Bike Month raises the issue of bicycle safety

Fallon Scholl
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the driver of a Ford truck took his foot off the brakes at the stop sign on a recent afternoon at Cal Poly, a young man on a bike blew right through the stop, narrowly escaping impact with the truck that was turning right. With no police in sight, the bicyclist went on his way without a reprimand and seemingly oblivious to the accident he almost caused.

Scene like this occur on a daily basis on Cal Poly’s campus and around the city and some people are trying to change this. May is when San Luis Obispo holds its annual celebration of Bike Month, and it raises the question of whether or not bicyclists in San Luis Obispo County and on Cal Poly’s campus are well educated in bike safety.

As part of San Luis Obispo’s Bike Month, The San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition will put on a Bicycle Confidence Workshop May 16 at Cal Poly’s University Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room 219. The workshop is aimed at showing bicyclists how to ride with confidence, understand traffic psychology and ride safely among cars. While organizations and community groups encourage biking instead of driving, some community members continue to worry about bicycle safety.

“I think that most riders still believe that bike riding is a fun activity that they can grow up on and now are doing it for transportation means,” said Barry Lewis, a law librarian and member of San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition and League of American Cyclists. Although biking is an activity associated with fun for most people he said, when it’s used to commute instead of for leisure there is more involved then getting on the bike and pedaling.

Even after the introduction of the San Luis Obispo Bicycle Coalition’s free bike education workshops that teach bicyclists how to be safe and confident, the number of bicycle citations in San Luis Obispo County in the past year did not drop. The workshops teach bicyclists things such as how to avoid crashes, where to ride on the road, bicycle riding skills and traffic laws that affect bicycling. Cal Poly offers bicycle diversion classes similar to Bike Month, page 2.

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A Pakistan army soldier stands guard in the Jalozai camp where thousands of displaced people from troubled Swat Valley arrived in Peshawar, Pakistan on Thursday.

K.P. BETT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

House votes $97 billion war funds, despite doubts

Andrew Taylor
WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite Democrats’ rising anxiety about Afghanistan, the House on Thursday easily passed a $97.2 billion measure filling President Barack Obama’s request for war spending and foreign aid efforts there and in Iraq.

Some 51 Democrats broke with Obama, who is sending thousands more troops into Afghanistan, but all but a handful of Republicans stood behind the president to produce a 360-60 tally. Republicans supported the measure even though majority Democrats added almost $12 billion to Obama’s $85 billion request.

The measure would boost total funding provided by Congress for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars above $900 billion.

Across Capitol Hill, a key Senate committee approved a $91.3 billion bill that sticks closely to Obama’s war request — including $50 million for the Pentagon to begin the promised closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The issue of closing Guantanamo is addressed in the House measure as well — not with funding but with a promise that detainees from the prison will not be released on U.S. soil. A new provision, however, anticipates some of the 241 detainees at Guantanamo will be transferred to the United States to stand trial or serve their sentences.

A separate conflict over the war-funding measure concerns whether it should provide a $18 billion U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund as part of an expanded $500 billion IMF loan fund, a cornerstone of last month’s Group of 20 nations summit in London to assist poor countries struggling through the global economic downturn.

Obama officially requested the IMF funding late Tuesday, and the request was immediately incorporated into the Senate version by Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. The IMF funds would cost U.S. taxpayers about $5 billion since the government is issued interest-bearing assets in return for the contribution.

House Republicans oppose adding the IMF funds to the war-funding measure, and their votes will be needed to pass the final House-Senate compromise bill, given the opposition of anti-war Democrats.

For the military spending, during the Bush administration many Democrats stressed their opposition to the war in Iraq while supporting efforts against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. But an increasing number of party liberals are skeptical

see Obama, page 2

Members of banned group help Pakistan war refugees

Riaz Khan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARAN, Pakistan (AP) — Members of a charity banned for its alleged links to the Mumbai terror attack have reemerged in northwestern Pakistan under a new name, distributing food and medicine Thursday among thousands of refugees from the government’s bloody fight against the Taliban.

The mover of Jamar-ud-Dawa raises awkward questions for the embattled government, which has been trying hard to convince its skeptical Western sponsors that it is serious about taming Islamist extremism.

Members of the banned group see Pakistan, page 2

The offensive against Taliban insurgents in the Swat Valley area, the largest in months, has driven about 800,000 people from their homes, with 80,000 sweltering in camps south of the battle zone.

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani told Parliament on Thursday that it was the largest internal displacement of Pakistanis since the country’s creation in 1947.

“They are sacrificing for the future, and every Pakistani is ready to help them,” he said of the refugees. But he probably wasn’t reckoning on aid coming from radicals whom the government had supposedly taken out of action.

see Pakistan, page 2
Pakistan continued from page 1

On Thursday, about 10 volunteers were manning a distribution point for relief goods and services in Mardan, the city serving as the hub of the international relief effort.

Ostensibly, they belonged to Falah-i-Insaniat, a previously unheralded charitable foundation.

But the large white flag flapping nearly obscured a black sword along with the Islamic confession of faith — the distinctive logo of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa. The same logo was on the back of jackets worn by some of the volunteers.

“We have sent 2,000 of our members to help our brothers and sisters,” Maqbool Anj, deputy chairman of Jamaat, told The Associated Press. “We are silently helping the homeless, hungry and needy people, and let us do our work without maligning us.”

The U.S. and the U.N. say Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group accused of planning and carrying out last year’s attacks in India’s financial hub, Mumbai, which left 166 people dead and hundreds more wounded.

The government launched a crackdown on Jamaat soon after, arresting several of its leaders, seizing its assets and closing its branches. Jamaat denied it had links to Lashkar, which in turn denied involvement in the attacks.

The clampdown was welcomed by India and the United States, but analysts at the time said it was likely the group would reemerge under another name.

Zargham Khan, a 32-year-old volunteer at the distribution point, would only talk about his duties.

“We provide newly arrived refugees with food and medical treatment and juices to the kids,” Khan said.

But a nearby sign indicated where its staff stood on a nearby sign indicated where its staff stood on the offensive in Swat. “Stop slaughter Muslims,” it read, a message presumably addressed to the military.

Jamaat spokesman YZia Mahomed confirmed the group was present in the region, but declined to say whether Falah was a new name for Jamaat.

“We know the government banned us under a U.N. order, but we are helping out brothers and sisters in those areas,” he said.

Government spokesman Ashraf Gondal insisted neither Jamaat-ud-Dawa nor any reincarnation of the group was working in the refugee camps set up by the government and the U.N.

“He said he didn’t know if they were active elsewhere,” Gondal said authorities could not immediately move to shut down Falah-i-Insaniat, because it has not been banned.

Lashkar was believed to have enjoyed close links with Pakistan’s intelligence agencies, which cultivated it as an ally in Kashmir, a disputed territory claimed by both India and Pakistan. New Delhi accuses it of carrying out scores of attacks in Kashmir and India proper.

But any move by the government to stop Falah would likely be unpopular, legally difficult and risk a backlash among Pakistanis.

Jamaat helped tens of thousands of people following the deadly Kashmir earthquake in 2005 and the floods in Lahore, said Pakistan’s establishment understood that it could no longer tolerate groups fueling religious militancy, even if they supported the country’s foreign policy goals.

But the government will find it hard to move against the group unless it is involved in militant activities.

“They will be closely watched, but if they remain confined to rehabilitation and relief probably no one is going to lay a finger on them,” Rais said. “They can’t really be challenged in a court of law ... unless they do some mischief.”

Pakistan leaders worry that the massive disruption from the Swat offensive — and unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties — will up public support for the pro-Western government and the army.

The military claims to have killed about 800 militants in the operation so far, including 54 announced on Thursday Troops have fought their way to within four miles (six kilometers) of the valley’s main town, Mingora, spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said. Nine troops also died in the previous 24 hours, he said.

The military’s account of the fighting could not be independently verified.

Bike Month continued from page 1

ilar to the workshops for those who receive citations. “While the number of cited cyclists might appear high, I personally see violations repeatedly throughout the day, every day,” said Lewis. “I have tried my own means of instructing them about the rules like shouting at cyclists as they blantly break through a stop sign, but don’t feel this is the best approach.”

Chief of University Police William Boyt takes the same stance as Lewis and says that many people don’t realize that riding a bike is just like driving a car.

Many bicycle-riding students don’t seem to realize that they are breaking laws.

“I was never given any information about this that I can remember when I first came to Cal Poly as a freshman. The only reason I know anything about the rules is because my roommate got a ticket,” journalist senior Natalie Pavich said. “I witness bikers coming close to accidents on a daily basis.”

Campus police reports show there have been an accident this year, one of which were injury acciden.

While this is good news for student bikers, the issue still remains frustrating for other motorists.

Wine and viticulture senior Allie Frager finds it difficult and “sometimes scary” to drive to class during peak hours because of cyclists recklessly and appear out of nowhere. “I like what Bike Month is trying to promote and am glad that some organizations try to educate bikers,” said Frager.

However, Frager and other bike riders think a lot of people take into account that they are sharing the road and it is much harder to safely maneuver a car than it is a bike.
Man convicted in lucrative body parts selling scheme

Defendant Ernest Nelson is accused of being part of a lucrative scheme to buy and sell human body parts donated to a University of California medical school, Thursday.

Greg Rising
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nelson was going to put into a willed body program and cut up body parts for his own personal financial gain, prosecutor Maria Zarate said after the verdict.

Defense attorney Sean McDonald said he was disappointed by the verdict and left court without further comment.

Prosecutors said Nelson and Henry Reid, the former director of UCLA's Willed Body Program, devised the scam in 1999. Nelson, who ran a business transporting body parts to hospitals and medical research firms, has said he thought the sales were authorized by the university.

One juror said lax supervision of the UCLA program contributed to the problem. "If UCLA had better supervision of its program something like this wouldn't have happened," said the 48-year-old man who asked that his name be withheld to protect his job as a paralegal.

The jury also found there was a pattern of fraud and embezzle­ment totaling more than $500,000 — a special enhancement allegation that will be considered during sentencing on June 12.

Founded in 1950, the UCLA cadaver program received about $750 donated bodies a year before it was suspended. It was the second time in less than a decade that scandal swept the cadaver program.

In 1996, relatives of body donors alleged the program had illegally disposed of thousands of donated bodies, including dumping some remains in landfills.

A state appellate court ruled the plaintiffs had failed to prove the allegations.

Judy Lin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Thursday that thousands of state employees must be laid off and billions of dollars must be slashed from the budget to deal with a deficit that tops $15 billion and could widen again within days.

"I understand that these cuts can be very painful and they affect real lives," Schwarzenegger said during a news conference. "This is the harsh reality and the reality that we face. Sacramento is not Washington. We cannot print our own money. We can only spend what we have."

The state approved billions in budget cuts and revenue increases earlier this year but they were not enough to keep up with a sharp drop in tax revenue as the recession battered the state's economy.

California will face a deficit of $15.4 billion in the fiscal year that starts July 1. That will grow to $21.3 billion if voters reject budget-related measures during a special election next week.

The Republican governor released budget proposals that account for both deficit numbers and call for across-the-board cuts that will strike at the core of state services.

Starting Friday, the administration will send layoff notices to 5,000 state government employees, a move that is designed to cut the general work force by 5 percent but would take months to complete. Funding for health and human services and the higher education system also would be cut.

If voters reject the ballot measures next week, as polls indicate they are inclined to do, education will be cut by a total of $5.4 billion and the school year will be shortened by 7.5 days.

Schwarzenegger said the cuts will lead to teacher layoffs and larger class sizes.

Some Democratic argued that schoolchildren would be harmed. "It's going to be pretty tough to be a child in the state of California," said Assemblywoman Nora Evans of Santa Rosa.

Cutter the larger deficit, Schwarzenegger also proposed transferring illegal immigrants in the state prison system to federal custody.

His budget proposal will go to the Legislature, which has until June 15 to pass a spending plan, although the constitutional deadline is rarely met.

Critics said the governor was re­leasing his "May revise" budget pro­posal ahead of time as a scare tactic to persuade voters to support the spe­cific election ballot measures, nearly all of which are trailing in the polls.

"This is a desperation move," said Mike Roth, spokesman for the No on 1A campaign, which opposes a proposition that would create a spending cap and extend a series of tax increases.

Schwarzenegger and lawmakers called for the special election in February when they passed a two­year budget package, which they said at the time would solve California's deficit through June 2010. That budget included $15 billion in cuts, $12.5 billion in temporary tax in­creases and $11.4 billion in borrow­ing, but it has not been enough.

The Legislature's nonpartisan budget analyst warned recently that California could run out of cash as early as this summer.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, said the drop in tax revenue was so severe that she couldn't fathom how next year's budget could be balanced with cuts alone.

"I think that voters frankly are going to be outraged if the initiatives fail when they see the type of cuts that are in store," she said.

The governor wants to sell state property, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and San Quen­tin State Prison, to raise $600 million to $1 billion over the next two to five years.

In his call for $6 billion in borrow­ing and, under the worst-case scenario, taking $2 billion from lo­cal governments, a move that would affect local police and fire depart­ments.

"This goes to the very heart of our communities," Schwarzenegger said. "But those are the numbers, and they don't lie."

The recession has taken a deep toll on California, which relies heav­ily on income tax and capital gains from the wealthy to fuel its govern­ment. The state's unemployment rate has jumped beyond 11 percent, the construction industry is in a tailspin and the retail landscape is dotted with empty storefronts.

State income has fallen state­wide for the first time since 1938, leading to a sharp drop in tax reve­nue.
WORD ON THE STREET

“Do you think San Luis Obispo is a bike-friendly town?”

I think so. It’s a big university here and it’s a big bike town so I think that SLO is very accommodating to bikers.

David Gonzalez, mechanical engineering graduate student

“Yeah, except my friend got hit once (while on a bike). So many kids here are student drivers and bikers don’t always wear helmets so it’s a little unsafe.”

Bethany Phelps, liberal studies junior

“Yeah, definitely. I bike around and it seems like people in automobiles are pretty conscious of bikes. I ride pretty reckless, too, and I feel safe around other drivers.”

Prem Aranda, art and design senior

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For sale: Stadium. Used: $400 million.

That’s the sign Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to hang on historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The besieged proposal would put the venerable athletic field on the block with San Quentin state prison and several fairgrounds — including Del Mar — to raise as much as a billion dollars to help blue up the red ink all over the California budget.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, president of the joint-powers Coliseum Commission, wanted no time in putting out to the stadium’s distinctive peristyle on Thursday to blat the idea.

***

ANGEL CAMP, Calif. (AP) — The jumping frogs of Calaveras County will be celebrated for the next four days as scientists from around the country arrive at their annual leapfest to study why they fly so far.

Thomas Roberts, an assistant professor who studies evolutionary biology at Brown University, said frogs they study on the East Coast aren’t nearly as athletic.

The record jump at the Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee is 21 feet, 3 3/4 inches set at 1986 by Ronnie the Robuster.

***

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi blasted the CIA on Thursday for misleading her and other lawmakers about its use of waterboarding during the Bush administration, escalating a controversy grown to include both political parties, the spy agency and the White House.

“It is not the policy of this agency to mislead the United States Congress,” responded CIA spokesman George Little, although he refused to answer directly when asked whether Pelosi’s accusation was accurate.

But the House’s top Democrat, speaking at a news conference in the Capitol, was unequivocal about his refusal to answer directly when asked whether Pelosi’s accusation was accurate.

***

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Al Gore and a band of environmental volunteers are taking the congressional fight over climate change legislation to the home districts of undecided lawmakers.

The mission to spur congressional action marks a new phase for the former vice president and Nobel laureate.

The goal is to spur bipartisan action to head off a vote that Republicans have vowed to defeat.

***

Baseball

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
May was impressed with the student turnout.

"I was impressed with the student turnout," said Ralphie May on Wednesday night.

May's sold-out show had the audience in tears laughing over his jokes on relationships, sex, race and political correctness.

"I thought it was hilarious," architecture sophomore Anthony Fossi said. "Some of his stuff I had never heard."

May, who was runner-up for "Last Comic Standing" in 2004, was surprised by the enormous crowd, which included some students who spent more than an hour waiting in line to see him perform.

"I wasn't expecting as much as I got," May said. "I wasn't expecting the turnout, I wasn't expecting the facilities to be as good as they are; for the sound to be great and for that matter the audience to be as good."

An hour before the show, there was already a considerable line outside the doors to C두미-ium for the performance of comedian Ralphie May on Wednesday night.

"You know it's good when you don't feel like you've done two hours (of stand up)," May said. "When it feels like you've done maybe 40 minutes and you look down at your watch and your at two hours and time flies by, that's how much fun you're having."

May, who has done three comedy specials with Comedy Central, made comic observations on relevant social issues.

"My job as entertainer is to first make people laugh and then of the things I've taken up is to make people think as well," May said. "Because when you're making people laugh, it opens the minds up."

"People don't realize that there are actual lessons in my comedy, but when they break it down and they realize what it is, the reason I say certain things and do certain things is it all has a purpose. It's all well thought out; it's all executed and designed to be thought provoking."

Many students enjoyed the show, as well as those underneath May offered up.

"He was definitely on topic with things, he had some good points," Fossi said. "He had a little bit of philosophy in there, very subtle."

May received a standing ovation at the end of his performance and waited after the show until every fan got an autograph or picture.

"You know what, it worked," May said. "Everybody made it through. Did I say inappropriate words? Yeah, I sure did but you know what? Nobody died, no drama happened, nothing had happened and there's a lesson in that."

May said he was appreciative of Cal Poly's hospitality. "I had a great time," he said. "It was awesome, everybody has treated me awesome. The jokes were on the house."

Although there were no perceived complaints about the nature of May's comedy he believed that controversy could be a positive tool to be used by society.

"Some people get mad at people only see it for the surface and that's good too, anytime you spark controversy," he said. "What society tells you right now could be wrong in five years."

"That's what I do, to basically be the finger in your ass to let you know 'hey, you're still alive, you know? Hey, you're going to be all right, you're going to get through it. And again, just to the knuckle."

Ralphie May delivers double the laughs, double the fun.
mustang daily

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, May 15, 2009

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Flying "california's new majority"

Josh Green

[DAVIS CALIFORNIA: MAY 1998]

In California, we have two constitutions. One votes in the statewide elections, and another votes at the direct level. If you've ever wondered why we have a Republican governor and a bunch of conservative-leaning proposals on the ballot every cycle, but seem to have a liberal legislature that passes gay marriage laws, then you have your problem.

This statewide electorate learn conservative and Republican. It's rich and more educated than the rest of the state, and it votes accordingly. The direct-level electorate has been shaped by various federal laws and court decisions that say that minorities in California need to be able to elect people of their community to office. This is why, especially after terms limits went into effect for the state legislature in 1994, we have a legislature that looks more like the state itself. The Latino Caucus, in particular, has grown in power and prestige, and candidates who want to be elected into the state legislature need to appeal to a Latino electorate.

This dual constituency is frustrating for many people who wish that we could use direct democracy to push a progressive agenda. In short, ain't gonna happen. But a Monday L.A. Times article indicates that this could all be changing soon. People are getting naturalized at unprecedented rates, and that means millions of new voters. One million immigrants became U.S. citizens last year, and nearly a third of them were in this group. Those 300,000 new citizens are double the number that signed up in 2006. Mexico was one-fourth of this group, followed by India, Filipinos, Chinese, Cubans and Vietnamese. Many of the new citizens have said they were inspired by the immigration demonstra tions of the last few years, realizing that the path to change is funded. So why would you want to ban somebody else's marriage because they're gay? Though I see this as a strong argument, I'm not sure if I would if I were a churchgoing African American. Is racial discrimination exactly the same as sexual orientation discrimination? Probably not.

But to gain some ground with the new citizens, gay marriage activists need to get serious about building a network of gay-tolerant churches that reach out to other churches. Targeting the Latino community makes even more sense. There are Catholics out there who don't think the Vatican should adopt acceptance practices in the United States (we just have to write off those who think the pope is some kind of soothsayer who speaks for God). Talk to them, and we'll have gay marriage here within five years.

This column was originally published in the Daily Californian of UC Berkeley.

节选自 The Mustang Daily, May 15, 2009
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Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0410

Across
1. Laugh-a-minute
8. Sine, polar holding
13. In an original way
16. Circus performer, e.g.
17. Kind of strength
18. Toy trains
19. Swallow
20. Food label for the health-conscious
21. Electric device with terminals
22. How on the bus page
26. Ingredient in many toothpastes
27. Spot for a kebab
32. Be doomed
36. Obtain service from
37. Feel bitter anguish

Down
1. Wife in '71 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter'
2. Ready to do business
3. Of assistance
22. Popular computer log-guessing game
23. "Young Frankenstein" woman and others
24. French versifier
25. Burrow; rabbit
27. Subject of "Toots" by Bob Considine, 1969
28. High in the French Alps

Sudokus

Screenprinting
Embroidery
Greek Letters
Promotional Items!
Cal Poly ready for Big West championship

Scott Silvey

Following the inspiration victory of Cal Poly decathlete James Nunno at the Big West Conference multi-event championship last weekend, the Mustangs don’t have to look to far to find motivation for this weekend’s Big West Conference championship.

The senior was severely injured following a 2008 pole-vaulting accident on campus that left him with a ruptured spleen. He would miss the rest of the season after having his spleen removed and losing three pints of blood.

“I definitely wouldn’t say I’m back at full capacity,” Nunno said of his conditioning.

If that’s true, the rest of the nation had better be on notice.

Nunno’s score of 7,208 points was a personal-best for the senior. He is expected to compete for Cal Poly in the pole vault and the 4x400 relay this weekend.

“At the beginning of this season was the first time I felt I could train at full force, but I felt like I haven’t hit a peak.”

Aside from the conference championship in Irvine this weekend, Nunno is also waiting for word from the NCAA as to whether he will be invited to the national championships in the decathlon.

For now he will focus on helping the team this weekend. Track and Field Director Terry Crawford said that his story was something the entire team could rally around.

"I think it’s a great credit to his determination and his desire to win that he was able to come back and able to address that fear factor,” Crawford said.

"He is just getting his strength back and his confidence back. I don’t think he ever looked back, he just looked ahead knowing that he had another year of eligibility... he’s really raised the bar for our entire team.”

The Mustangs will head to Irvine without top sprinter Jarred Houston. Houston, who is also a receiver for the football team, was injured in spring football practice.

The women’s team also has some high expectations going into this weekend’s championship.

Pole-vaulter Jenna Homes is the only athlete in the conference to clear 13 feet and has gone over the regional standard five times this season.

Ogoma Aga could place in multiple events. She is seeded in the 100 and 200 meters and should compete in the Cal Poly relay team.

“I think this is going to be a good experience for our team and we’ve got some great senior leadership like James Nunno and Kevin Jones who is going to be very good at leading our team,” Crawford said. “I think that’s going to be the equalizer. This weekend can still cap off a solid season team that we can be proud of.”