Penalties rise for underage drinkers, party hosts in SLO
Nikol Schiller
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009
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 $700 and the third offense hits $1,000. Under California state law, minors who possess alcohol are also guilty of a misdemeanor.

San Luis Obispo City Councilman Jon McElroy wants to increase communication and transparency in ASI.

Meet the presidential candidates: Jon McElroy

Computer science graduate student Jon McElroy wants to increase communication and transparency in ASI.

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 its 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 is make it so that we’re real about the Web more to keep people as informed as I can. … I got a hold of the budget for last year of UBAB 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, they’re not good lightiing 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 JEPG 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 work ethic.”

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 what they’re doing and if they’re being fair to all the students.”

McElroy is looking forward to providing a fresh perspective to ASI’s student representation within the city; how we’re represented in the city.”

In 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.

At a 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, a nasal congestion, sore throat, or a cough, we’re going to ask them to put a mask on,” 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 health care and thus the risk is less likely to turn into an epidemic.

Computer science graduate student Jon McElroy wants to increase communication and transparency in ASI.

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 I graduate and I care about Cal Poly’s affiliation with the city, how we’re represented within the city.”

McElroy acknowledged that while he has had 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 experience, it requires that you put a little bit into it,” he said. “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 campus, but that’s why I come to Cal Poly, to learn by doing.”

See McElroy, page 3
**Flu continued from page 1**

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

The Center for Disease Control raised the count from seven to 11 confirmed cases of swine flu in California on Monday. Each case was reported to be self-contained and none of the infected people had underlying conditions. All individuals have recovered since contracting the virus.

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 to be cautious. It does not mean that it has reached epidemic or pandemic status.

Symptoms of swine flu are very similar to that of the common seasonal flu including coughing, nasal congestion, body aches and joint pains, lethargy and most importantly, fever.

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

**Campaign continued from page 5**

"I'm going to be a student's perspective of things I think would be helpful," he said.

"To be successful in the preparation for the position, McElroy said he looks forward to working with current president Andrea Kramer, whom he said represented the students' voice well.

"I'll tell you right now, Andrea, out of all the presidents I've seen, has been the most vocal. The students know exactly what she thinks, they know exactly how she's feeling and I think that's great for her. I think she did a great job of communicating," he said.

"That's the kind of president I want to be, helpful and I want to be there for the students, I want to represent their concerns. This next year is going to be just a crazy year with the state budget, you know, we're losing $2 million dollars and what's happening with College Based Fees. Students should feel like they're being represented by their president."

The Santa Barbara native arrived in San Luis Obispo in 2005 after graduating from Dos Pueblos High in Goleta. During his senior year in high school McElroy also had a head start on higher education by attending community college. After earning his master's degree, he said he plans to work in the computer science field and start his own software company.

Outside of college, McElroy spends time getting to know people in the community at the San Luis Obispo-based Mercy Church, a non-denominational Christian church he said has been "the driving force" behind his personal approach to tackling serious problems.

"I am very involved in my church and I really care about helping people out," McElroy said. "I've worked with a lot of people to make good life decisions, to help them get off drugs and people who are alcoholic to make good life decisions, about what they want to do, who they want to be. It's been a great experience for me."

"I have a lot of people that are really vocal in the church and I really do care about what the community is doing," McElroy added. "I lead a little group of guys and I've seen a lot of lives changed and it's just amazing. When you really want to do something with your life, it changes a lot about who you are and who you become. When they have a vision for their lives and they just see, you know, there's so much more they could do with their time and energy, it helps in every area of their life, including school work."

McElroy also said he is confident that students will appreciate his one-on-one approach to student government and that he would dedicate himself to being readily available and easily accessible to students.

"I think I'm absolutely going to bring a fresh voice into the ASI government. As a student who's focused on school work and I know what I want to hear. I know students want to know what's going on and I know what it's like to try to get that information because I had to prepare myself, you know? I can't just go into this looking like a fool. I had to go online, I had to read about the bills, the referendum and get educated about all the issues ... And I want to bring more understanding to those who want to know about the things that are happening with Cal Poly and the ASI government."

"I've known Jon the entire time he's been at Cal Poly and he's always been on top of getting stuff done," Head said. "He's really a natural leader and able to relate well with people. He's not like he's doing this to put on his resume and be the guy on stage. He just really wants to make a difference."

"Jon wants to unite students with ACE," he added. "Because there's a group of about 40 people who are really involved in ASI, but outside of that group students just see, you know, there's really aware of what ASI does or what's going on because that information is not easily accessible. It's just really hard to get all the important stuff that the student body needs to see."

McElroy encourages students to vote on Tuesday. Visit his new web site, calpolyjon.com, for updates on his campaign and information about his platform.

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**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 free to apply).

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!
Elephant exodus reported from troubled Zimbabwe


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.

In Zimbabwe’s economic meltdown, humans are encroaching more and more into areas previously reserved for wildlife, the task force said.

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.

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 animal group received official authority to capture and transport the elephants to Chipinda 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.”

In northern Harare, rangers also wanted to track and kill at least one leopard, which also is suspected of having a cub, Rodrigues said.

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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 drugged, 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.

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.

Predators of small animals has intensified, with villagers torching the bush to drive even rodents and rock rabbits into traps for food, conservationists say.

Rodrigues said more animal fencing was needed at wildlife preserves to combat poaching and the escape of animals from their natural habitats 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 in 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 accomplice escaped.

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

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Candidates Forum—UU Plaza
Tuesday, April 28, 11 a.m.
Free Speech Hour
Meet the candidates and hear their platforms

Candidates Debate—UU Plaza
Thursday, April 30, 11 a.m.
Interactive candidate debate

JUST VOTE
ASI Elections

VOTE online
Starts May 6 at 7 a.m.
Ends May 7 at 7 p.m.

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Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Wire Editor: Cassandra J. Carlton
Drinking
continues from page 1

and can be arrested or cited.

The original ordinance, passed in 2004, 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 am not in any way an abstinence advocate,” Kramer said. “In my opinion, the goal is not 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’re actually seeing 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.

WORD ON THE STREET

“Are you concerned about Swine flu?”

“Yeah. It’s comforting that no one’s died yet in the U.S. but I guess I’m worried that a more serious string of cases will come here.”

-Jenny Savage, communications studies senior

“If it’s able to affect people so quickly, it must be serious. In a couple days it could be in Southern California like (Los Angeles) area, and then next thing you know it could be here in Northern California.”

-Gilbert Castellon, computer science freshman

“In general, yes, I think it always is with new viruses and diseases. But we have phenomenal doctors who are doing everything they can to research it and prevent it.”

-Katie Neely, civil engineering senior

“If you’re concerned about Swine flu, you should wear a mask.”

-Anonymous, anonymous

“No, I think people are making themselves more worried than necessary. I don’t think it’s going to affect people as fatally in the U.S. as in Mexico where healthcare is not as abundant.”

-Keven Hunt, computer science sophomore

“Just because it can’t survive outside the human body does not mean it’s not a threat.”

-Anonymous, anonymous

“No, I don’t think it will affect me personally.”

-Anonymous, anonymous

“In my opinion, the goal is not to stop underage drinking altogether; it’s to create a safe and responsible environment.”

-ASI president Angela Kramer

“Fraternity houses are known to sometimes have parties where the local police are called.”

-Anonymous, anonymous

“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.”

-Frank Warren
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...

see Possessive, page 7

You’re doin’ it wrong!

By Jenna Ray

Palm Wednesday
7:00 and 9:00

FERRIS BUELLER’S DAY OFF

817 Palm Street (downtown near the Mission) | 805.541.5161
mepspace.com/chapalmtheater
Ohio city hands out tickets for free Leno show

James Hannah

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

By late afternoon Monday, an estimated 3,500 tickets had been handed out for next month's free comedy concert show by Jay Leno, who is bringing his act to southwest Ohio as a morale booster.

People in shirts, sandals and baseball caps sat in lawn chairs or on the ground to form lines that stretched out from four entrances to the Roberts Centre, where Leno will hold his Comedy Stimulus Show May 10.

Penny Tapp, 57, of Highland, arrived about 7 a.m. Monday, more than four hours before the distribution of 4,000 tickets began.

Tapp, who lost her flight duties job in November, said Leno has a big heart for doing the show.

"He's like stretching your arms out and hugging the community and saying 'It's going to be OK,'" said Tapp, who began to choke up with emotion. "I think it's tremendously satisfying. It's going to be OK, said during the 90-minute talk. Sitting on the ground at the head of a line hunched over a laptop computer, Vyhnalek said he is trying to start his own photography business.

VyhnaJek, 30, of Lebanon, said he appreciates what Leno is doing.

"It's an excellent way for him to reach into a community, which is obviously hurt and devastated and maybe for just even a few moments take our minds off of what's happening, around here and it will lift us up," he said. "If you can lift up your chin and laugh once in a while, it makes things a lot easier." Leno also has performed free comedy concerts in the recession-wracked Detroit area.

Suzy Kappaz, of Galli&Rice, the Michigan-based entertainment production company distributing the tickets, said during the 90-minute show Leno 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 employed, but undergoing tough financial times, such as Kim Corey, 48, of Chillicothe.

She works as a mail 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.

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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 "Casino Jack" or "Begman" based loosely on Abramoff's career in Washington, said Richard Rionda Del Castro, chairman of Hannibal Pictures in West Hollywood, Calif.

Ronda Del Castro said he is executive producing, co-financing and distributing the film. "Kevin Spacey wanted to get some personal information to be close to this character, and I believe he Abramoff was giving some ideas on the story and the information to make it as precise as possible," Rionda Del Castro said in a telephone interview.

He said Abramoff has expressed admiration for "The Usual Suspects," the 1995 crime film for which Spacey won an Academy Award as best supporting actor. He won the 1999 best-actor Oscar for "American Beauty.

Rionda Del Castro said the movie will begin shooting in late May, with a release expected in the summer of 2011.

Spacey publicist Staci Wolfe confirmed that the meeting occurred.

Abramoff defense attorney Jeff Estes, of Wilmington, Ohio, shows his two free tickets to Jay Leno's Comedy Stimulus Show at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio on Monday. Leno announced he will perform in Wilmington on May 10, after cargo carrier DHL announced they will relocate their operation, leaving thousands of workers without jobs.

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Able D. Lowell didn't immediately return telephone calls and e-mails from The Associated Press.

Abramoff, 50, is serving time at the prison's minimum-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 casino boats in Florida, and was given four years last September for mail fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion. His projected release date is Dec. 1, 2011, 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 Arienne 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 MacDonald, whose convictions for the murders of his pregnant wife and two young daughters in North Carolina were the basis for the book and television movie, "Fatal Vision."
Courtesans in art history led richer lives

Jennifer Titcomb

—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 rooms 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 Tiziano’s “Virgin 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 Fernhores.

Past topics have included talks about abstinence-only sex education, global feminism, feminism, gender and religion and the impact on women’s sports by Ticle 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,” Fernhores said.

Art’s popularity on the Central Coast was one reason Fernhores 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.

80’s Night 80’s Prices

Tuesday’s Native Lounge

80’s Night

Drink Specials

$3 Well Drinks

80’s Night

DJ Flight

$1 White Gummy Bear Shots

80’s Prices

D J Sol

$5 Redbull Vodkas

Native Lounge 1023 Chorro St San Luis Obispo CA 93401

Info: 805.547.5544 www.NativeLounge.com

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mustang Daily

Arts & Entertainment

www.mustangdaily.net

80’s Night

80’s Prices

Tuesdays Native Lounge

Drink Specials

Turntablist

$3 Well Drinks

80’s Night

DJ Flight

$1 White Gummy Bear Shots

80’s Prices

D J Sol

$5 Redbull Vodkas

Native Lounge 1023 Chorro St San Luis Obispo CA 93401

Info: 805.547.5544 www.NativeLounge.com

Jennifer Ray is an English senior and Mustang Daily sex columnist.
Corporate lobbyist transparency needed for the green age

There is a great cluelessness about this in the land. It’s padding around in Europe and Asia as well to influence the United States, getting around with giant clomping feet, and its favorite stomping grounds are the economic punishment 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 Microsoft, Toyota and Wal-Mart, to the ultra-anti-environmental Cato Institute—which recently launched an ad campaign targeting president Obama’s climate policies—relying on climate skeptic deceptions. That’s right, your Prius purchase might 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 with its private lobbying efforts in their green agenda where a company spends its lobbying budget. To avoid planetary collapse. And this is absolutely not just an American problem; indeed, in our globalized world, companies are quite cosmopolitan in their efforts to corrupt government progress towards sustainability wherever they threaten its outdated business models.

Now, the reality is that for every huge company engaged in duplicitous sell-the-CFL and lobby-for-the-spraw practices, there is another company that is actually engaged in whole and fully in doing something good 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 need a clearhouse, accessible to average consumers, disclosing the environmental, social and yes—lobbying data for large companies. Well, Maplight.org is a good step in the right direction. Really what we need is the raw data made available in real time (who’s money, to whom, which legislators meet with lobbyists, 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.

Box Elder is a business senior, the former president of the Employer Poly 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 thrills of sex?

As a journalist major, I tend to sit at a computer with a television tuned in to breaking news stories. However, I can’t help but be distracted by the humorous, dramatic commercials that flood the screen in an attempt to persuade my decisions regarding my everyday consumer purchases. What a pleasant surprise—the advertisers subconsciously satisfy my every desire by planting a sensual seed. After all, I want to be “Milk’s Favorite Look,” like those pictures.

Advertisers are very aware of the powerful influence on populations in which they operate. According to the late Annenberg research, the average American watches a record-breaking 151 hours of television a month. Corporate control allows for an ease of accessibility and reassurance when determining what messages are targeted to specific audiences; advertisers expect and rely on the millions of Americans glued to the television like it’s going out of style. 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 thrills of sex?

I definitely have my weak moments when falling for the scheme, although I can’t help but feel that I haven’t been deceived. Are the Carl’s Junior Spicy BBQ 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 attractive to potential mates. What I can’t fathom is how turning something as innocent as a group work and discussion with friends, the Brights, science into a sex symbol in a Burger King ad is able to produce more revenue than showing an average person enjoying the meal.

The correlating rows 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 do 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 Quorno’s commercial features an oven telling an employee to make a Toasty Torpedo and “put it in me,” Scott,” demand the employee say the price weiner. The only reason this commercial is memorable is because it pushes the envelope for a cheap laugh, thereby making it acceptable to ridicule homosociality, which makes me wonder if we are moving with or behind the times.

We see more sex in commercials nowadays than we saw in PG-13 movies as kids. A University of California study found that teenagers, in particular, 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 sex 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 remember 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 rebrand themselves with a younger and more populous audience.

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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 to see the value in others, an ethic based on the dignity and worth of all people, and not based on a stand 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 standards we apply to doubt every other possible deity that humans have created, we can understand why I doubt even the most popular deity.

Our actions are directed by our beliefs, so believe well. Take interest that others believe well, too. I encourage everyone to appreciate sceptically question reality, especially when instructed not to. 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 to see the value in others, an ethic based on the dignity and worth of all people, and not based on a stand 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 standards we apply to doubt every other possible deity that humans have created, we can understand why I doubt even the most popular deity.

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 gullible souls, like textbook publishers and Scientologists. 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 quality and quantity, odometer and the 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 car, or how nice the salesmen in it. Matters that the car works. All this for a temporary and cheap car. Picking an entire world view to guide our lives so powerful we can believe impossible things is Min.

The creation of our universe in an evidence-backed history where there are b.i.ople out to take advantage of us is a desperate, they also undermine social progress by reinforcing sexual politics 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.

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VIDEO EDITOR Ever cut your own movie? Looking for a video editor to support the development of multimedia marketing tools as needed. You'll work with a Creative Director and a team of alumni, currently enrolled students and faculty members. You'll shoot and edit footage for different marketing campaigns. Pay starts at $9/hr. Our audience numbers over 30,000 people a year and our team has graduated graduates immediately ready to enter the industry with professional portfolios. Email com@calpoly.edu for interview or questions.

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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Mr. Potatohead's agent would second-guess the Iron Chef cooking for many years.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

Help Wanted
Flush Designer Needed-Flush designer experienced in Flash. Photoshop Illustrator for Cal Poly Admissions Office. Email econ@calpoly.edu for interview or questions.

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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.

Draft
continued from page 12

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 acquisitions Khalif Barnes, Erik Pears and Sansoo Satole will solidify that position.

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

Oakland did acquire help at defensive end, outside linebacker and tight end.

Stoughton was projected to go much later in the draft, but the Raiders once again went against conventional wisdom and grabbed him Sunday with the 71st 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.

Sataki also played defensive end in college but will be used more at linebacker. He could also help bolster a pass rush that lost Kaliana Edwards, who tied for the team lead with five sacks last season, to free agency in the offseason.

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 tight end, providing a complement to Zach Miller, who led the team with 56 catches last season.

Cal Poly has suffered a number of midseason injuries and illnesses to Buschini and junior Wes Dorrell, but Lee said the team is getting healthy at the right time as the Mustangs chase their first postseason berth.

“We went through a stretch of probably about three or four weeks where we were never fully healthy,” Lee said. “We just got back to 100 percent this weekend. As a coach you feel good about that just going into a game fully loaded.”

The Mustangs have four home games this week including a three-game set with San Francisco beginning Friday evening.

They have not lost at Baggett Stadium since opening day to Rice -- a span of 17 games.

Buschini credited the team’s success at home to a number of variables.

“We just feel more comfortable at home -- being here in San Luis Obispo, we’ve got a great fan base,” Buschini said. “We know how to win when we have the last at-bat. We definitely like playing here. It’s a great field and a great stadium.”

We are the Mustangs

THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

**Baseball**

**Softball**

**Baseball**

**VS. SAN FRANCISCO**

**FRIDAY 6:00PM**

**SATURDAY 6:00PM**

**SUNDAY 1:00PM**

**BAGGETT STADIUM**

*Jersey Day and Pail game Autograph session with the Mustangs, All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game!*

**Doubleheader**

**VS. PACIFIC**

**SATURDAY 12:00PM**

**SUNDAY 12:00PM**

**BOB IANSEN FIELD**

**Jersey Day and Senior Day for Mustang Softball, All youth, 23 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and the Mustang Senior class will be honored prior to the game!**

Ryan Lee

Los Altos, CA

Jenna Minden

Santa Maria, CA

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WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Cable defends Raider way of drafting

Josh Dubow

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Tom Cable dismissed 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 that the team didn’t do nearly enough to reverse six years of losing.

But Cable said: “I think in a certain way I think there’s a lot of fact to that.” Cable said after the draft Sunday: “Whether you want to call it the Al Davis way, the Oakland Raiders way, it’s our way.”

Cable rigorously 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 no matter what anyone else thinks about it.

“I kind of live by that statement: ‘Don’t worry about what they say’,” Cable said. “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 have tried to address a glaring need at receiver during this year’s draft, taking Heyward-Bey seventh overall on Saturday. They hope to pick up a win.”

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 traditional 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 Barden, the only former Cal Poly receiver drafted.

Ramesh Barden might not be the only former Cal Poly receiver playing on Sundays next season. Treidell Toliver has been invited to the Cleveland Browns’ rookie mini-camp in Ohio this weekend. Players at the camp perform during an open tryout in hopes of signing a free-agent contract.

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Barden became the second-highest draft choice ever out of Cal Poly and the first offensive player selected since Seth Burford in 2002.

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Nick Camacho

Tolver was primarily involved in Cleveland’s rookie mini-camp this weekend.

Tolver will participate in Cleveland’s rookie mini-camp this weekend.

Former Cal Poly receiver Treidell Toliver was selected by Oakland in the first round of the NFL draft on Saturday.

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