ASI presidential election details finally released

Matt Fountain

After nearly a week of delays, a breakdown of the vote count from last Thursday's Associated Students, Inc. presidential election was announced Wednesday. Although Kelly Griggs was announced as next year's ASI president at the May Mayhem event in the University Union on May 7, the exact breakdown of votes was not released until yesterday.

Art and design senior Kelly Griggs won the election with 1,807 votes, followed by computer science graduate student Jon McElroy's 979 and psychology senior Jacob Alvarez's 907.

Unidentified problems with the off-campus vendor used to collect and count the votes led to the delay in the results, current ASI President Angela Kramer said. According to its Web site, Elexpert is an online voting systems company that has specialized in online student government elections for nearly 10 years.

Voter turnout for this year's election was approximately 20 percent of the student body, down 7.5 percent from last year. While Kramer said she felt the turnout was "still really good," Griggs admitted she was "a little disappointed.

"It's definitely a trade-off," Griggs said. "As we've seen in politics on a national scale, controversy brings more people to the polls. We, as candidates, decided early on that we were going to try hard not to engage in that kind of thing."

"Also, I think this election kind of snuck up on everyone," she said. "I know students are busy. It's kind of falls within ASI and it's their responsibility to get the word out about when the elections so there's no confusion and things like that."

Griggs is expected to appoint a chief of staff this weekend. As of Wednesday, 15 candidates had applied for the position. Because she is bound by confidentiality until she makes a decision, Griggs said she could not disclose the names of these candidates, but did say a number of them are "highly qualified."

"It's a tough decision," Griggs said. "The chief of staff position is really important and you really have two main goals for a candidate. First, you have to work well with them personally. They also have to be able to carry out the goals of the president."

The quality is looking for in a chief of staff, "are someone who has a strong personality, is a good listener, who understands what you want to do with the campus, but who can also stand up to you. Also, of course, being very honest and communicative is important."

ASl Election committee chair Kelly Wigton announced the ASI presidential election results last Thursday, but due to a vendor problem, the vote breakdown didn't come out until yesterday.

CSU system approves student fee increase

Terence Chea

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The California State University system approved a 10 percent increase in student fees Wednesday to address a severe budget shortfall triggered by the state's fiscal crisis.

Despite objections from students, the CSU Board of Trustees voted 17-2 for the seventh fee hike since 2001, saying the increase was necessary to prevent deeper cuts to student services, classes and enrollment. CSU fees have more than doubled since 2001.

The board also approved a new fee for business graduate programs that will more than double the fees paid by MBA students who take a full course load.

"We face difficult fiscal challenges, and we have to make tough decisions to protect the quality of the education we provide," Trustee Lou Monville said after the board meeting in Long Beach.

The CSU fee increase follows the University of California's decision last week to raise fees by 9.3 percent.

CSU officials said the fee increase is needed to offset a 10 percent reduction, or nearly $300 million, in state funding to the 23-campus system for the coming academic year.

To reduce expenses, the university system already has frozen administrator salaries.

Craiglist site will drop ‘erotic services’ classifieds

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart talks to reporters during a news conference at his Chicago office. Wednesday. Online classifieds site Craigslist said Wednesday it will drop its controversial "erotic services" category in response to law enforcement leaders who said the ads were a front for prostitution.

Don Babwin

CHICAGO (AP) — A month after the killing of a mannequin who advertised on Craigslist, the classified ad site announced plans Wednesday to eliminate its "erotic services" category and screen all submissions to a new "adult services" section before they are posted.

Law enforcement officials praised the move as a victory against online prostitution, but they acknowledged doubts about whether the changes will curb the practice.

"I'm not going to take their word for it. We want to see action," said Dan Gallagher, an attorney representing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who sued Craigslist in March, accusing it of being the nation's biggest source of prostitution.

The announcement marked a significant policy change for Craigslist, which in the past has never pre-screened ads, choosing instead to rely on feedback from users.

The site will continue to allow the posting of ads for adult entertainment venues, massage parlors, escort services and other business that are legal in some states. The changes will take place within the coming weeks.

The ad site is quickly growing in popularity and has become a major source of classified ads. It has been criticized for allowing the posting of ads for activities such as illegal sex work, which is legal in some states.

Craigslist officials said they had agreed to move the "erotic services" ads to a new "adult services" section after consulting with law enforcement leaders.

The announcement comes after the killing of a mannequin dressed as a prostitute by a man who said he was responding to an ad on Craigslist.

Gang leaders in Los Angeles have also sought to shut down the site, and it has been removed from use in other parts of the country.
Marcia Dunn

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - Atlantis' astronauts grabbed the Hubble Space Telescope on Wednesday, then quickly set their sights on the difficult, dicey and unprecedented spacewalking repairs they will attempt over the next five days.

Hubble and Atlantis are in a 350-mile-high orbit littered with space junk. Some of that debris put a bit of a scare into NASA late Wednesday, when a 4-inch piece was spotted on a path coming close to the shuttle.

The debris did not hit the spacecraft and NASA had decided it didn't need to move Atlantis out of the way. Left over from the 2007 Chinese destruction of a satellite during a weapon test, the debris was predicted to come within 1.7 miles of Atlantis. Mission Control let it pass by without noting it.

The international space station also is watching a different piece of debris at a lesser altitude that has a slight chance of coming close on Friday.

The shuttle already has an ugly stretch of sickness from Monday's launch, but the damage is minor and pose no safety threat. NASA continued to prep another shuttle, though, just in case. Atlantis is damaged and the crew needs to be rescued.

Mission Control told astronauts that engineers determined Atlantis' heat shield was in such good shape that no extra inspection would be needed next week. Flight controllers gauged when the telescope that had been in orbital solitude for five years would come into view.
to remove them only after receiving complaints. The new adult services ads will also carry a fee. Skeptical authorities said the Web site had broken previous promises to monitor erotic ads.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo had even harder words, saying that Wednesday's announcement came only after his office investigated Craigslist a criminal probe had implicated the site.

"Rather than work with this office to prevent further abuses in the middle of the night, Craigslist took unilateral action which we suspect will prove to be half-baked," he said in a statement.

Craigslist did little to address those concerns. The Web site refused to comment beyond a prepared statement and left unanswered a host of questions about how the site could possibly screen all the ads.

"It doesn't guarantee that such activity won't pop up elsewhere, and it doesn't guarantee that it won't pop up elsewhere using highly coded words," said Steve Jones, a communications professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Jones said it will not be long before someone fills the void left by Craigslist's "erotic services" section.

"By now someone has probably registered the domain name 'Craigslistsexservices.com,'" Jones said.

Although authorities had expressed concern about the site as the past, the Web site came under closer scrutiny last month after a Boston-area man was accused of fatally shooting a woman who placed an ad on Craigslist. Police believe 22-year-old Philip Markoff may have been involved in other crimes against women who also posted ads on Craigslist. Some reports have suggested he was seeking victims to pay gambling debts.

Craigslist officials and attorneys general from Illinois, Connecticut and Missouri met last week to seek an end to the dispute. General Lisa Madigan said the group told Craigslist that authorities' own checks had revealed the service was not monitoring the site as it should have promised last year.

After receiving complaints about nude photographs, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal brokered an agreement with the site in November to crack down on prostitution ads.

The erotic services ads currently posted will expire in seven days. The new "adult services" section was activated on Wednesday.

Law enforcement promised to keep a close eye on Craigslist as it implemented the changes. Madigan said there was a risk that the reforms could just drive prostitution to other platforms, but she insisted authorities will monitor these sites too.

One major question stemmed from Craigslist's vow only to monitor the new "adult services" category and not other areas people may try to place solicitation ads, such as under the personals ad.

Gallagher also wondered why Craigslist agreed to monitor the site after making previous statements that doing so would be too expensive.

New postings in the "adult services" category would cost $15, but once a posting is approved, customers will be eligible for a refund at $5.

The announcement came on the same day prosecutors and a Craigslist attorney appeared in federal court.

Jim Buckmaster, Craigslist's CEO, said the agreement preserves a place "for legal businesses to advertise" while incorporating suggestions from law enforcement, free speech advocates and Internet law experts.

"If we see what we'd ask for ... we will dismiss our lawsuit," Dart said.

Craigslist agreed to take action despite its contention that it has been unfairly singled out by what Buckmaster called "sensationalistic journalism."

"The record is clear that use of Craigslist classifieds is associated with far lower rates of violent crime than print classifieds, let alone rates of violent crime pertaining to American society as a whole," he said.

Election
continued from page 1

According to Griggs, her fellow candidates may also take part in her administration. "We all had an understanding going into this. Throughout the campaign we wanted to make it fair and honest, and that after the results were in we would all be able to be part of ASI this upcoming year."

although the application deadline for ASI chief of staff has already passed, Griggs said that the encourages any interested students in joining her in student government in other available positions.

"I would definitely recommend students to apply for the executive cabinet," she said. "Until we get close to filling all positions there is no deadline. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved. There are really important positions but there are also positions to fill their areas of interest.

Students looking to take part in student government are encouraged to drop by the ASI office on the second floor of the University Union.

The current economy and job market can make graduate school an appealing option. The truth is, many people return to school during times of economic hardship so that they can reemerge into a stronger economy prepared for greater job prospects.

The Career Services website provides extensive resources. Click on the 'Graduate School' link to read helpful hints. A good starting point is to think about why you want to attend graduate school and how furthering your education could enhance your professional goals.

For example, do you need a masters or doctoral degree to obtain your future dream job? When applying, consider: variety of degrees offered, prerequisites for admission, reputation of the institution, the application process and deadlines, and financing options.

Other important factors to keep in mind in:

• Meeting deadlines is key to successful admission
• Some schools require "real world/work" experience prior to applying, while others admit students directly out of an undergraduate program
• You will probably need to take required examinations such as the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) ahead of time
• Apply for FAFSA during the spring prior to returning to school

Finally, remember to meet with your career counselor to evaluate your options and organize your plan of attack.

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State Briefs

ARROYO GRANDE, Calif. (AP) — More than 2,000 guns, including 22 assault rifles, have been discovered at a rural Arroyo Grande home and investigators say one of the residents remains a dangerous fugitive.

San Luis Obispo County sheriff's investigators say boxes of ammunition were also found in the home where an illegal weapons dealing operation was based.

Sheriff's spokesman Rob Bryant said Monday that 61-year-old Alan Krinsky is in jail for investigation of weapons violations and 62-year-old Alan Dale Garrison has eluded capture.

Bryant says Garrison, who skipped a sentencing hearing on a previous weapons conviction, is "very, very dangerous" and should not be approached if seen.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Environmental groups have dropped a lawsuit that challenged the federal government's approval of two potent pesticides used to combat an invasive moth that threatens California farms.

The plaintiffs withdrew their lawsuit after the Obama administration last month rescinded its decision to allow use of synthetic pheromone mixtures called Check-Mate to control the light brown apple moth in the Bay Area.

The request to drop the complaint was granted Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Sandra Armstrong.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you think Afghanistan will ever find peace within its borders?"

"No, because its borders were made by the Europeans."

-Leah Munley, education graduate student

"No. Even though not all Muslims are extremists, the groups in power over there don't seem to be very peace oriented. It is an issue of religion and government being too closely related."

-Matt St.Pierre, business administration senior

"I hope so, but at this point it's not looking very optimistic. I always hope that change can happen, but that would mean something would need to change there."

-Katelyn Ball, journalism senior

"If they do it is going to take a long time and a lot of work."

-Brogan McGuire, biomedical engineering freshman
Providence mayor wants to tax college students

The mayor of Providence wants to slap a $150-per-semester tax on the 25,000 full-time students at Brown University and three other private colleges in the city, saying they use resources and should help ease the burden on struggling taxpayers.

Mayor David Cicilline said the fee would raise between $5 million and $6 million a year for the city, which is facing a $17 million deficit.

If enacted, it would be the first time a U.S. city has instituted a head tax on college students. Providence College, for instance, offers student volunteers to staff after-school programs, and Brown is raising money for a $10 million endowment to help the city school system.

Even so, Cicilline said everyone should be expected to help the city through this economic crisis.

"We're more able to provide labor, we're more able to apply the things that we're learning in the classroom, than we are to write a $300 check," Cicilline said.

Cities often look for revenue from universities to compensate for their tax-exempt status, and many schools already make voluntary payments to local governments. Providence's four private schools — Brown, Providence College, Johnson & Wales University and the Rhode Island School of Design — agreed in 2003 to pay the city nearly $50 million over 20 years.

The idea of a student head tax has been floated before in other cities, generally to start discussions about collecting money from universities in lieu of taxes.

But Tony Pals, spokesman for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said he knows of no city that charges students a direct fee.

"The bottom line is, a tax like this has never gone into effect," Pals said. "The timing is also unfortunate, given the significant amount of budget-cutting that institutions have had to go through because of the recession."
The next generation of Afghan women

Afghan students see their education as an opportunity to rebuild their country

Cassandra J. Carlson

PART ONE OF A TWO-PART SERIES

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"Star Trek" has action, smarts

MOVIE BUZZ
WITH ALEX PETROSIAN

Over Mother's Day weekend, I got the opportunity to hang out with my 17-year-old sister who, under my guidance, has blossomed into a hipster, complete with ironic T-shirt andukulele. As we talked about some of the shows we had been to, the fake bands that we've formed and "Nick and Nora's Infinitely Playful" I realized something about hipster evolution. Now, I haven't submitted this theory for peer review or anything, but I have come to the conclusion that the only time it's fun to be a hipster is when you are in high school. Maybe I'm just better about it, but this truth made itself known to me as I listened to Hello Scumbag's new album "Hoy a las Ocho." For the first time in a really long time, I really wanted to get a ukulele and sing about baking cupcakes for friends around a campfire.

These Mexican City natives encapsulate what being a hipster in high school is all about being cute, nervous and playful. To put it simply, this band is hella twee and should probably replace your overplayed Kimya Dawson album as your soundtrack to the summer. It's poppy, fun and has a really cute girl in glasses on vocals.

The album seems to be inspired solely by snacks, camping and crashes. "OK!... Lobster" is a soft pop jam composed of ukuleles, tambourines, keyboards and handclaps. It reminds me of LoLindo singing about bugs and ocean breezes and how "Simple things make me feel so good." Everyone is dead inside as I am, you can't help but be non-talig for the time you and your friends donned your floral summer dresses and tossed jacket; stolen from the discarded collection of thrift store for a tramplinparty. Or when "What's New Any­ thing" comes on we shout our some formula plus Oreo dusting. It's best not to make out with Lo Lindsay. You can't help but make a stupid grin when he manages a quick peek on the lips in the music video at the songs "Don't you make a fuss about." I swear, that song makes me wish it wouldn't be completely absurd to ask a girl on a date to the park for some fruit punch and buns. But alas, I am grown up now. I've al­most completed puberty. I've quit vegetarianism and when I go out, I take the walk alone.

My little sister told me that this is not what life is about. It's about having fun with friends, hopping fences and sneaking out at night to have a picnic on the beach. My mom asks me what she is up to and worries that going to her prom in Converse sneakers, oversized glasses and friendship bracelets instead of corsettes isn't wholesome. I assured my mom that it was a phase if I re­main her teacher will soon see through hipster bullshit, get into free jazz and start becoming disenchanted with the world. But that only made her more nervous saying that "she's the only one in the family that doesn't think the world's a joke, shouldn't we nurtur­e that?"

"Well, I guess if you want her to be happy," I said.
Friends say film shows Fawcett as a fighter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Farrah Fawcett expected that a video diary chronicling her fight against cancer would have a happy ending, friends Ryan O'Neal and Alana Stewart said Wednesday.

But even as her disease has progressed, they said, the former "Charlie's Angels" star is keeping hold of hope. "I know that Farrah hasn't given up," said Stewart, who met Fawcett in the 1970s in Los Angeles when they were young actresses from Texas looking for commercial work.

Stewart was part of the making of "Farrah's Story," airing Friday at 9 p.m. EDT on NBC, holding the camera as her longtime friend underwent treatment.

The diary will make clear to Fawcett's fans that there's more to her than glamorous good looks, O'Neal said. "They'll think they knew the see Fawcett, page 10
Drag queens will be coming out for a good cause tonight at Downtown Brew.

By Bridget Veltri

Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men, presents The Dollhouse, the first annual drag show raising money for the AIDS Support Network in San Luis Obispo.

The 17-member fraternity received its charter in February.

"We wanted to create a fraternity that would provide an outlet for gay men to feel included and have a brotherhood of gay men that they can relate to," Delta Lambda Phi president and graphic communications senior Brad Purpura said.

"And to bring awareness to campus, just the fact that we are now a part of the greek community on campus does so much for the progression of gay rights, it is saying it's OK to be gay, and it's OK to be gay and queer."

The Dollhouse is the fraternity's first big philanthropic event and while a portion of the proceeds will go to the AIDS Support Network, Purpura thinks that the show itself will benefit the community.

"I feel that drag shows help break down gender role stereotypes," he said. "Those stereotypes of how your gender is supposed to act perpetuate people staying in the closet and homophobia in society."

Lanit Nalagan, architecture freshman and incoming president of Delta Lambda Phi explained that drag shows are a prevalent fundraiser event for the other Delta Lambda Phi chapters.

"It seems to be a tradition for the chapters to present some sort of drag show," he said.

Purpura said that the name Dollhouse came from a brainstorming session.

"At one point we had 'Poly Dollhouse', and that evolved into 'Dollhouse'. It was just classy enough and just gay enough," he said. "When you hear dollhouse you know it's not going to be a baseball game."

Purpura and Nalagan both stressed the importance of AIDS and HIV as an issue.

"The reason why is because AIDS awareness is important to the entire community, gay or straight, because the number of new HIV and AIDS cases is rising on the Central Coast," Purpura said.

Nalagan added, "We just feel that by introducing this social event we can raise awareness for the gay community and most importantly our philanthropy, and how important AIDS awareness is around the world."

The event is for ages 18 and over and will feature professional drag queens from Las Vegas, Sacramento, and San Luis Obispo. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Boo Boo Records, the Downtown Brewing Co. box office and ticketweb.com. They are $10 at pre-sale, $12 at the door and $10 if you come dressed in drag.

The Dollhouse isn't going to be like other Downtown Brew events.

"Purpura said to expect different.

"It won't be your typical D TB event for the other Delta Lambda Phi chapters. It's going to be different. It seems to be a tradition for the chapters to present some sort of drag show," he said.

Nalagan said. "At the Interfraternity Council meeting they clapped and applauded for us."

Delta Lambda Phi is open to all men but has no heterosexual members yet.

"We currently don't but it would be amazing if we did." Nalagan said. "We hope to see some pledge next fall."

Purpura encourages those who have never been to a drag show and are unsure about the event to be open to it and have fun.

"College is a time to expand your horizons and learn about other cultures," he said. "This is an opportunity to expose both the greek and Cal Poly communities to an event that they would normally not see. In a fun way that is for a good cause."

"We are trying to reclaim the word gay so it doesn't mean stupid," Purpura said.

Nalagan is excited about the Dollhouse event and hopes to see the fraternity expand and have an increased presence in the community.

"I really hope that our guests and visitors leave with awareness," he said. "I hope that they see that we have a lot to offer."

Both men said that they felt welcomed by the greek community on campus.

"When we received our charter we were very well received," Nalagan said. "At the Interfraternity Council meeting they clapped and applauded for us."

"We need to create a frater­nity that would provide an outlet for gay men to feel included and have a brotherhood of gay men that they can relate to," Delta Lambda Phi president and graphic communications senior Brad Purpura said.

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Purpura and Nalagan both stressed the importance of AIDS and HIV as an issue.

"The reason why is because AIDS awareness is important to the entire community, gay or straight, because the number of new HIV and AIDS cases is rising on the Central Coast," Purpura said.

Nalagan added, "We just feel that by introducing this social event we can raise awareness for the gay community and most importantly our philanthropy, and how important AIDS awareness is around the world."

The event is for ages 18 and over and will feature professional drag queens from Las Vegas, Sacramento, and San Luis Obispo. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Boo Boo Records, the Downtown Brewing Co. box office and ticketweb.com. They are $10 at pre-sale, $12 at the door and $10 if you come dressed in drag.

The Dollhouse isn't going to be like other Downtown Brew events.

"Purpura said to expect different.

"It won't be your typical D TB event for the other Delta Lambda Phi chapters. It's going to be different. It seems to be a tradition for the chapters to present some sort of drag show," he said.

Nalagan said. "At the Interfraternity Council meeting they clapped and applauded for us."

Delta Lambda Phi is open to all men but has no heterosexual members yet.

"We currently don't but it would be amazing if we did." Nalagan said. "We hope to see some pledge next fall."

Purpura encourages those who have never been to a drag show and are unsure about the event to be open to it and have fun.

"College is a time to expand your horizons and learn about other cultures," he said. "This is an opportunity to expose both the greek and Cal Poly communities to an event that they would normally not see. In a fun way that is for a good cause."

"We are trying to reclaim the word gay so it doesn't mean stupid," Purpura said.

Nalagan is excited about the Dollhouse event and hopes to see the fraternity expand and have an increased presence in the community.

"I really hope that our guests and visitors leave with awareness," he said. "I hope that they see that we have a lot to offer."

Both men said that they felt welcomed by the greek community on campus.

"When we received our charter we were very well received," Nalagan said. "At the Interfraternity Council meeting they clapped and applauded for us."

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Fawcett, who has a son with Fawcett and remained close to her after their long romantic relationship ended in the late 1990s, said he plans to watch "Farrah's Story" with her at her Los Angeles home Friday. Fawcett, 62, was diagnosed with anal cancer in 2006. It has spread to her liver.

"She's heavily medicated," O'Neal said. "We're going to take some of those medications down so she's lucid and sharp to watch herself. I think she'll take great pride in this," he said. That's "on the one hand, and I don't know on the other," he said, his voice trailing off.

Trying to field questions about Fawcett and choking up at times, O'Neal described himself and Stewart as "two broken people."
Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

C.S.I. New Jersey

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0409

Across
1 Garlic native to Minnesota
5 Not in the buff
9 With 46-Down, site of Cape
13 English artist buried at St.
14 Potential sucker
15 The brother in
20 "Am I my
26 Ashcroft's
27 Like some
52 Bite
53 Bite

Down
1 Bruce
44 Dell machine
45 One begins "by
46:19 Thrombosed/Goud
48 Laugh-a-minutc
52 Black Sabbath
55 Bite

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Show a little PDA

How 'bout this public display of affection?

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0409

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College playoffs need to change

Like their professional brethren before them, the heads of college football traveled to the nation's capital this past week to defend the integrity of their sport against the verbal tides of our nation's lawmakers.

As Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) took on the heads of college football this past week in a House sub-committee meeting, the debate over college football's postseason once again became a hot topic issue among sportswriters and fans of college football nationwide.

The congressional sub-committee argued with Bowl Championship Series (BCS) representatives about what needs to be done to fix college football's postseason. They went to great lengths to berate ACC commissioner and BCS coordinator John Swofford, even comparing college football's lack of a playoff to "communism" in the sense that it just flat out doesn't work.

The current system involves computers selecting a complex formula to decide who the top two teams are at the end of the season and allowing them to play the national championship game at a neutral site, Eugene, Ore., I can tell you from firsthand experience how unfair this system is. In 2001 my beloved Oregon Ducks were ranked No. 2 in both the AP and the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll at the end of the regular season.

However, the computers didn't think so. Nebraska, who had just lost their conference championship game a week before, was the better match to take on the vaunted top-ranked Miami Hurricanes. This is one of many examples that fans of college football could cite as evidence to why the current system doesn't work. Simply put, everyone with half a brain knows that the system is a representative Barton said, unable to be fixed.

So after the last week more and more critics in the blogosphere have blasted off about how college football needs to scrap the traditional bowl game format and instead a playoff system. While in true college football needs some type of playoff, these criticisms sound off in an "attack mode," that is see the current system or we completely scrap the bowls in favor of an eight-team tournament. Yes, it may be seen in the opinion of an "attack mode," that is see the current system or we completely scrap the bowls in favor of an eight-team tournament. Yes, it may be seen in the opinion of an "attack mode," that is see the current system or we completely scrap the bowls in favor of an eight-team tournament and that is a "feather in our cap.

In short, here is what I propose: At the end of the regular season, the Top Four teams (not eight) as determined by the BCS computers play each other in a single elimination playoff.

Some extreme cases a perfect season won't even get you a ticket to the big dance (Auburn in '04). This makes every game of the season a must watch for the fans of every perennial contender. This heavy fan-interest leads to higher revenues for the NCAA, a fact of which they are very aware.

More importantly though this creates a season that is unparalleled by anything else in the world of sports. My playoff system though would still ensure the importance of a regular season because unlike, a giant eight-team playoff with four-teams, the entrance fee to the playoffs would still be a perfect one-loss record.

Secondly, football is a violent sport, I mean a really violent sport. The average life for a NFL player is 5 years, which is more than 20 years short of the national average. By putting in an eight-team play-off the NCAA would ask these players to extend their already draining season by two extra games essentially wiping out the month long rest that comes between the end of the regular season and the bowl games. My hybrid four-team playoff only extends the season by one extra game and essentially gives the teams the regular lay-off that they'd normally experience.

At the end of the season the debate always seems to be over the much-scrutinized decision of who actually gets into the championship. Imagine how much controversy would ensue over who the six, seven and eight teams would be to get into the playoffs especially when you have twice that many worthy candidates.

Who decides between 12-1 Boise State and 11-1 Texas Tech? How do you seed eight different one-loss teams (which is how many one-loss teams would there be in the bowl season this year)? In my four-team playoff the debate would be a little simpler with less teams to choose from. This year in another year, the selection process would be easy as you would choose the two teams that would normally have a gripes with not getting into the national championship like USC and Texas this year.

In all all of my playoff system would add the one or two teams that normally don't get the chance to participate in the championship games. It would still keep the traditional bowls and the importance of the regular season intact. In work, commerce I think that the eight-team playoff would ruin the beautiful bowl season and regular season that makes college football so great. I'm sure for sponsors and BCS coordinators alike to take heed and give college football a true national champion.

Zah Lorette is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily op/ed writer.
Feds seek to control even your kitchen sink while UN heads for the beach

The Conservative Constitutionalist

by Colin McKim

The Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787) is likely to move forward in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. This bill affects one of the last pieces of legislation Congress passed before the election of President Obama. The bill, like its predecessor bills from the Bush administration, is intended to combat water pollution. The bill was introduced by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), who said, "The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 to address the pollution of our nation's waters, but it has become outdated and needs modernization to keep pace with the environmental challenges we face today." The bill would require new standards for wastewater treatment and pollution prevention, as well as new authorities for state and local governments to implement the Clean Water Act. The bill also includes provisions to address stormwater runoff and to improve water quality in lakes and rivers. It would also reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses and municipalities, while still protecting public health and the environment. The bill was supported by environmental groups, including the Environmental Protection Agency, and by the American Public Health Association. The bill was also supported by the National Association of Counties, which represents over 3,000 counties in the United States. However, the bill has faced opposition from the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has raised concerns about the potential impact of the bill on farmers. The bill would require farmers to develop and implement nutrient management plans to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus runoff into waterways. The bill was referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on December 20, 2019. The bill has been introduced in previous Congresses, but has not received a vote in the Senate. The Clean Water Restoration Act is expected to be a key issue in the upcoming budget negotiations between the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Baltimore Orioles’ Luke Scott points skyward after hitting a solo home run against the Minnesota Twins.

 activités

SPORTS

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Pointing is the newest sign in baseball

Tim Dahlberg

ACLutched chest.

Signs, signs, everywhere the sign.

Back in the day it was fairly simple to figure them out in baseball. One finger for a fastball, two for a curve, maybe a third for whatever extra pitch the guy on the mound might throw.

Deciphering what the third base coach was doing was a little more difficult, but that was all part of the fun. At least we knew what he was trying to accomplish.

Not anymore. Now there are new signs with deeper meanings, as Casey Blake found out the other day at Dodger Stadium.

Blake had the misfortune of being caught on camera making a gesture in the dugout after hitting a home run off San Francisco closer Brian Wilson in the 12th inning. He appeared to be mocking Wilson by making the crossed-arm, finger-pointing gesture Wilson uses after each successful save.

He apparently hurt Wilson’s feelings, so much so that Wilson’s teammates had to console him in the locker room after the game.

Turns out the gesture was more than just a way for Wilson to celebrate. It was his way of expressing his faith and remembering his late father.

Blake said later that had he known that, he wouldn’t have mocked Wilson. But, really, how many signs are players supposed to keep track of?

Sure, pointing to the heavens seems to be the universal way of celebrating success on the field these days. Barry Bonds believes he started the craze by pointing upward after each one of his mammoth home runs, though cynics might suggest that it would be more appropriate for him to point to his chemist instead.

But Wilson apparently wasn’t content with a mere finger-stretched upward. He came up with a gesture that could be open for interpretation by opposing players, and Blake responded in kind.

In Blake’s defense, the only other athlete I’ve seen make a similar gesture was boxer Bernard “The Executioner” Hopkins. Hopkins crossed his arms above his head entering the ring not to honor anyone, but to show his opponent that his fate was already sealed.

That’s boxing, though, where anything goes. Do something like bite off an ear in a baseball game, and you could get in trouble.

But what’s the point about all the pointing anyway?

Yes, I know it’s all about honoring God and thanking him for providing enough skill to (a) hit a home run, (b) strike out an opposing player, or (c) get a save. Either that, or a tribute to a deceased family member for doing enough skill to (a) hit a home run, (b) strike out an opposing player, or (c) get a save.

Or, in the case of Wilson, both. Hence the need for the combination crossing of the arms and finger pointing.

An increasing number of players seem to be doing it, and there does seem to be some protocol developing around it. A mere double doesn’t rate a finger pointed skyward, and neither does a sacrifice fly. It’s got to be an accomplishment of a higher variety, something worthy of drawing attention to the heavens.

You know, like saving a baseball game.

It’s not something that translates well outside of sports, either. The guy who did a great job making up lunch at my favorite taco shop the other day didn’t step back and point his hands to the sky in celebration. I’ve yet to see anyone try it in a crowded office, and no one would dare do it after making it past security in the airport.

What’s surprising to me is that other players allow it in a sport where the unwritten code is that the one thing you don’t do is show another guy up.

Aubrey Huff was quick to mock New York Yankee Joba Chamberlain’s fist pump after hitting a home run off him the other day. Brian Wilson’s sign with his arms held aloft.

Maybe things have changed, but my guess is there’s something muttering in the opposing dugout when Francisco Rodriguez finishes off a game by falling to his knees, pointing to the sky and screaming something unintelligible. Save that for winning the World Series, not for protecting a three-run lead against the Washington Nationals.

Indeed, the whole pointing to the sky thing is being done so much now that it has become trite, which might be why Wilson came up with his variation. Had he stuck to the basics, Blake probably would have given him a pass.

Because even in baseball no one messes with departed relatives or the man upstairs.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

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It makes you realize how much better 56 is than 30. To get a hit every single game there's got to be a lot of luck involved.

— Ryan Zimmerman
Washington Nationals

No. 4 — Downtown Brewing Co.
Another local favorite in the downtown area. This one is also more of a social and entertainment bar than a designated sports bar. It's probably mostly known for its shows for upcoming artists. However, it has a big menu with good food that isn't too expensive. There are a few TVs all around the place that makes it a good place to go with some friends on a weekend to watch a game.

No. 3 — Legends Bar
Legends is a small local place in Merino Bay. Yes, it's a little far, but it's worth the drive for sports fans. It has a full bar and any sort of sports entertainment you want. They have a great package of sports channels that broadcast games from all over, including local Cal Poly games. It has a pool table for game breaks and standing bar tables only. As far as eating goes, there is a small walk-up pizza place right on the side. Legends was formerly owned by a Cal Poly football coach.

No. 2 — Firestone Grill
Another local favorite in the downtown area. This one is also more of a social and entertainment bar than a designated sports bar. It's probably mostly known for its shows for upcoming artists. However, it has a big menu with good food that isn't too expensive. There are a few TVs all around the place that makes it a good place to go with some friends on a weekend to watch a game.

No. 1 — The Shack
This place has everything you could ask for in a sports bar. It's a tiny little burger and fries joint on Foothill Boulevard, very close to downtown. The food is great. They have a little house bar that is super crowded with hometown jerseys and photos all across the wall complete with California sports fans in every room. The only reason this place isn't No. 1 on my list is that it's too popular. It feel like spending more money, you should definitely go for the garlic fries. The best part of the place is the atmosphere. It has a small, relaxed feel to it with sports memorabilia and flat screens on every wall. At the front, they hang empty beer mugs on the wall for you to throw peanut shells in during breaks in the game.

Overall, it's just a great place to go with plenty of other college students to relax and watch the game.

So I think we can still say that San Luis Obispo doesn't exactly have a wide variety or selection of sports bars for a night out with your roommates. However, we are fortunate to have plenty of local favorites that never fail to entertain when the occasion arises. Whether you're looking for great food or beer, dozens of nice flat screen TVs or just a great place to sit with your friends and cheer for your favorite team, you'll find it at one of these places.
Nine Mustangs among All-Big West Team

Sophomore lefthander Anna Cahn was named Big West Pitcher of the Year, heading the list of nine Cal Poly softball players named to the conference team. Cahn led all Big West pitchers with 27 victories, was second with 151 strikeouts and third with a 1.71 ERA and a .223 opposing batting average this season. She was named the All-Big West first team by senior shortstop Melissa Pura and junior first baseman Krysten Cary.

Senior third baseman Kristen Lee, center senior pitcher Jessica Rogers, junior lefthander Helen Pelka earned honorable mention honors. Rogers pitched a no-hitter in a 5-0 win over San Jose State last weekend, striking out a career-high 15 batters.

Senior third baseman Kristen Lee, center senior pitcher Jessica Rogers, junior lefthander Helen Pelka earned honorable mention honors. Rogers pitched a no-hitter in a 5-0 win over San Jose State last weekend, striking out a career-high 15 batters.

Zimmerman's hit streak ends at 30, Nats top Giants

Greg Beacham

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Although Ryan Zimmerman's 36-game hitting streak ended right before he could carry it home to Washington, he thinks the monthlong experience will benefit him for years to come.

The Nationals' rising star also got a taste of what it might be like to have more appreciation for the greatness of Joe DiMaggio.

"It makes you realize how much better 56 is than 30," Zimmerman said, referring to the San Francisco native's record hitting streak in 1941. "That's a long time. To get a hit every single game, there's got to be a lot of luck involved." Zimmerman got no luck in the Nationals' 6-3 victory over the Giants on Wednesday going 0 for 3 with two walks. He never got the ball out of the infield, grounding into a fielder's choice on his final chance in the ninth.

At least Zimmerman did have with Washington's sixth run moments later, allowing him to play a part in a rare victory for the frustrated Nationals, who have the majors' worst record.

"I'm not relieved it's over, because I would have liked to keep it going for as long as I can," said Zimmerman, who fell just short of Vladimir Guerrero's franchise-record 31-game streak with Montreal in 1999. "But it'll be good to go back to the usual routine. I've said every day that I'd rather win. It's been a tough year for us. I feel like we're a lot better than our record." Zimmerman produced two groundouts and two walks against the Giants in the seventh and eighth innings, striking out two, the first with two on open bases moments earlier. Both Zimmerman and Washington manager Manny Acta said they agreed with San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy's decision.

"We had no choice," Bochy said. "You're behind in the count, and you have the hottest hitter in baseball up there. You're trying to limit the damage. It's impressive what he did. We got caught the one time when we had to put him on, but he had four at-bats, and we pitched him well." Zimmerman grounded to shortstop

Associated Press

San Francisco Giants' Randy Winn, right, steals second base during the Giants 6-3 loss to the Washington Nationals on Wednesday.