is bringing his act to southwest Ohio as a morale booster.

People in shorts, sandals and baseball caps sat on lawn chairs or on the ground to form lines that stretched block caps sat on lawn chairs or on the ground to form lines that stretched

show Lenon will "say a few words to the community about how he understands what they're going through and what a challenge it is and just to hang in there." The ticket distribution also drew people who are unemployed, but undergoing tough financial times, such as Kim Corey, 48, of Chillicothe. She works as a motel desk clerk making $7.30 an hour and until recently had been homeless.

Corey said she plans to bring her mother to the Leno show as a Mother's Day gift. "It kind of gives us a little hope... It makes you feel good that he's talking about something we're all worried about," Corey said.

Spacey meets Abramoff in prison to prep for film

David Dishneau

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Two-time Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey has met with Jack Abramoff at a federal prison near Cumberland to prepare for his leading role in a film about the disgraced Washington lobbyist, a Hollywood executive said Monday.

Spacey and director George Hickenlooper ("Factory Girl") met with Abramoff Friday afternoon to discuss plans for a film called "Caino Jack" or "Bagman" based loosely on Abramoff's career in Washington, said Richard Rionda Del Castro, chairman of Magnolia Pictures in West Hollywood, Calif.

Abramoff, 30, is serving time at the prison's medium-security unit that houses former Army surgeon Jeffrey General, whose convictions for espionage, honest-services fraud and fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion.

His projected release date is Dec. 1, 2010, according to the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Prison spokesman DeWayne Hendrix declined to comment on Spacey's visit, citing privacy rules. Magnolia Pictures plans to release a documentary film about Abramoff titled "Casino Jack: The United States of Money" late this year, spokesman Ariane Ayers said.

Abramoff is no stranger to Hollywood. He and his brother Robert produced the 1989 Dolph Lundgren action movie "Red Scorpion" and its sequel, "Red Scorpion 2." The federal correctional complex near Cumberland includes a medium-security prison that houses former Army surgeon Jeffrey General, whose convictions for espionage, honest-services fraud and fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion.

His projected release date is Dec. 1, 2010, according to the federal Bureau of Prisons. Abramoff, 30, is serving time at the prison's medium-security camp for offenses stemming partly from a federal probe of influence peddling in the nation's capital.

He began serving a six-year sentence in November 2006 for conspiracy, honest-services fraud and tax evasion in the purchase of ca- smo boats in Florida, and was given four years last September for mail fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion. Abramoff defense attorney Alibe D. Lowell didn't immediately return telephone calls and e-mails from The Associated Press.

Vaughn declined to comment on Spacey's visit, citing privacy rules. Magnolia Pictures plans to release a documentary film about Abramoff titled "Casino Jack: The United States of Money" late this year, spokesman Ariane Ayers said.

The film is scheduled for release in late May, with a release expected in the summer of 2011.

Spacey publicist Staci Wolfe confirmed that the meeting occurred.

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Courtesans in art history led richer lives

Jennifer Ticcomb

MUSTANG DAILY

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's popular quote, "Well-behaved women rarely make history," may not hold true for the somewhat unknown lives of courtesans in art history, which is the topic of an upcoming lecture.

Art history professor Sandra Wetzel will speak on the subject of "Art History's Bad Girls: Courtesans in the Art of China and Europe" at 6 p.m. May 5 in the community room of the San Luis Obispo Library.

The topic will explore the role of courtesans and their relationship with art specifically during the Ming Dynasty in China, the Renaissance period in Italy and other European cultures.

"A lot of people think courtesans are merely prostitutes," Wetzel said. "What I think people will be more surprised about is the fact they were more than prostitutes. They were also by definition artists and well-educated women."

She will discuss many examples both common and uncommon, including Titian's "Venice of Urbino."

Wetzel first researched the topic when she started at Cal Poly and was asked by the women's and gender studies department to do a lecture on women painters in China. While researching she discovered that an unusually large number of Chinese women during the Ming Dynasty were painters as well as courtesans.

The following year she saw the movie "Dangerous Beauty" which told the story of Venetian courtesan Veronica Franco.

"I had never heard of her but she turned out to be a really famous poet; one of the most famous women poets of the Renaissance period and the fact that she was a courtesan also intrigued me," Wetzel said.

The research and movie made her realize what rich lives they led. She has shared papers at professional conferences before, but has yet to share her thoughts with the general public.

Her aim is to educate attendees about courtesans' complex lives as painters and poets.

"I would like people to realize just how educated and talented this particular group of women was," she said. "It's an example of these hidden groups of women in certain cultures that have both talent and intelligence that we often don't find out about."

She also wants to show how the courtesans used their situation to empower and create a higher status for themselves.

The talk is free to the public and is the last of a five-part speaking series and a collaboration between Cal Poly's women's and gender studies department and the San Luis Obispo Libraries.

The series was organized by assistant professor of philosophy and women's and gender studies Rachel Fernfroes. Past topics have included talks about abstinence-only sex education, global feminism, feminism, gender and religion and the impact on women's sports by Title IX.

"Because of all the political changes we have seen over the last year and a half, right now there is more of an openness of talking about what a lot of people would think are controversial issues," Fernfroes said.

Art's popularity on the Central Coast was one reason Fernfroes asked Wetzel to speak. She also said it would be a beneficial combination because sex work is rarely discussed.

The event will consist of an hour presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

"It's a fun topic and I think my research certainly uncovered a lot of unexpected things and hopefully the talk will do the same thing for other people," Wetzel said.
Corporate lobbyist transparency needed for the green age

There is a great cluelessness about in this land. It’s padding around in Europe and Asia as well as in the United States. It’s getting around with giant clomping feet, and its favorite stomping grounds are the economic-policy centers of Washington, D.C., Wall Street and Silicon Valley. Much is made of various measurements of corporate progress towards sustainability. Company X has reduced its carbon footprint by 10 percent; Company Y has introduced a line of recycled products; Company Z will offer new and more efficient technology in 2012. But the reality is, there’s one measurement that matters more than all of these put together, and it’s almost never mentioned in the green business press: where a company spends its lobbying budget.

See, a huge number of companies make modest improvements in practices, but lobby all-out, in a variety of ways, to stall the adoption of higher standards, better land-use practices, green taxes or even health and safety regulations. And the impacts of those lobbying efforts usually far far outweigh the good they claim to be doing with their pilot green efforts.

The most shocking report? Revelations of donations by companies that like to claim green leadership including Micro-soft, Toyota and Wal-Mart, to the ultra-anti-environmental Cato Institute—which recently launched an ad campaign targeting president Obama’s climate policies—relaying on climate skepticism, deceptions. That’s right, your Prius purchase may have helped fund an attack on climate action.

This is not an isolated incident. Take Wal-Mart. The big box giant has long been known in policy circles as one of the leading opponents to better land use and greener taxation policies (even carbon offset standards). It not only spends huge sums of money paying em- ployees to lobby to stall all decisions ($5.2 million in 2008 on formal in-house lobbying alone); it also spends heavily on lobbyists influencing lo- cal and state governments (for instance, it spent more than $200,000 for one fight in Massachu- setts last year) and increasingly the Federal govern- ment (more than $4,000,000 spent hiring lobbyists in 2007). This doesn’t even count the much greater amounts of money it spends indirectly, from expenditures on public relations to support for industry groups, publications and anti-environment think tanks which are not formally lobbyists. Wal-Mart is also one of the largest political donors in the United States, with its PAC alone spending more than $3,000,000 in 2008. How many compact fluorescent bulbs would it need to sell to offset the miles and miles of suburban sprawl it’s fought to make possible?

These practices are not only deceptive, they’re harmful. They play on our erroneous sense of privatized responsibil- ity to sell us “green” goods, while simultaneously opposing the very kind of systemic changes we need if we’re going to avoid planetary collapse. And this is absolutely not just an American problem; indeed, in our globalized world, compa- nies are quite cosmopolitan in their efforts to corrupt government progress towards sus- tainability wherever it threatens their outdated business models.

Now, the reality is that for every huge com- pany engaged in duplicitous sell-the-Cf 1 -and­ business models, there is another lobby-for-the-spraw I practices, there is another company (often smaller) which engages wholly and fully in doing as much good business as it can. It’s not true that being in business makes you bad. Being dishonest and fighting needed change while claiming to champion it is what makes yours a bad business.

We’ve written once before about how the world needs a transparency revolution. No- where is that more true than the emerging field of green business. We already have certification systems and other ways of making transparent the mate- rial backstories of specific products. We have all manner of rankings and ratings of sustainabil­ ity practices (however deeply flawed). What we don’t have is what we most need: an absolute measurement of political accountability. What might such a system look like? What would be the challenges in designing and releasing it? How could it be made most effective?

Tools exist for doing that. Here in the United States, the League of Conservation Voters offers an annual scorecard rating members of Congress’ environmental performance, based on their votes on key issues. Transparency International follows international corporate corruption and bribery, and has evolved a set of standards for eliminating it. Others have developed great tools for quickly revealing the ori- gins of political contributions and so on.

What we need is a standard for corporate political transparency and accountability that can be clearly reported and easily understood by those who are looking to buy an item, or invest in a stock—a sort of transparency index. That way, you could know before supporting a company if it is a) forthcoming in its politi­ cal practices and b) supportive of a few critical, well-understood bedrock political issues (like climate, smart growth, human rights).

I have little doubt that such a rating sys­ tem would have an outsized impact quickly. It doesn’t take too many people saying, “Humus, I was going to buy a Prise, but Toyota’s Trans­ parency Index Rating is only 25 percent; guess I’ll get the Aperia after all.” before it makes more sense for Toyota to stop contributing to Cato than continue. I don’t know of such a system, but it sure seems like the parts to build it exist.

We need a clearhouse, accessible to av­ erage consumers, disclosing the environmental, social and yes—lobbying data for large com­ panies. Well, Maplight.org is a good step in the right direction. Really what we need is the raw data made available in real time (whose money, to whom, legislators met who lobby- ists, and when, etc). Then building the tools to make the economy of influence transparent (relatively) easy.

That’s the power of transparency: It is the cure for corruption.

Ben Eckdoff is a business senior, the former presi­ dent of the Environment Pol'y Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Sex sells, but at what expense?

There are a lot of different ways for advertisers to express the benefits of a product, so why do they constantly fall back on the easiest enticement known to society: the cheap thrill of sex?

If I definitely have my weak moments when falling for the scheme, although I can't help but feel that I have been deceived. Are the Carl's Junior spicy Bar-B-Q Six Dollar Burgers really as delicious as Paris Hilton makes them appear? Herbal Essences shampoo smells good enough to orgasm, right? Don't forget that Gillette is "The Best a Man Can Get."

I understand why marketing campaigns put such a heavy emphasis on sex; everyone wants to feel anything but refreshed after the fact. What I can't fathom is how turning something as innocent as the Nickelodeon cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants into a sex symbol in a Burger King ad is able to produce more revenue than showing a real person enjoying the meal.

The manipulating tricks on innocent subjects seem playful and harmful at first, but a look deeper, underneath the surface, reveals a dark and disturbing reality. Sure, everybody wants a good laugh. However, not only are they not sending these types of messages come off as corny and desperate, they also undermine social progress by reinforcing stereotypes and personal identity roles. Degraded women to sex objects has long been a concern. Men cannot escape either and are also becoming victims, trapped in the vicious, downward spiral along with every other social group.

A recent Quinn's commercial features an oven telling an employee to make a Toasty Torpedo and "put it in me, Scott," demanding the employee say the price sexier. The only reason this commercial is memorable is because it poses the envelope for a cheap laugh, thereby making it acceptable to ridicule homosexuality, which makes me wonder if we are moving with or behind the times.

We are rarely viewing commercials nowadays than we use in PG-13 movies as kids. A University of California study found that television in teenage bedrooms replace parent-child interaction, thereby increasing harmful behavior including drug use, binge drinking and sex. In another study, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggested that sex portrayals on television may have a direct link to premature adolescent sex.

Although we all know that messages fed through commercials are more subtle than the blatantly obvious ones, television is a direct representation of the society in which we live. It bothers me to watch and hear people freely exposing themselves or finding humor at the expense of others. I am only aware that there are more creative, less damaging ways to convince our brains that a product is worthwhile, without the added garbage that comes along with the message. But, after all, "sex sells," right? Commercials are becoming more risqué as we reevaluate what makes us humbly tolerant and painfully blind to the aftermath. Are we as a society morally wrong or just starving for entertainment? You decide.

Ashley Castille is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.

Why I'm a scientist and a skeptic

I am a scientist because I care about finding what is true, and not just what makes me feel happy or comfortable. I am an engineer to design sustainable solutions so that the intelligence which began here can continue as long as possible. I am a skeptic to protect myself and fellow humans from bad people. I am a humanist in the service of others; an ethic based on what I consider to be the dignity and worth of all people, and not based on a standpoint from authority to do good. I am an atheist by using the same standards of evidence needed to demonstrate the existence of Zeus and Santa Claus and applying these to the Biblical God. Once we understand the standard we apply to doubt every other possible deity that humanity has created, we can understand why I doubt even the most popular deity.

Our actions are directed by our beliefs, so believe well. Take interest in others' beliefs and join in encouragement to everyone to skeptically question reality, especially when instructed not to question reality. Remember that life is the trip; I am open to new observations so I may falsify incorrect models— please contact me with repeatable evidence and falsifiable hypotheses.

Nicholas Utech is a computer engineering senior, a member of the Cal Poly Brights chapter and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.

The most common question I am asked about the Brights is, "What does a non-religious club do?" This is a response formed from group work and discussion with friends, the Brights, Secular Society and Carl Sagan.

Life is important! Everyone wants to make the best decisions and try to understand why and how we are here. We all know there are bad people out to take advantage of our good intentions; like textbook publishers and Scientists. Our minds are so powerful we can believe impossible things and be completely tricked by illusions. We are familiar with being wrong. We should always be skeptical when making important decisions in life.

Consider shopping for a used car for college. You checked the maintenance log, oil quantity and quality, odometer and tire wear. If you weren't comfortable doing this yourself you asked qualified skeptics like your parents. It is not enough to think about how happy you will be to have a car, or how nice the salesmen is. It matters that the car works. All this for a temporary and cheap car. Picking an entire world view to guide our lives solely by what makes us feel happy or comfortable is not enough. We should always be skeptical when making important decisions in life.

There are a lot of different ways for advertisers to express the benefits of a product, so why do they constantly fall back on the easiest enticement known to society: the cheap thrill of sex?
Draft
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Former Texas Tech wide receiver Michael Crabtree is introduced at a 49ers press conference. Oakland passed on Crabtree with the 7th pick in the draft.

the run, but he is recovering from an ankle injury that cost him the second half of last season.

The Raiders did not take a single offensive lineman, believing that offensive tackle Khalil Mack's return from an ankle injury that cost him the second half of last season.

They also did not draft a defensive tackle to upgrade the porous run defense, with Cable saying a change in commitments and the addition of Mitchell at safety will help solve that.

Oakland did acquire help at defensive end outside linebacker and right end.

Strongbow was projected to go much later in the draft, but the Raiders once again went against conventional wisdom and grabbed him Sunday with the 7th overall pick. He overcame a knee injury and broken leg in college, where he recorded 18.5 sacks in his career. Norris arrived at Oregon State as a safety and eventually turned into a rush defensive end. He is projected as a linebacker in the NFL.

Oakland traded up to get Myers, sending its seventh-round pick and a sixth-rounder next year to Carolina. He is more of a blocking right end, providing a complement to Zach Miller, who led the team with 56 catches last season.
Mustangs get ready to host national champ Fresno State

**BASEBALL**

**NCAA TOP 25**

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Scott Silvey  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

Fresno State shocked the world last year as the unheralded Bulldogs clawed their way to the College World Series championship. A year later, Cal Poly is poised to do the same thing.

"I feel like we can go all the way to the World Series," Cal Poly junior infielder Adam Buschini said. "This team's got it. We knew coming into the fall. We knew coming into the season, we had (then No. 3) Race to start the season and we knew we could beat Rice." Buschini's confidence seems well founded as the Mustangs (29-10) prepare to meet Fresno State for the second time this season tonight at 6 p.m. in Baggett Stadium.

The two teams pounded out 24 runs in their first meeting, a 13-11 Cal Poly win on Feb. 24 in Fresno. Mustags head coach Larry Lee said that the team doesn't see much of a resemblance between either team from the game that was played early this year. "That was early in the season so both teams are different," Lee said. "Both teams have a number of games under their belt. The thing that (playing them in February) gave us was to see some of their new players."

The players haven't translated to the kind of success Fresno State had anticipated. Coming off the national championship, Fresno State (20-22) is a long shot to get an invite to defend its crown. Lee acknowledged that his team doesn't look at the Bulldogs as a champion, but more so as just another test to prepare them for a potential postseason berth. "I don't think (the Mustangs) care (about Fresno State being national champions)," he said. "Its another opponent and another opportunity to pick up a win."

The Mustangs sport a number of players who grew up in the Fresno area and Lee said the team would relish the chance to play against former high school teammates and rivals once more.

"We have a lot of players from that valley — from Clovis, Fresno and Bakersfield," Lee explained. "All the players we have were also recruited by Fresno State."

Cable defends Raider way of drafting

Josh DuBrow  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Tom Cable denounced the almost universal verdict from the television pundits on the quality Oakland Raiders' draft.

The criticism was that once again owner Al Davis reached for great athletes over proven football players and Cable didn't do nearly enough to reverse six years of losing.

"All the things that I think in a certain way, I think there's a lot of facts to that," Cable said after the draft Sunday. "Whether you want to call it the Al Davis way, the Oakland Raider way, it's our way."

"I think forcibly defended that way, standing up for the controversial day-one picks of receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey and safety Mike Mitchell and railing about the team's Day 2 picks. He said he just followed a lesson from Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh to take the players that fit your team's system, no matter what anyone else thinks about it.

"If I kind of live by that statement from Coach Walsh. When you find the one you want, go get it," he said. "Don't let anyone define you and don't worry about what they say.""

The Raiders selected more players on the draft's second day who had the speed to fit that bill. Oakland used its first pick in the fourth round on Florida receiver Louis Murphy, who ran a 4.43 in the 40-yard dash at the NFL combine and was a former track star in high school.

The Raiders also picked Wisconsin defensive end Matt Shaughnessy in the third round, Oregon State linebacker Slade Norris in the fourth, Missouri linebacker Stryker Suh in the sixth and Iowa tight end Brandon Myers in the seventh.

Murphy crossed the Raiders off his list after the first round, when they drafted the speedy Heyward-Bey over more accomplished widespead like Michael Crabtree and Jeremy Maclin. He figured they wouldn't take another receiver, only to get the call from the team Sunday. Now after getting overwhelmed by first-round pick Percy Harvin and Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow in college, Murphy is prepared for more of the same in the pros.

"That's my life story and there's nothing wrong with that," he said. "I'm cool with that. That's just the type of person I am. I'm happy for Heyward-Bey. I'm just ready to play ball. There's not going to be any animosity. I played with Percy and Tebow and we were best friends. I'm not a selfish guy at all." Murphy had 38 catches for 655 yards and seven touchdowns for the Gators last season, saying he ran plenty of tradition routes as well as the spread with the Gators.

The Raiders have tried to address a glaring need at receiver during this year's draft, taking Heyward-Bey seventh overall on Saturday. They hope they have added two deep threats for JaMarcus Russell to add to young players Johnnie Lee Higgins and Chaz Schilens.

"We raised the bar at that position, dramatically," Cable said. "Now we've got great competition. Can we overcome some of the youthfulness and all that? Probably not, but I think that's the least of our worries right now, just in terms of getting more production there and better players there.

Higgins led all of Oakland's widespead with 22 catches for 306 yards last season, and the team had just 82 receptions in all from the position.

Jaron Wilkins is the only veteran in  
see Draft, page 11

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