ASI ELECTION COVERAGE
Meet the presidential candidates: Jacob Alvarez

3 of 3 PROFILES

Psychology senior Jacob Alvarez wants to be the voice of Cal Poly students if elected ASI president.

Rachel Glas
MUSTANG DAILY

A self-described "foot soldier of Associated Students Inc.," psychology senior Jacob Alvarez has devoted his college years to public service and wants to continue doing so as ASI president next year.

"I've worked on the ground as a member of the ASI executive board and now I'm ready to be president. It's basically a full-time job and I'm willing to take on that role," he said.

Though currently secretary of student development for ASI executive board, Alvarez has been involved in more than ASI throughout his years at Cal Poly. In addition, he has served on the campus climate and university concerns on the ASI executive board, says Alvarez has proved his dedication to service. "He has a lot of energy and you can really trust him. He always wants to help people and see if there's anything else he can do."

As secretary of student development, Alvarez has spent his time reaching out to students throughout the school, something he wants to tackle first should he win the election.

"I want to increase communication between all three branches of ASI," he said. "Simple things like sending a newsletter or making the Web site more interactive could markedly help. My goal is to give ASI to the students. I feel like there is a disconnect and I want to bridge that gap."

He also wants the organization to have a stronger presence on campus.

"Talking one-on-one with students makes a huge difference. It's much more comfortable to say concerns to one person than trying to talk to the whole group at an ASI meeting. I want everyone to know that their concerns are valid," Alvarez has outlined his goals in a three-part platform: degree program, student access, and diversity.

Candidate for the 2010 Associated Students Inc. presidency participated in an open forum in the University Union Plaza Tuesday to introduce students to their stances on issues like student access, sustainability and the budget.

The three candidates — computer science graduate student Jon McElroy, art and design senior Kelly Griggs and psychology senior Jacob Alvarez — handed out T-shirts and answered questions from their see Forum, page 2

SLO college students arrested on charges of drug possession

Two San Luis Obispo college students including a Cal Poly student were arrested Monday morning on suspicion of possessing $15,000 to $18,000 worth of ecstasy pills and prescription medication.

Vigneshwaran Ramar, 20, was arrested when San Luis Obispo narcotic detectives obtained a warrant and searched his apartment and vehicle, finding 923 ecstasy pills. During the search, Ramar's roommate, Cal Poly software engineering junior Wilson Lau was found to be in possession of prescription medication not prescribed to him.

Both Ramar and Lau were booked at San Luis Obispo County Jail. Ramar's bail is set at $50,000 while Lau's is $20,000.
Officials say US deaths expected from swine flu

Sara Kugler
NEW YORK (AP) — The global swine flu outbreak worsened Tuesday as authorities said hundreds of students at a New York school had fallen ill and officials said they expected to see U.S. deaths from the virus.

Cuba suspended flights to and from Mexico, becoming the first country to impose a travel ban to the epicenter of the epidemic. The mayor of the capital cracked down further on public life, closing gyms and swimming pools and ordering restaurants to limit service to takeout.

Confirmed cases were reported for the first time as far away as New Zealand and Israel, joining the United States, Canada, Britain and Spain. Since this is believed to have killed more than 150 people in Mexico, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the U.S. has 68 confirmed cases in five states, with 45 in New York, one in Ohio, one in Indiana, two in Kansas, six in Texas and 13 in California.

I fully expect we will see deaths from this infection," said Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC. That was echoed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

It is very likely that we will see more serious presentations of illness and some deaths as we go through this flu cycle," she said. President Barack Obama asked Congress for $1.5 billion in emergency funds to fight the illness.

In New York, there were growing signs that the virus was moving beyond St. Francis Preparatory School, where sick students started lining up last week at the nurse's office. The outbreak came just days after a group of students returned from spring break in Cancun.

At the 2,700-student school, the largest Roman Catholic high school in the nation, "many hundreds of students were ill with symptoms that are most likely swine flu," said Health Commissioner Thomas Farley. The case haven't been confirmed.

Twelve teachers reported the-like symptoms, as well the principal, Brother Leonard Conroy.

A nearby public school for special education students was shut down after more than 80 students called in sick. Frieden said that some of the students have siblings at St. Francis. It's here and it is spreading," Frieden said.

Some of the New York students who tested positive for swine flu after a trip to Mexico passed it on to others who had not traveled — a significant fact because it suggests the strain suspected in dozens of deaths in Mexico can also spread through communities in other countries, said Dr. Fukuda, assistant director-general of the World Health Organization.

There is definitely the possibility that this virus can establish that kind of community wide outbreak capacity in multiple countries, and it's something we're looking for very closely," Fukuda said. So-called community transmissions are a key test for gauging whether the spread of the virus has reached pandemic proportions.

Fukuda warned, however, against jumping to the conclusion that the virus has become firmly established in the United States.

So, U.S. officials stressed there was no need for panic and noted that the outbreaks are quite contains every year. The CDC estimates about 36,000 people in the U.S. died from related cases each year, on average, in the 1990s.

The increase in cases was not surprising. For days, CDC officials said they expected to see more confirmed cases — and more severe illness.

Heath officials nationwide stepped up efforts to look for symptoms, especially among people who had traveled to Mexico.

Forum

continued from page 1

individual booths. About 200 students were in and out of the plaza during the hour when the forum took place.

Each candidate had about five minutes to take the stage in the UU Plaza to state their platforms and goals.

McElroy said it's vital that next year's ASI president ensures college budgeted fee money is sent straight to the students, in form of payments to teachers and, if the fee increase passes.

Based on feedback from the 30 on-campus organizations Griggs spoke with leading up to her campaign, students are largely concerned about registration problems, something she says is also tied to budget issues.

"All these fee increases that are going into various places on the campus affect our classes and our teachers and we can do, Griggs said.

Each candidate also emphasized their desire for transparency within ASI.

McElroy plans to achieve transparent communication by using the Web to evoke student interaction. He plans to use YouTube and Web site updates to keep students informed, but for Alvarez, transparency comes in the form of student outreach.

"We've been working throughout the year on just getting out there in the Cal Poly community and just working with students and really educating them based on the information we have," Alvarez said.

During his brief on-stage introduction, Alvarez told the audience to expect more clear and open dialogue.

"It's only by working with the academic senate and the registrar's office to promote that senior-level standing students should have priority registration," Alvarez said.

Griggs, the last of the three candidates to take the stage, said there are two types of people who run for ASI president: people with their own agendas and people "whose issues are the students' issues. She identified herself as the latter.

Affordability and accountability are two topics, among many, that she hopes to address if the wins. "We need to make sure that the college based fee and the budget is transparent and we're really getting what we want around this campus for our money," she said. "If it doesn't go through, you know, obviously we're going to be right with our budget.

Current ASI president Angel Kramer attended the forum and offered a few thoughts on what she wanted to address.

"You only serve as ASI president for a year, which is a ridiculously short amount of time," Kramer said. "You have these big dreams and then you learn quite quickly that you kind of need to narrow it down and keep an eye on the priorities.

I'd like to see the next president continue to make trips up to Sacramento, maybe create a lobby core and ensure that this university keeps going up and up," Kramer said.

Political science senior Lauren Sweaney watched the forum from the step team plaza and said she was impressed with Griggs' platform.

"I think what she wants to do for us. She's still concentrating on the sustainability that was really big for her," Sweaney said.

Statistics senior Kristin Graves said that, in light of this year's student deaths, it would be very important for the ASI president that will bridge the gap between ASI and the greek system.

"Both ASI and the greek system are really pivotal parts of the campus community and I think that if they work together, they can accomplish a lot," she said.

The candidates will hold a public debate at 11 a.m. Thursday in the UU Plaza. The Mustang Daily will stream live video of the event on our Web site for students to watch and chat about the issues discussed.

To read full candidate profiles, visit www.mustangdaily.net.

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White man's burden? Discrimination suits flourish

Deborah Hastings

Described as a "white man's burden," discrimination suits involving race are on the rise. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the number of such suits filed in 2006 reached a record high of 31,000, up 14 percent from the previous year.

One suit that is drawing attention is the case of Allan Ooakc, a trailblazer in the field of health care. In 1998, Allan, a black man, was hired as the first black attending at the Medical School of the University of California, San Francisco. He alleged that he was denied advancement opportunities and was subjected to a hostile work environment.

Ameri­can Civil Liberties Union's Director of Legal Advocacy, Jane E. Thornton, said that Allan's case highlights the persistent issue of discrimination in the workplace. "As a society, we must recognize that the fight against discrimination is far from over," she said.

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State Briefs

SACRAMENTO (AP) - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday signed a measure allowing local law enforcement to reject bids that would have discriminated against any group or individual.

The law, which was signed into law just before the session expired, was a response to a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union's Racial Justice Project.

KING CITY, Calif. (AP) - Members of the King City Police Department have been ordered to stop using racial quotas in making arrest decisions.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - San Francisco police are seeking the public's help in determining who shot a college student outside a nightclub earlier this month.

Police say 22-year-old James Jimonte Turner of Richmond was killed early April 16 after attending the Ross Nightclub in the city's South of Market district with a group of friends.

Police say Turner, a senior at California State University, East Bay, was shot from behind while running from gangsters apparently coming from two rival groups on a corner.
WORD ON THE STREET

“How do you think Ramses Barden being drafted by the NY Giants reflects on Cal Poly athletics?”

“I think it reflects positively for the Cal Poly athletic program.”
- Eric Sandahl, ASI Tai boxing instructor

“It definitely is good for Cal Poly. I was hoping he would go in the second round especially since our last famous football draft was John Madden.”
- Josh McHenry, agriculture systems management senior

“I think it’s going to bring a lot of publicity to the Cal Poly program.”
- Elisa Forcey, nutrition freshman

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Mock Trial Club argues its way to intercollegiate competition

For students who are law school-bound or for those who just have a keen interest in all things judiciary, Cal Poly's Mock Trial Club provides a way to practice their skills in a competitive environment.

The club team, which was started at Cal Poly during the 2006-2007 school year, gives students the opportunity to participate in court cases similar to real life trials with other teams throughout the country. All of the 900 teams compete within the American Mock Trial Association and represent 600 schools.

Each year, the cases switch from civil to criminal, in order for members to become familiar with both sides of law. Whatever issue is at hand, each case mimics a real life trial students would see in a courtroom.

At each competition, students participate in four trials. Each trial has two judges with a total of eight possible ballots. Last year, Cal Poly won two of the ballots; this year, they won a good sportsmanship award.

Mock trial coach and political science professor Matthew Moore has been the club's advisor since it began. During his time as coach, Moore said he has seen the club's successes grow as their numbers do the same.

During the first year of the club's existence, there were only about 10 students who participated and their low numbers and inexperience led to a losing season.

"At the first competition many students were still learning how the trials ran, and the club was able to learn from their mistakes and see what kind of improvements needed to be made," Moore said.

This year, the club's numbers grew, allowing for two separate teams, both of which consist of eight people. Moore sees the future as bright.

"This year, they have won many awards and have grown as a team," Moore said.

This year's mock trial team at the regional competition held in Fresno, Calif. Cal Poly offers political science courses that help students prepare for the intercollegiate competitions.
EIka Kinzer  

MUMBAI, India (AP) Rubina Ali's house is flooded with sewer water, and her feetatch. She's discovered a world of creepy-crawlies in the opaque gray water: scorpions, rats and delivery creatures with lots of legs.

Two months ago, the child star of the hit movie "Slumdog Millionaire" was worrying about what to wear to the Oscars. Now she has come home to a very different problem: How to get the foul water out of her family's one-room shack.

The 9-year-old picked up a plastic bucket Monday and began to scoop, but it was hopeless. "There are a lot of rats," she told the Associated Press with a shudder, standing in water above her ankles. "In the night also."

Eight Oscars and $226 million in box office receipts have so far done little to improve the lives of the film's two impoverished child stars. Rubina and co-star Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail have been showered with gifts and brief bursts of fame, but their day-to-day lives are little changed, in some ways, things have gotten worse: Azhar's neighborhood has grown crowded and tense. Rubina's house is flooded. And fame has brought both opportunity and shame.

If there is a happily ever after, Azhar and Rubina haven't found it yet. "Slumdog" filmmakers insist they've done their best to help.

see Slumdog, page 10
They set up a trust called Jyothish, after the hit song from the film, to ensure the children get proper homes, a good education and a nest egg when they finish high school. They also donated $747,500 to a charity to help slum kids in Mumbai.

Producer Christian Colson has described the trust as substantial, but won’t tell anyone how much, not even the parents, for fear of making the children vulnerable to exploitation.

Aahir and Rubina finished their first term at the English-language school the filmmakers enrolled them in and plan to return in June when classes resume.

Noshir Dadwala, a Liz Ho trustee, said the families have been shown several apartments in Mumbai, but rejected them all.

"They said it's too far from where they are now living. We are going to do a second round. We hope they will like what we are offering," he said.

"We are not dragging our feet. It's they who are dragging their feet," he added.

There have been other offers, but none have materialized so far.

Developers promised the children homes in a fancy new development billed as an eco-friendly sanctuary of villas and high-rise apartments being built in Kerala, on India's far-southern tip. But it's nearly 1,000 miles away, and neither family wants to leave Mumbai.

The government offered them apartments closer to home, but has yet to deliver. By law, politicians cannot distribute such gifts in the run-up to national elections, which conclude next month.

The families say the I.T. Path International School, which offered coveted — and prices — international baccalaureate degrees, also offered them scholarships, though school officials declined to comment.

And then there are the scavengers.

A few days after the British tabloid News of the World reported that Rubina's father offered to sell her to one of its reporters disguised as a rich sheik, an Indian businessman who lives in Qatar came forward with an offer to pay for the girl's education through college, her family said.

Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, child star of the hit movie "Slumdog Millionaire," right, argues with his mother Shamim Bano, as his father Mohammed Ismail Sheikh lies sleeping at their home, in Mumbai, India.

"The fake sheik and the real sheik," Rubina's father, Rafi, see `Slumdog, page 11
Slumdog
continued from page 10

Quora said, laughing.

Quora takes all scrambling, and has not been charged in 15 years. Courtesy of an opened-old family mound.

Robina’s arranged mother, Kiranlal Montel, Decade, we appeared after seven years, and images of her said Rubins’s step-

mother. Muneece, pulling each each's hair were broadcast around the world.

Rubins tried to ignore the de-

An asked if she wanted to live with
dad, she nodded “Yes,” then stuck the headphones back in her ears and belted out off-key lyrics in one of her favorite “Slumdog Millionaire” songs.

Both children have become adept at dealing with the packs of journalists who descend on their homes with each new twist in the “Slumdog” saga. And fame has brought small opportunities.

The children landed roles in a new Bollywood film, Rubins got hired for a photo shoot. They both starred in a fashion show in New Delhi and a concert in Chennai.

But after each brief tour, they return home to the place they knew as the shum of Garhi Naga, “the city of the poor.”

Here neighbors cling to Rubins’s fame like a charm, saying he has become the de facto protector of their community.

Slum residents say authori-
ties tore down their homes last year to make way for a municipal park, but since the Oms they’ve been able to rebuild. New stacks of corrugated metal stand where people once huddled beneath tar-
paper.

“Since Ashaar is here, there is no worry for us,” said neighbor Rupali Anjali Ganesh, a 35-year-old rickshaw driver. “Be-
cause of Ashaar the demolition has stopped.”

Still, even Ashaar’s celebrity was no match for the local slumlord who came in and built nine new shacks on the already overcrowd-
ed out of land where his family lives. New families were cramped in, and relations between the newcomers and the old-timers are not good.

“There are anti-social ele-

ments,” said Ashaar’s mom, Shanserma Ismail, complaining of too much cursing, drinking and hustling. “I just don’t want to stay here with these people.”

She worries for her celebrity son’s “name and fame. We face security concerns. He’s not the same Ashaar he was before,” she said, reaching across the rough hand of where the 39-year-old lay next to his sleeping father.

“I am dreaming of a house,” she said. “I’m going to die, I think, before I get that nice home.”

Ashaar’s dad finally woke up and started off down the road just before noon.

Asked where he was going, to drink, he said.

Ashaar took off on his new bi-
cycle, a gift from a fan from Eng-

land. “I want to play, man,” he said.

But there was an open space, and he kept bumping into piles of trash.

Around him, neighborhood children complained of boils. A baby who was an extra in “Slum-
dog Millionaire” lay in a strip of shade beneath a cloud of flies, sucking on a bottle of sugar water. His mother said she doesn’t have money to buy him milk.

Ashaar crouched beside the child. “Help these people,” he said, looking up.

Rubina said that since the flooding she’s been eating as much because it’s impossible to cook in her sewage-filled house.

She and her neighbors have no real way of getting clean. They bathe in their flooded homes, amid floating plastic bags, used shampoo packets, old shoes and discarded coconut shells, using buckets of water carted from a common tap.

The local eunuch, a tall fig-

ure in a purple sari who lives a few doors down, tries to keep his chickens dry, hosing them to the upper racks of his frayed wooden coop.

The filthy water has brought a new game to the children of Garhi Naga. The mud fight.

On Monday, Rubina was the one to start it. She reached down into the muck outside her house and scattered her sticky brown palms across her friend’s face.

Shrieking with laughter, the girls hurled fistfuls of mud at each other. They rubbed it into each other’s skin and ground it into each other’s hair.

Then they doused Rubina with buckets of gray water. She shriked with giggles and her face broke into a glowing smile.

Rabina Ali, child star of the hit movie “Slumdog Millionaire,” right, wades through sewage water that has flooded her shanty, as her stepmother Mumi, left, and father Rafiq Qureshi look on in Mumbai, India, Mon-
day, April 27, 2009.

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Minimum wage blatantly ignores non-monetary benefits of work

You work for free to get a nice foot in the door. But you support the minimum wage which restricts lower-income earners from advancing themselves similarly.

The minimum wage sparks a great deal of controversy because it is an emotion-laden topic. Such emotion is quite understandable as any talk on minimum wage naturally involves a discussion about poor people. And, curiously, the prosperous and the well-positioned in our society, among them most college students, seem to never tire of amazing and exasperating themselves at dinner table debates over what to do or not to do with the poor.

Given the humanitarian bent of most people, such conversations naturally tend towards proffering solutions to relieve the poor. One solution that frequently emerges is to simply require employers to pay higher wages to their low-skilled employees through the strong arm of the state.

There are mountains of literature which have already been marshaled against the minimum wage requirement and have thoroughly denounced it as an endeavor woefully deprived of logical, economical, and moral legitimacy. These arguments have been more ably posted and summarized than I could attempt here, so I leave you to engage such literature on your own. An excellent, readable and brief beginning may be found in Henry Hazlitt’s “Economics in One Lesson.”

I find the arguments for minimum wage restrictions very silly, but, as I already promised, I won’t be getting into that. Instead, I’ll restrict myself to commenting on something which I find much sillier and amazingly ironic, that is, the spectacle of college students adamantly defending the minimum wage.

What business is it of yours what an employee willingly agrees to work for whether it is a dollar an hour or a hundred a day? Indignant bleeding hearts everywhere insist that it is their business and passionately decry the cruel capitalist system that would permit employees to sell their labor as they see fit, since (as everyone knows) cruel capitalists tend towards paying nothing at all when they can get away with it.

While I applaud the dizzying scope and depth of such worldly wisdom, I must ask you to consider a neglected scenario involving an individual who has the smarts and the ability but lacks the knowledge and the skills requisite to perform in his desired capacity. Suppose such an individual is willing to work for little, even no earnings, in order to learn a job skill more fully and professionally and thereby earn the reward of a higher salary. Imagine further that such an individual is willing to pay his employer for this training period. Minimum wage legislation prohibits this individual from pursuing such a course of action, whether he be a nascent carpenter or a future automotive tech attempting to learn the trade.

The supporter of the minimum wage may be impressively armed with a number of responses demonstrating how this conjectured individual benefits more from the minimum wage than he would if he were allowed to pursue the temporary training program broadly outlined in the above paragraph. Such a person may argue that the minimum wage is just and fair always and everywhere, no exceptions permitted.

Are you such a person? And do you enjoy the distinction of being a university student? Allow me to address you personally. In your support for the minimum wage, you conveniently (and most hypocritically) I might add ignore a glaring and gross exception, namely yourself and your fellow university students.

You brazenly flout the very restrictions that you seek to have imposed on others as you sacrifice four (or more) academic years of your youth diligently rolling away without pay to gain the skills and credentials which will allow you to enter your chosen profession at a higher salary. Your spend your summers working for paltry sums, sometimes even for free, at valuable internships gaining rich experience that readily translates into dollar figures once you graduate and begin your career.

You do much more than spend four years working for no salary by attending college. You (or your parents) actually pay for this extensive training period of your employment, and in the course of public universities the government funds the rest of the bill. Why has not the fall and righteous forces of the minimum wage law checked these unlawful, unpaid working habits of yours?

Natural, you perceive the tremendous value in the route you’ve taken and excuse your inconsistencies readily. Is it so difficult to grasp that a similar manner of entering a career might help those in other occupations besides those reserved for white collars like yourself? Must you insist upon this grand, universal principle of the minimum wage as a check upon the greedy system of capitalism, but you wisely allow one exception for university students? You ask me to free you to get a nice foot in the door. But you support the minimum wage which restricts lower-income earners from advancing themselves similarly.

There exists in our world a temptation to become a sort of capitalist and that is the type who insists upon all manner of rules and restrictions for everyone but himself. Are you not precisely this sort of craven capitalist? Are you not the least bit offended by your self-contradictory and self-serving ways? If you will not remove the absurdity which is necessary to defend a minimum wage requirement, will you not at least preserve what meager supply of shame you have remaining and leave the debate to others who do not exhibit such a flagrant contradiction as you that which you embody?

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarians Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

Watch the ASI presidential candidate debate... in your pajamas.

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11 A.M. THURSDAY
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Despite government’s secretive research, grass could be greener on the legal side

Federal policy states that marijuana has no medical benefits. It is illegal for anyone without the government’s approval to research marijuana’s effects. Yet, for more than 30 years, the government has been dispensing marijuana to patients in order to study its medical use.

Marijuana has a negative connotation; it’s not surprising that it does. The media focuses on the sensational nature of illegal drug deals and how it negatively impacts people’s lives. Yet, it is often overlooked that medical marijuana can completely change a life for the better.

Behind the scenes, the government recognizes its potential medical impact but as federal policy, it’s a completely different story. Granted, the public backlash would be immense if the government supported medical marijuana. But if it is a more effective solution to someone’s pain, the government should recognize that. The unfortunate part is many people don’t know that the government has had programs intact for researching medical marijuana while they publicly deny its medical benefits.

In 1978 The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) began distributing marijuana to several patients through the Compassionate Investigations New Drug Program (IND), according to a 1998 NIDA report.

“The government wasn’t agreeing that marijuana, or cannabis, was a medical benefit,” said Iris Rosenshield in an interview, a government medical marijuana recipient. “What they were saying is that doctors had convinced the government there was no medicine for that patient, and that a qualified physician believed that cannabis would work. So therefore, out of the compassion of the federal government, they granted a compassionate care protocol.”

That patient was Robert Randall, who used the Common Law doctrine of necessity to argue that he needed medical marijuana to treat his glaucoma. In 1976, the federal government provided Randall FDA-approved access to the government’s medical marijuana, cultivated by the University of Mississippi.

The government has sold all the tax-payers’ money to fund the IND program that Randall initiated. It’s fantastic; that research is being done, but why would the government enact such a strict federal policy when marijuana’s medical effects are still being researched? It makes no sense.

The IND program issued medical marijuana to patients until 1992 when the George H.W. Bush administration closed the program to new applicants after many AIDS patients applied, according to the NIDA report. Today, several patients still receive medical marijuana under the IND program.

The government denies the benefits of medical marijuana just to protect its image. Its own research has proven that medical marijuana can increase the standard of living for the ill and its federal policy should reflect that.

“What right does this government have to say that we are going to give medication to five people to let them be pain free and for all the rest of you, you go to hell... that’s not appropriate in America,” said Randall Williams in an interview on Larry King Live.

The government is using the taxpayers money to fund the IND program, which directly contradicts federal policy. The federal government would lift its ban on medical marijuana until they have fully researched its effects.

Smoking marijuana for any condition or disease isn’t approved by the FDA, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Web site. The FDA said that “there is currently sound evidence that smoked marijuana is harmful,” and that “no sound scientific studies supported medical use of marijuana for treatment in the United States, and no animal or human data supported the safety or efficacy of marijuana for general medical use.”

You know what else is harmful? All those side effects you read on the label of prescription pills doctors issue to patients. 17-year-old cancer patient Owen Beck said in an interview with Drew Carey that all the pain killers he was taking would just knock him out, while marijuana would allow him to be productive throughout the day.

IND participant George McMahon uses medical marijuana to treat pain, spasms and nausea. Also, IND participants Eby Musklin and Rosenshield use it to treat glaucoma and Multiple Congenital Cartilaginous Exostoses, respectively. The latter causes bone tumors to form at the age of 40, and Rosenshield said that in his case, once he has been using medical marijuana, he has not had a new tumor.

Also, the government holds the medical patients on the plant’s various therapeutic cannabinoids, according to patent 6,360,807. It states that there are medical marijuana benefits to prevent and treat many diseases including stroke, trauma, autoimmune disorders, HIV dementia and Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

The government will not condone the use of medical marijuana, but obviously it is in the government’s best interest to the field of medicine. Its benefits are undeniable; medical marijuana supporters advocate the drug because it is an effective alterative to the mass of prescription medicine doctors prescribe them. It seems that the government has a hidden agenda. Is the federal government protecting major pharmaceutical companies by outlawing medical marijuana and forcing sick people to purchase expensive prescription drugs? Maybe.

Regardless, I find it difficult to trust the government when its policies and actions aren’t transparent.

Federal policy should not contradict the government’s actions. The government should suspend in policy until all the necessary research has been done. Time is too important to be a hurry.

Alex Kautz is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily copy editor and reporter.

Pertinent issues

Are you guys serious? Is this elementary school? The locker room is a high traffic area and almost every person who goes in uses that scale. Nobody goes into the locker room with the intention of breaking it. If a treadmill or elliptical machine breaks, that machine gets fixed ASAP. It is just normal wear and tear. I have been going to this school for a white now and I know that it was a high quality, accurate scale, so scale was not meant to endure what it had gone through.

I don’t want to be forced to sneak into the girls’ locker room and use their scale. For if there is one thing I’ve learned in my lifetime, it’s that girls usually like their locker rooms text-free.

So now I’m officially asking the kinesiology department to fix our scale. Call me crazy, but now would even be a good time to buy a nice heavy duty digital one. But I know I am not alone when I say put a damn scale back!

Michael Macedo manufacturing engineering senior

Although I will agree that more transparency in government is almost always a good idea and that some lobbyists wield a disproportional amount of influence, I am little bit frightened by this attempted link to the environmentalist movement. You suggest that unless you are in favor of more government regulation, you can’t be ‘green’. That unless you are on the left wing, you aren’t environmentally friendly. By tying the environmental movement to a certain political ideology like this and rejecting all other solutions, you are needlessly alienating potential supporters.

— Andrew Massmann

Response to “Corporate lobbying turns savages needed for green age”

This was great. If only more people could think like you, we might have less problems like abuse in this world!

— Cat

Response to “Note to passivistic significant others: stay away”

Thank you, Mr. Ushing, for a well-reasoned, articulate and informative explanation of your choice to be skeptical of religion. As a devout Christian, I take offense at the noisy atheists who see themselves as on a crusade to “save” all of the “deity” of religion and spread their message with vitriolic slogans. Your column is respectful, thoughtful and well done, and puts the focus on your own reasoning rather than on the rest of us who would disagree with you. It is certainly a refreshing change of pace, and I appreciate it.

— Robert G

Response to “Why I’m a Christian not a skeptic”

I read this article and all the views expressed within completely agree with my own. In fact I’d appreciate more information about the Cal Poly Brights chapter. Honestly, this is probably one of the best articles I’ve read in the Mustang Daily.

— Crozza

Response to “Why I’m a Christian not a skeptic”

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features all comments that are in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rec Center men’s locker room scale needs to be replaced

So I casually stroll into the Rec Center a few days ago, you know, to get my massive swell on. When I get there I headed straight towards the locker room to change.

After a good five minutes of looking at myself in the mirror, I decide to weigh in. But to my dismay, there is no scale, only a note stating that it was broken and will not be replaced.

Are you guys serious? Is this elementary school? The locker room is a high traffic area and almost every person who goes in uses that scale. Nobody goes into the locker room with the intention of breaking it. If a treadmill or elliptical machine breaks, that machine gets fixed ASAP. It is just normal wear and tear. I have been going to this school for a white now and I know that it was a high quality, accurate scale, so scale was not meant to endure what it had gone through.

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Michael Macedo manufacturing engineering senior
Help Wanted

Flash Designer Needed. Flash designer experienced in Flash Photoshop Illustrator for Cal Poly Admissions Office. Email resume/applicants to interview or questions.

Houses for Sale


Help Wanted

And yet they have the audacity to ask me to vote for the all-star game? I don't ever know Andy's clean.

Housing

2 rooms available 4 rent in Morro Bay: home & 500 each & post call 905-215-4853.

Student shop, very nice home in Atascadero, 2 mins avail. $500+util.

NP NS, 805 698 4558

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Girls & Sports

by Justin Bonac and Andrew Fasten

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Football continued from page 16

The Mustangs will face two Football Bowl Subdivision teams next season. While neither will have the marquee name of a Wisconsin, San Jose State and Ohio University are likely to be two stiff tests for the Mustangs on the road.

The FCS games aren't much easier.

The Mustangs will travel to play at Montana, a team that beat Cal Poly last season and went on to the FCS's national championship game.

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

In the final game of the regular season they will visit Weber State, the team that knocked Cal Poly out of the playoffs a year ago. The Wildcats gained 564 yards of total offense in that game including over 400 yards in the air.

The Mustangs are expecting things to change via their new scheme, but also with some young talent in the secondary including last season's freshman of the year, cornerback Asa Jackson.

"The secondary is going to be good," said defensive coordinator Greg Lupfer. "With Asa coming back, Xavier Gardner, David Fullerton, and on top of that you include (incoming freshman) Xavier Ramos and Johnny Millard — there's going to be some good talent back there." Lupfer isn't the only believer in the new defense. Junior quarterback Tony Smith who is expected to fight for the starting job in the fall said that the defense will play well.

"Our defense will take care of us and put us in good situations and we'd do the best we can to put them in good situations," he said.

Pullertt conceded that this season would be more difficult for the defense with key losses on both sides of the ball including defensive linemen and linebacker Pred lives 11 graduated.

"It's tough when your offense is the No. 1 offense in the nation and then you lose all your guys, but one of our goals coming into defense is to limit other teams to 17 points," he said. "We feel like if we do that, we'll win some games out here."}

Win or lose, next season looks to be the beginning of a new chapter in Cal Poly's rich football history.

Scott Silvey is a journalism senior and the Mustang Daily Sports Editor. Mustang Daily staff writer Clinton McGee contributed to this report.

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Field hockey flies under the radar

Alex Karic
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's field hockey team will defend in Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference (WCHFC) title next season— an honor they have earned four out of the past five years—yet they will still probably go relatively unnoticed.

Cal Poly head coach Rose Aspelin Hall, who just took over the job several weeks ago, said field hockey's success should yield more respect.

"Yeah I think because they are so successful, there should be a little more support," Hall said when asked about a lack of respect.

"And field allocation (is the) same thing, they are kinda on the bottom of the list as far as getting time slots (on the turf field). I mean just having the field painted—so we can have our lines and practice game situations. I think they work hard like any other team."

Cal Poly solidified the top spot in conference by defeating UC Davis in the fall championships, a team that recently became Division 1, which Cal Poly midfielder Casey Wollbrink hopes will "get the ball rolling" and raise awareness for field hockey not just in California, but the West Coast.

"Field hockey, soccer (and) cricket are all the top sports in the world actually, every country has a national team and a club team," Rose said. Field hockey just hasn't caught on like it has on the East Coast; "I don't know why," she added.

In a game that is tactically similar to soccer, field hockey has many rules that often leave spectators guessing.

"There are a lot of rules, so as a spectator I think unless you know those, you are always wondering why the whistle is blowing," Rose said.

"It's definitely more of a finesse, skill sport (where you are) learning how to always move the ball," Cal Poly sophomore goalie Jessie Miller said. "There are a lot of specific rules that field hockey has, like you can't turn your back to block the ball, you have to always have your feet moving, or else you get the foul— I know a lot of people have no idea what's going on when they watch the game."

"There is a unique camaraderie that attracts field hockey players to the sport," Wollbrink said.

"I feel like on the West Coast since most kids don't start 'til high school, we all know that it's hard at the beginning, whereas soccer you start when you are like, 5," she said. "In field hockey you realize, yeah we have all struggled pretty recently because it was only like four years that we started playing."

Miller described it as a weird, natural connection.

"Soccer has such a competitive, everybody-plays-it sport," she said. "But when it comes to field hockey, it's unique, not a lot of people play it and you definitely have to travel further to play. It's more of an acquired skill, not something supernatural, so when you find girls that play field hockey I know that I immediately bond with them."

As with all the successful Cal Poly teams, the field hockey girls have trouble vying for time to play on the turf fields, which should be a necessity rather than a luxury, Cal Poly sophomore defender Amber Zimmerman said.

"In comparison to other sports the field makes all the difference; the turf game versus the grass game is so much different," she said.

Cal Poly sophomore goalie Jessie Miller said the grass field outside the Recreation Center that the team practices and plays games on causes many unexpected bounces that slow down the pace.

"It's a lot more natural than the turf," she said.

The WCHFC was formed to increase field hockey awareness and level of play on the West Coast.

"I would say all the stick sports, lacrosse, field hockey, are gaining momentum out here," Miller said.

Defense has big task ahead

Scott Silvey
ON CAL POLY FOOTBALL

It would be foolish to believe that the Cal Poly offense will be anywhere near as good as they were last year.

Now that's not a knock on the current players—it's a testament to the absolute stab that Cal Poly lost after last season.

Former Mustangs wide receiver Te'dale Terrell was good enough to earn a tryout with the Cleveland Browns at their rookie mini-camp this upcoming weekend. Terrell had a very solid career at Cal Poly as both a receiver and a return man.

When a receiver from a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) team gets even a sniff at an NFL roster, that means they are generally among the best in their class. When an FCS receiver gets taken in the third round of the draft—they are simply amazing.

Nothing more needs to be said about Rameses Barden, who had not just one of the greatest careers in Cal Poly history, but in all of college football over the last four years.

Throw in the loss of FCS' top rated passer in Jonathan Ially, running backs James Noble and Ryan Mole, and All-American offensive lineman Stephen Field, along with a completely new coaching staff and altered philosophy and the Mustangs have quite a declaration project on offense.

That puts the pressure squarely on the teambuilding Cal Poly defense. The Mustangs are replacing former coach Rich Ellerson's flex defense with a more traditional 4-3 package.

Freshman linebacker Kenny Jackson is one of the young guns expected to help Cal Poly's defense—take the next step towards regaining the defensive prowess that saw players drafted in three consecutive years.

"We're relatively young and basically those young guys got to step up in the fall and look to those big guys to lead us and we can go real far," he said.

If the Mustangs are to return to the national spotlight next year, the defense will be key.

Cal Poly released its football schedule last week, and let me say, new head coach Tim Walsh was true to his word.

Walsh said at his introductory press conference that in his tenure as head coach at Portland State that the Vikings played some quality opponents and that he wanted to challenge his Mustangs with a similar schedule.

He didn't.