Propositions address state budget deficit

Matt Fountain

With the state facing a $42 billion budget deficit this year, this Tuesday Californians have the opportunity to decide how their tax dollars should be used to balance the state budget.

The six propositions of Tuesday's statewide special election aim to reduce the deficit, cap spending limits, provide relief to services facing drastic cuts in funding and increase the size of a "rainy day" fund for use during years of economic downturn. However, a growing list of opponents to these measures argue that they will have little impact on services already facing severe cuts, grant the governor too much power in implementing more cuts and will nearly double the size of a "rainy day" fund for use in determining which "excessive" spending to cut and/or divert to the "rainy day" fund.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Soderland said. "The opponents of these measures are trying to confuse voters with inaccurate information. Proposition 1A gives the governor a practical and very limited amount of power to reduce or stop increases in state spending when we know we're going to be running a deficit, which is just common sense. In addition, those reductions on increases in spending would have to be approved by the legislature, so it's not unilateral authority. But it is important authority so we don't dig ourselves deeper into a hole that we can't afford to be in when we face a downturn."

Proposition 1B seeks to address cuts to local school districts and communities. Opponents say it will increase pork barrel spending and would protect vulnerable children as it helps to close the budget gap.

"I know that the people are sick and tired of hearing about Sacramento's dysfunction. People are angry. People are frustrated," he added. "But people need to know how this election will affect you."

According to the Office of the Secretary of State, Proposition 1A promises to limit state spending and increase the amount of revenues diverted into the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF), which was approved by voters with passage of Prop. 58 in 2003. Prop. 1A will increase the size of total "rainy day" funds from 5 to 12.5 percent of the General Fund, dedicating these funds to saving for future periods of economic downturn.

Julie Soderland, communications director for Budget Reform Now, the main pro-Prop. 1A-1F coalition led by the governor, said these measures are necessary for balancing the state budget by 2013.

"These measures are crucial for California both in the short and long term," Soderland said. "Propositions 1A though 1F will provide an immediate $6 billion in much-needed revenue to the state to prevent even deeper cuts to education, health-care, public safety and transportation. In addition, Prop. 1A will put into place long-term reform so that we don't find ourselves in this type of crisis again."

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Soderland said. "The opponents of these measures are trying to confuse voters with inaccurate information. Proposition 1A gives the governor a practical and very limited amount of power to reduce or stop increases in state spending when we know we're going to be running a deficit, which is just common sense. In addition, those reductions on increases in spending would have to be approved by the legislature, so it's not unilateral authority. But it is important authority so we don't dig ourselves deeper into a hole that we can't afford to be in when we face a downturn."

Proposition 1B seeks to address cuts to local school districts and communities.
continues from page 1

continuation programs. Availability of such funds is back to the drawing boards," said. "If this doesn't pass we're essentially back to the drawing boards."

"The budgets for local schools are down to dangerous levels of funding," Shoemaker said. "If this doesn't pass we're essentially back to the drawing boards."

Shoemaker said the lack of funding will result in cuts to programs that are important to students and teachers. "If this doesn't pass, we're essentially back to the drawing boards," she said.

No organization has officially made a statement in opposition to 1E.

Proposition 1E proposes the "modernization" of the state lottery, lottery $5 billion from projected lottery profits through the sale of bonds to address the budget deficit and increase the proportion of such profits allocated to education funding approved by voters with 1998's Prop. 10, which created the California Children and Families Program (now known as the First 5 Program) for promoting, supporting and improving health and early development of children during their first five years of age. The program is currently funded by revenues from state excise taxes on cigarettes, roughly 50 cents a pack. The program will provide $600 million to fund children's programs such as school readiness, family functioning, and child development, as allocated by local county commissions. "Every year when we face a deficit, one of the first areas in addition to education is health and human services and this budget crisis is no different," Soderland said. "By allowing for the use of surplus funding that is sitting in an account not being used this year, we'll be able to minimize the impact that some of those cuts, not only to health services but also to education and other parts of the budget, and the same would apply to 1E."

Sheri Novic, communications director for the First 5 Association, a non-state-related organization with unofficial ties to the California First 5 Program, said the language used in the proposition is misleading. "By allowing for the use of surplus funding for children's services originating from 1998's Prop. 10, which created the California Children and Families Program (now known as the First 5 Program) for promoting, supporting and improving health and early development of children during their first five years of age. The program is currently funded by revenues from state excise taxes on cigarettes, roughly 50 cents a pack. The program will provide $600 million to fund children's programs such as school readiness, family functioning, and child development, as allocated by local county commissions. "Every year when we face a deficit, one of the first areas in addition to education is health and human services and this budget crisis is no different," Soderland said. "By allowing for the use of surplus funding that is sitting in an account not being used this year, we'll be able to minimize the impact that some of those cuts, not only to health services but also to education and other parts of the budget, and the same would apply to 1E."

Sheri Novic, communications director for the First 5 Association, a non-state-related organization with unofficial ties to the California First 5 Program, said the language used in the proposition is misleading. According to Novic, 1E will redirect $268 million annually from First 5 commissions, roughly 50 percent of their current annual revenue, and gives the legislature complete control over how to spend the redirected funds. In addition, she said if the proposition passes, combined with the decline in tobacco revenues, by 2013 the commissions could be left with as little as 35 percent of their current funding, with little stopping the legislature from proposing another initiative to take the rest.

Even further, Novic asserted that while the commissions are currently running a surplus, the programs should not be penalized for investing funds wisely.

Proposition 1E essentially proposes the same for mental health services as 1D does for children's services. 1E amends the Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) of 2004, allowing for funds to be redirected over the next two years to achieve state General Fund savings and balance the budget. Proponents of the measure claim it is a one-time redirection of funds that will save the General Fund up to $234 million a year by 2011. Opponents, however, argue that the proportion of revenues this will provide the state budget is but a small fraction compared to the major role Prop. 63 funds play in distributing state funds.

Dorm resident arrested on campus on suspicion of possession of marijuana and intent to sell

A Cal Poly student was arrested May 13 on drug-related charges on campus. Philosophy freshman James Fitzpatrick was arrested on suspicion of possessing, with the intent to sell, the hallucinogenic drug, dimethyltryptamine, also known as DMT. He also allegedly possessed an unspecified amount of marijuana for sale in his dorm room at Yosemite Hall.

Fitzpatrick was charged with four counts relating to possession of drugs, including possession with intent to distribute for sale. University police said the amount of drugs was not substantial and the operation did not appear to be sophisticated. The department is investigating the case to determine if any other people may be involved.

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Michelle Obama urges graduates to give back

Garance Burke  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MERCED, Calif. (AP) — First lady Michelle Obama praised graduating students at California's smallest, youngest public university for their determination to succeed, urging them to give back to their communities with the same fervor they showed to bring her to campus.

In her debut as a commencement speaker on Saturday, Mrs. Obama evoked the struggles of California's founders — settlers and former slaves, trailblazers and immigrants — to encourage the 453 members of the school's senior class to use their newfound skills to lift up those around them.

"Many of you may be considering leaving town with your diploma in hand, and it wouldn't be unreasonable," Mrs. Obama said before a crowd of 12,0000 sitting in the blazing afternoon sun. "By using what you've learned here you can shorten the path perhaps for kids who may not see a path at all. I was once one of those kids."

Clad in a long black robe and academic regalia, Mrs. Obama spoke from the sun, eight audience members were hospitalized Saturday for heat-related illness.

The first lady spoke to graduates for nearly 25 minutes, suggesting they cement their legacy by starting after-school programs to help students stay engaged, working to reduce pollution or linking needy families to social services.

Many seniors were most touched by Obama's appearance and "Stop Abortion Now" to express their anger over Notre Dame's invitation to Obama.

Julie Pace  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama strode head-on Sunday into the stormy abortion debate and told graduates at America's leading Roman Catholic university that both sides must stop demonizing one another.

Obama acknowledged that "no matter how much we want to fudge it...the fact is at some level, the views of the two camps are irreconcilable." But he still implored the University of Notre Dame's graduating class and all in the US to stop "reducing those with differing views to caricature. Open hearts. Open minds. Fair-minded words. It's a way of life that always has been the Notre Dame tradition."

One of the noisiest controversies of his young presidency flared again after Obama, who supports abortion rights but says the procedure should be rare, was invited to speak.

The graduates responded by chanting "We are ND" and "Stop Abortion Now" to express their anger over Notre Dame's invitation to Obama.

Obama entered the arena to thunderous applause and a standing ovation from many in the crowd of 12,000. But as the president began his commencement address, at least three protesters interrupted him. One yelled, "Stop killing our children."

The president ceded no ground. But he said those on each side of the debate "can still agree that this is a heart-wrenching decision for any woman to make, with both moral" and legal dimensions.

"So let's work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions by reducing unintended pregnancies, and making adoption more available, and providing care and support for women who do carry their child to term."

He said he favored "a sensible conscience clause" that would give anti-abortion health care providers the right to refuse to perform the procedure.

Before taking on the abortion issue, Obama told graduates they were part of a "generation that must find a path back to prosperity and decide how we respond to a global economy that left millions behind even before this crisis hit an economy where greed and short-term thinking were too often rewarded at the expense of fairness, and diligence, and an honest day's work."

Obama's appearance appeared additionally complicated by fresh polls that show Americans' attitudes on the issue have shifted toward the anti-abortion position.

A Gallup survey released Friday found that 51 percent of those questioned called themselves "pro-life" on see Notre Dame, page 5

Julie Pace  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama extends his right hand during a closing blessing over the graduates during commencement ceremonies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., campus Sunday.

Obama calls for understanding in Univ. of Notre Dame speech

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Wire Editor: Cassandra J. Carlson
WORD ON THE STREET

"Is the outcry around Obama's speech at Notre Dame warranted?"

"It's interesting because it's blown way out of proportion. It's not a big deal that he's speaking his beliefs. Just because it's a Catholic school it doesn't mean everybody there is against abortion."

Alex Gronbach general engineering freshman

"I just think that his opinions are totally valid. I think he's saying what he believes. He's very honest and I'm OK with it."

-Andy Yu architecture senior

"I think it's blown out of proportion. The media always blows things out of proportion."

-Evan Nickel industrial engineering freshman

State

CARPINTERIA, Calif. (AP) — The Venoco oil company wants to halt hargreave operations at its coastal Ellwood Marine Terminal and transport crude oil through a new 8.5-mile pipeline. Carpinteria-based Venoco this week submitted plans to Santa Barbara County and Goleta to eliminate its offshore barge and Ellwood terminal operations next year. The terminal, near the Devereux Slough, stores oil from subsea wells and Platform Holly.

The new pipeline would begin at Venoco's Ellwood facility and travel under Highway 101 and west along the north side of the freeway to an existing Plain All-American Pipeline near Las Flores Canyon. The pipeline would feed refineries in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

AUBURN, Calif. (AP) — City leaders are up in arms after a series of Internet ads named a remote beach on the American River traditionally used by nudists as a hot spot for illicit sex.

The Craigslist ads prompted Auburn officials to approve a resolution last week asking state park rangers to clamp down on the nudity and sexual activity at the river.

Auburn officials say the offensive behavior discourages families from using the area, opened last summer to boaters, for recreation.

Election

continued from page 2

-rectly providing mental health services to Californians.

Perhaps the only initiative on the special election ballot enjoying wide support is 1F, which was introduced by State Senator Abel Maldonado (R-Calif.) and included on the ballot by the legislature in exchange for his endorsement of 1A-1E. The proposition is an attempt to encourage a balanced state budget by prohibiting the California Citizens Compensation Commission, the body responsible for adjusting salaries and benefits for members of the legislature and certain other state officials, from adopting any resolution for the increase of these officials' salaries if the Director of Finance determines there will a deficit in the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. Of the elements of this measure are that this is an unnecessary ad-
dition to the ballot that feeds off the emotions of an electorate frus-trated by the inabilities of the legis-
atuare to balance the budget on its own. Opponents contend the measure only provides the illusion of making a difference and that poten-tial state savings are minimal at best.

For a complete listing of orga-nizations in support of the proposi-tions on the ballot, visit the Budget Reform Now Web site at http://www.cabudgetreformnow.com. While there is no list of all oppo-nents of the entire ballot, informa-tion on organizations in opposi-tion to particular propositions are


Regardless of whether the propo-sitions pass, the state will continue to experience a deficit in 2010, at $15.4 billion if they pass and $22 billion if they fail, according to the governor's revised budget released last Thursday. San Luis Obispo County is already bracing itself for further cuts of $8 to $10 million to school district and health services.

The special election is the result of a week-long special legislative session in Sacramento during the week of Feb. 16, a negotiated ef-fort between the governor's office, the California Democratic legisla-tive majority and a small group of Republican legislators.

Locally, polls will open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Briefs

National

NEW YORK (AP) — A hos-pitals official says a school assistant principal has become the first New York City death linked to the swine flu virus. Fluising Hospital Medical Center spokesman Andrew Rubini-ey said Mitchell Wiener of Intermedi-ate School 238 died Sunday eve ning. Wiener was hospitalized and on a ventilator.

The city's first outbreak of swine flu occurred three weeks ago, when about 700 students and 300 other people associated with a Catholic high school in Queens began falling ill following the return of several students from vacations in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak.

BOSTON (AP) — Lawyers in the upcoming kidnapping trial of a German national accused of kidnapping his daughter in Boston are filing their list of witnesses and questions they want to ask potential jurors.

Monday is the deadline for de-fense lawyers and prosecutors to file potential state savings are minimal at best. personal motions and other docu-
ments before jury selection begins May 26 in the trial of a man who calls himself Clark Rockefeller. Rockefeller, whose real name is Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, is accused of kidnapping his 7-year old daughter during a supervised visit last July. Their disappearance touched off an international man-
hunt.

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Universities generate sweat electricity in the gym

Notre Dame continued from page 3

the issue of abortion and 42 percent of those polled said they were opposed to abortion in the issue of abortion in the case of rape or incest. This year, the university estimates that 3,000 people a day on 20 machines would generate 6,000 kilowatt hours a year, enough to power one small energy-efficient house in the Northwest. But it fits in with other sustainability projects, such as solar panels on the rec center roof, and a high sense of being green among the student body.

“The payback is huge for us,” said Steve Mital, who has a patent pending. “We're not going to get off Middle Eastern oil by connecting up all the ellipticals all over the country, but it's a start. We're just trying to make a little bit of a difference.”

The machines are even making their way into the run-up to one of the school's biggest events: the annual Civil War football game with Oregon State University.

Fueled by 22 exercise machines to the grid last February and will compete with Oregon to see who can generate the most electricity.

The power is a drop in the bucket compared to the University of Oregon's overall electricity consumption, which is equivalent to 2,280 houses, said sustainability director Steve Mital.

And Northwest electricity rates are so low it would take 28 years to recoup the investment, but Mital said that isn't really the point. “We're not going to get off Middle Eastern oil by connecting up all the ellipticals all over the country,” said Mital. “We bought it and installed it mostly because it's an educational opportunity. People will be on those things sweating away and it gets them thinking.”

Oregon decided to take the plunge at the suggestion of students, who were inspired by a demonstration of exercise bikes changing batteries at last year's Olympic track and field trials held here.

On the Notre Dame campus, members of an abortion rights group also protested while a plane pulling an anti-abortion banner circled above.

The Catholic Church and many other Christian denominations hold that abortion and the use of embryos for stem cell research amounts to the destruction of human life, are morally wrong and should be banned by law. The Catholic Church holds that women have the right to terminate a pregnancy and that unused embryos created outside the womb for couples who cannot otherwise conceive should be available for stem cell research. Such research holds the promise of finding treatments for debilitating ailments.

Within weeks of taking office in January, Obama eased an executive order by President George W. Bush that limited research to a small number of stem-cell lines.

The abortion issue also is front and center as Obama considers potential nominees to fill the vacancy left by the retirement this summer of Justice David Souter. Abortion opponents are determined to see Roe v. Wade overturned, but only four circuit justices out of nine have backed that position. Souter has opposed arguments for overturning the ruling.

The Catholic Church and many other Christian denominations hold that abortion and the use of embryos for stem cell research amounts to the destruction of human life, are morally wrong and should be banned by law. The Catholic Church holds that women have the right to terminate a pregnancy and that unused embryos created outside the womb for couples who cannot otherwise conceive should be available for stem cell research. Such research holds the promise of finding treatments for debilitating ailments.

Within weeks of taking office in January, Obama eased an executive order that limited research to a small number of stem-cell lines.
Local artists display weaving and sculptural artwork

Jennifer Titcomb

Clay and fiber may not be similar in appearance but it’s the craftsmanship and spirit that goes into each work that brings the two materials together in an exhibit at the San Luis Obispo Art Center.

Central Coast Craftsmakers, an organization formed to raise awareness for craft disciplines and as a venue to meet other craft-oriented artists, is presenting Surface and Form: Explorations in Fiber and Clay. The artwork will be showcased for the entire month of May.

Marina Cardin was chosen by the organization to showcase her creations in the McMeen Gallery room.

Featured fiber artist Myla Coller said the weaving business isn’t as profitable as it once was and has become much harder to find material.

"When I started doing this in the 70s, weaving was very popular and people were using them as wall hangings and I had a little business and an employee," she said. "I’ve sold some small things but people are just not that familiar with weaving. In the 70s when everybody’s brother was weaving people knew what weaving was about."

The artists chosen are known in their respective areas and bring different backgrounds and interests to the creative process of each piece.

Another featured fiber artist, Marina Cardin, said she dabbled with fiber work at an early age.

"I didn’t have television when I grew up in Singapore so we read and we drew, we made puzzles and things and I always was knitting for my teddy bears," Cardin said. "I’ve been sewing since I was very young and I always wanted to spend more time doing it."

"I am in collections and people collect my work," she said. "So I know that they know what they see."

Her design ideas and quotes come from the journals she has been writing in for years. One rug, in particular has "Listen to many, trust few, always paddle your own canoe" stitched along with an image of a woman canoeing through rapids.

"Katherine Hepburn used to say ‘paddle your own canoe’ and I wrote it down in my journal 12 years ago and thought ‘one day I am going to make a rug of that.’ And I made it for this show," Cardin said.

She is proud of her rugs but thinks her true talent is making miniature needle-sewn landscapes.

The exhibit features a series of three that are roughly 4 inches by 3 inches.

"I am in collections and people collect my work," she said. "So I know that they know what they see."
**Every Monday, cut out this fridge for the week’s happenings**

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Trappist monks carry on brewing tradition

Most of us couldn’t find a sentence that puts the words ‘monk’ and ‘beer’ in the same sentence aside from “Monks don’t drink beer.”

But that would be wrong.

An order of monks known as Trappists have been making some of the world’s best beers for hundreds of years. While most people associated monks with Buddhism — let’s face it, Buddha has quite the beer belly in his statues — the Trappists are actually a Roman Catholic order originating in Western Europe in 1664.

Trappist monks live by the rule of St. Benedict which says “for then are monks.” And yet, let’s face it, Buddha has at many of the local stores here in town in the large 750 ml colored bottles. Each distinct style of Chimay comes in a different color label, and Grande Reserve, which happens to be my favorite, comes with a blue label.

Chimay and most Trappist beers are unique in that they are purported to get better with age. It is said that most of the Chimay beers can be aged in a cellar for up to five years and that Grande Reserve can be aged for up to 15 years.

But if you’re like me, it’s all age for about 15 minutes until you can get back to your house and enjoy it. This is truly a quality beer. It pours fairly dark and has a thick texture, but trust me, it’s not like any crappy porter you may have tried lately despite the appearance.

I find it has a sweet taste for such a dark beer. Trappist beers are usually known for their strong, fruity taste that are bottle fermented. Chimay’s 9 percent alcohol content fits that criteria and makes it a beer not for the faint of heart.

Other popular Trappist breweries include Westmalle and Rochefort. Rochefort brewery has an 11.3 percent beer called “Rochefort 10” that is one of the most difficult, yet rewarding, beers I’ve ever had the pleasure of consuming.

While there are several popular Trappist breweries, rules must be followed in order to be considered a “trappist beer” due to a rash of breweries taking the Trappist label years ago.

The beer must be brewed within the walls of a Trappist abbey or be brewed under control of Trappist monks and the profits from the beer must be directed towards assistance and not financial profit in order to be considered legitimate.

Chimay’s profits go simply to improving the conditions of their monastery and the surrounding area. With Chimay being so tasty and popular, there’s obviously a limit to the amount of money necessary to improve their living situation, and so the rest of their profits go straight to charity.

So if you ever want to buy a beer and support a good cause at the same time, pick up a bottle of Chimay. It’s like the reward for your charity.

Scott Silvey is a journalism senior and the Mustang Daily sports editor and beer critic.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Possibility of satire should be considered

This letter is in response to the going on right now between the "bigoted" Ryan Moriarty and those Crusaders of justice that have stood up to oppose his views. First and foremost, the "bigoted" Ryan Moriarty and those Crusaders of justice that have stood up to oppose his views. First and foremost, I am saddened by your inability to see other possibilities. My first reaction was that perhaps Moriarty's opinions are just too far out there. Who is actually that sick? Such a thing reminds me of other historical figures who have suggested disgusting things, such as Jonathan Swift. He wrote a horrid "Letter to the editor" of his day, which makes one sick to read. But it was known as satire. You know, satirically presenting the opposite of what you believe in order to get your message across.

Tim Wolf
physics junior

"Oh you get to be in the books instead of having someone in your bed!"

May 18, 2009
Volume LXII, No. 147 02009 Mustang Daily

California's story is once again turning into a disaster movie, and this time we've got the Governor at the helm. Yes, just six years after California voters pushed for a federal constitutional amendment that Davis out of office for driving the state into record deficits, we've got a sequel: financial eradication of the state once again. The budget crisis is so severe that Governor Schwarzenegger and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle again look to temporary solutions. Tomorrow's special election adds six ballot measures have been put forth as a bi-partisan effort at fiscal responsibility— but fall completely flat. Yes, we need fiscal reform but Propositions 1A-1E aren't the way to do it. The Los Angeles Times reported a few weeks ago that California, which currently holds a $30.5 billion deficit, could be completely broke by as early as July. It's such a shame, the Golden State has everything going for it. The tenth largest economy in the world, larger even than developed nations like Spain, Canada and Australia, the state has some of the most educated, talented people in the world. From the fertile agriculture of the Central Valley to the high-tech industries of Silicon Valley, California should be leading the rest of the United States out of this recession. Instead, it's struggling just to stay afloat.

And now, rather than signal drastically needed fiscal reform, the May 19 special election is just a list of hastily-drafted ill-considered budget propositions put forth by spend-happy lawmakers who hope to buy themselves a few more years in office. The six propositions on the ballot have been touted as 'budget reform' sure to set California in the right direction again, but instead, most of these measures would simply pave the way for continued government growth and irresponsible spending on the back of the private sector.

Proposition 1A is a proposed constitutional amendment that would mandate that the state transfer money to "rainy day fund" during good fiscal years. The measure would allow the fund to collect up to 12.5 percent of state revenues and would mandate that money be spent on. Yet although the spending limit begins in the right direction, the overall proposition falls short of true fiscal reform.

Why it shouldn't pass: First of all, the amendment would extend the recently passed Proposition 1A, and if both pass, the second proposition would force the state to pay $9.3 billion to state schools and community colleges, money education advocates believe are owed to schools from previous years. If approved, the payments would be made over the next five or six years, starting in 2010-12, and would be impossible to undo which would otherwise likely end up in court.

Why it shouldn't pass: The measure would force billions of dollars of new liabilities on the state when it already doesn't have money to spend. Uncontrolled government spending is what landed California in this financial mess in the first place; let's not keep compounding the problem by forcing more deficit spending onto the budget.

Proposition 1C seeks to almost intentionaly confuse by shuffling state money around and borrow from future lottery profits to close its budget. The measure would force the state to pay $9.3 billion to state schools and community colleges, money education advocates believe are owed to schools from previous years. If approved, the payments would be made over the next five or six years, starting in 2010-12, and would be impossible to undo which would otherwise likely end up in court.

Why it shouldn't pass: The measure would force billions of dollars of new liabilities on the state when it already doesn't have money to spend. Uncontrolled government spending is what landed California in this financial mess in the first place; let's not keep compounding the problem by forcing more deficit spending onto the budget.

Proposition 1E is another ballot measure. Much like the above ballot measure, Proposition 1D simply shuffles money around from one fund to another, under the guise of fiscal responsibility. The measure asks voters to decide whether to move money from voter-supported bond funding to provide for other state health and human services programs. It's projected that the measure would force billions of dollars of new liabilities on the state when it already doesn't have money to spend. Uncontrolled government spending is what landed California in this financial mess in the first place; let's not keep compounding the problem by forcing more deficit spending onto the budget.

Proposition 1F would shift $226.7 million this year and $234 million next year from the Prop. 63 Mental Health Services initiative to pay for the Medi-Cal health care program.

Why it shouldn't pass: Proposition 1F is another short-term gimmick. I'm starting to sound re­ dundant, but yes, like 1EX, 1IP, 1EP, 1EP simply redi­ rects funds from one state program to another and does nothing to reduce government spending.

Finally, Proposition 1E — the one measure that I actually hope does pass. Proposition 1E asks voters to decide whether to eliminate sal­ ary increases for the governor, legislators and other elected state officials whenever Califor­ nia's general fund is expected to end the year in a deficit. The measure made its way onto the ballot largely thanks to our local state senator, Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria) who felt it was unacceptable for lawmakers to get pay in­ creases in years when they can't even balance the books.

Why it should definitely pass: If nothing else, Prop. 1F is a taxpayer retribution. While the actual fiscal impact of the proposition would be minor, it might serve as a wake-up call for spend-happy state lawmakers and that alone makes it worth passing.

Voter turnout is expected to be low at mid­term elections and voters' views may not reflect real public opinion. If you believe that short­ term accounting gimmicks, higher taxes and multi-billion dollar spending proposals are what California needs, say "hasta la vista" to Propositions 1A-1E and send the Governor a strong message to stay away from taxpayer's money.
when he won his first Derby riding Street Sense. The only complaint about Borel's work ethic, in fact, came from his older brother, Cecil, a trainer who complimented it was getting harder and harder to get Calvin to do his usual chores — mucking stalls, and helping out around the barn.

Small wonder. Borel spent Tuesday flying to Los Angeles to do a guest turn on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno." It was a long way from his birthplace in Catahoula, La., a speck of a town where Borel left school after the eighth grade. What he didn't leave behind was a work ethic that drove him to ride three or four mornings a week, flying to Los Angeles to do a guest turn on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno." It was a long way from his birthplace in Catahoula, La., a speck of a town where Borel left school after the eighth grade. What he didn't leave behind was a work ethic that drove him to ride three or four mornings a week, helping out around the barns, and doing his usual chores — mucking stalls, and helping out around the barns.

"Usually, I just let the reins back off, and she just cruises," he said about Rachel Alexandra. "I had to reach a little more to pick 'em up. I was never able to do that. I don't tell the owner what to do with the horses. They pay the bills and raise them and everything. If they might ask me, then I might, you know, give them my opinion. ... I thought all along she could run with the boys, but I was never approached." When owners Jess Jackson and Harold McCormick bought the filly five days after the Oaks, they had no doubts she could hold her own. They had even fewer doubts about whether she would run. "Rachel Alexandra was the filly the best horse he'd ever been on, he didn't want to tell her original owners to take a step up in class."

"No, sir," Borel said. "I don't ever do that. I don't tell the owner what to do with the horses. They pay the bills and raise them and everything. If they might ask me, then I might, you know, give them my opinion. ... I thought all along she could run with the boys, but I was never approached." When owners Jess Jackson and Harold McCormick bought the filly five days after the Oaks, they had no doubts she could hold her own. They had even fewer doubts about whether she would run. "Rachel Alexandra was the filly the best horse he'd ever been on, he didn't want to tell her original owners to take a step up in class."

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"When you look in the filly's eyes, it's un believable," he added. "You win.

Borel's ability to read his horses is considerable enough that he agreed to give his toughest enemy some pre-race advice. After deciding to switch horses, Borel honored a request from Chip Woody Jr., trainer of Mine That Bird, to counsel the gelding's new rider. Borel talked with fellow jockey Mike Smith before Saturday's race, but could only transfer a little of the magic. "I'll tell him what I think and it's up to Mike. He knows his horse," Borel said. "It's kind of hard for me to tell him how to ride a horse." It's harder still for Borel to tell his owners where to run their horses. He was the regular rider for Rachel Alexandra, but even after she won the Oaks and Borel called the filly the best horse he'd ever been on, he didn't urge her original owners to take a step up in class. It was just excited for him.

"I was just proud of the way he played," Bryant said. "He answered the challenge and he played like one of the best players in the world. I was just proud of him."

Gasol kept Rockers point guard Aaros Brooks from penetrating, as he did often in this series. The Spaniard had 12 defensive rebounds and swatted away three shots.

"We all know what he can do offensively. I just felt like defensively, he had a superb game," Bryant said. Gasol made 10 of 19 shots. He left to a nice ovation with 3:34 remaining in the game.

Trevor Ariza scored 15 points while Bryant and Andrew Bynum had 14 apiece. Bryant added five assists and seven rebounds. Brooks was held to 13 points and six rebounds.

Bryant scored 22 of 36 points in the quarter. The Lakers were up 22-12 at the end of the first quarter and steadily pulled away. Leading by 19, the Lakers scored six straight late in the quarter. Bynum stole a pass and fed Ariza for a slam dunk, bringing Jack Nicholson out of his courtside seat.

It was 51-31 at halftime. "Obviously, the Lakers are more experienced than us, but I thought we were the better team," Artest said. "I thought it was a good learning experience for these guys. They've been through a Game 7. Most young teams get swept. That will really help the Rockers in the future."
WEEKEND

softball

PALO ALTO REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME:
NO. 9 STANFORD 4, CAL POLY 0

The Cal Poly softball team entered this season's NCAA Tournament having never won a regional game. After romping over Portland State (5-0) and Nevada (8-1) on Saturday, the Mustangs found themselves just two wins away from advancing to the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time in program history.

Cal Poly ran into a brick wall in Cardinal starting pitcher Missy Penna (34-6). Penna held the Mustangs hitless for the first three innings and scattered just three hits in a complete-game shutout.

Stanford would put the game out of reach in the final innings scoring two runs in the sixth and another in the seventh for the final 4-0 win.

The Mustangs end the 2009 season with a 41-12 record and a litany of new program records. In capturing a second Big West title in three seasons, Cal Poly established program records for overall winning percentage (.774), conference winning percentage (.857), freshman (Anna Cahn) and conference victories (18), fewest conference defeats (three) and fewest overall defeats. Additionally, the Mustangs earned their first national ranking in 12 seasons and rose to as high as No. 21 in the April 28 edition of the USA Today/NFCA All-Region Division I Top 25 Poll and their 41 wins is the most since the school moved to Division I in 1995.

Cal Poly also had several players collect accolades. Sophomore left-hander Anna Cahn was named Big West Pitcher of the Year. She also set school records in wins (28) and innings pitched (252.2).

Cahn and junior first baseman Kristen Cary were named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-West Region Team marking the first time in program history that Cal Poly enjoyed dual honorees.

"We had a great season and it's been something we've been building toward," Cal Poly head coach Jenny Condon said in a statement. "We've set a foundation for things to come. We'll be patient and get better each year. Overall, it's hard to ask for a better year and no one should hang their head."

Women: Second

The Cal Poly softball team won six individual event winners at last weekend's Big West Conference Championship.

Senior Julienne Duftwese was the only two-event winner for Cal Poly as she triumphed with a 161-3 mark in the discus on Friday and a personal-best effort of 58-8 3/4 feet in the shot put on Saturday.

The Mustangs also swept the men's and women's pole vault as sophomore Connor Lundy and junior Jenna Homes won for Cal Poly.

Freshman Derek Thomas won the 1,500 for Cal Poly in a time of 3:46.19 while senior Kate Robbins rounded out the Cal Poly winners taking the javelin with a throw of 146-2.

Cal State Northridge dominated both the men's and women's team competitions. The Cal Poly women finished a distant second while the men finished third.

The men's team made a final push to overtake UC Davis for second place with a strong effort in the 5,000, but came up just short.

Cal Poly put four in the top eight. Troy Swiet (fourth, 14:31.60), Carl Dargie (fifth, 14:32.86), Jeff Leake (sixth, 14:34.80) and Daniel Gonia (eighth, 14:38.40).

Senior James Nunno, who won the decathlon at the multi-event championships two weekends ago, is awaiting word on whether he will be invited to the NCAA national championships. Nunno currently has the 20th best score in the nation.

Real Lakers show up, rout Rockets 89-70 in Game 7

Bernie Wilson

LOS ANGELES — All is well again in La-La Land. The real Los Angeles Lakers showed up, and in a Game 7, no less.

With Pau Gasol dominating on both ends of the court, the Lakers emphatically silenced the dooubters and the Houston Rockets, winning the decisive final game of the Western Conference semifinals 89-70 on Sunday.

Playing with emotion, Gasol scored 19 points and grabbed 18 rebounds. The Lakers looked like the conference's top-seeded team, not the maddeningly inconsistent one that was pushed to the limit by the undermanned, smaller Rockets.

Trying to reach the NBA finals for the second straight year, the Lakers host the opener of the conference finals against the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night.

The Lakers have been so up and down in this series that coach Phil Jackson said before Game 7 that they had a little bit of Jekyll and Hyde in them. That was the night the Lakers raced to a 40-point win at home, only to follow it up two nights later with a 15-point loss, the second straight game they were blind-sided in Houston.

There are any number of theories as to why the Lakers have had a split personality.

Asked what the Lakers learned from this series, Kobe Bryant cracked: "That we're bipolar."

Added Lamar Odom: "To make it interesting. It's Hollywood, you know."

It turns out that home-court advantage and a smothering defense were all it took to jump-start the Lakers, who made sure they didn't chose this one away against the No. 5 seed.

The Lakers dominated the paint on both ends, forcing the Rockets into turnovers and bad shots. They owned the backboards, taking a 53-33 advantage, and blocked 10 shots.

"We've set a foundation for things to come. We'll be patient and get better each year. Overall, it's hard to ask for a better year and no one should hang their head."

Worst part of Borel's trip: winner's circle jam

Calvin Borel jumped onto winner Mine That Bird and onto Preakness champion Rachel Alexandra.

Jim Litke

BALTIMORE — The man is a maestro in traffic.

The hardest part of Calvin Borel's trip was already behind him, back on the racetrack, when a crowd of well-wishers and hang-ons blocked his filly's final few steps into the winner's circle at the Preakness.

As security guards waded into the throng on either side shouting instructions, the jockey sat tall in the saddle atop Rachel Alexandra, a bemused smile creasing his lips.

"I don't need much room," Borel told the crowd politely, his Cajun accent unmistakable. "Just give me a whiskerroom."