Chancellor’s office clashes with CFA over paycuts

By the numbers

$584 million total deficit faced by CSU.

80% percent of CSU budget taken up by salary.

10% percentage of CSU employee salaries chancellor’s office wants to cut.

$34 million total deficit of Cal Poly.

Students plead not guilty

By Kate McIntyre

The last of four Cal Poly students arrested in connection with a hazing-related student death pleaded not guilty Thursday.

The charges are related to the death of freshman Carson Starkey, who was found unresponsive in a local home in December 2008 after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity party.

Earlier this week, Hashem Ibrahim, 20, Zacary Ellis, 22, and Russell Taylor, 22, pleaded not guilty to one felony violation of hazing causing death or grievous bodily injury and one misdemeanor violation of permitting a minor to consume alcohol.

Adam Marszal, 21, who appeared in court Thursday, also pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor count of the same violations.

The four men were arrested on May 21. They each surrendered themselves after warrants were obtained for their arrest and were booked at the San Luis Obispo County Jail, but each posted bail on the same violations.

Starkey died Dec. 2 after spending the night at an SAE pledge initiation event called “Brown Bag Night.”

He was given large quantities of alcohol allegedly purchased by Ellis, Taylor and Marszal. Ellis, the SAE pledge educator, reportedly told the 17 underage pledges to finish their portions of alcohol within an hour and a half.

When Starkey became unresponsive later in the night, a few SAE members reportedly tried to take him to the hospital, but returned to the house on Highland Drive when Starkey began vomiting, police said.

The next morning Starkey was taken to Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, where his autopsy showed that he died of respiratory arrest due to acute ethanol toxicity, or alcohol poisoning. His blood-alcohol content was between 0.39 and 0.45 percent.

Bike race circles SLO for third time

By Katie Koschalk

Thousands of spectators will line the streets of San Luis Obispo, cheering and clapping at sweat-drenched bike racers sprinting past at gravity-defying angles.

The third consecutive SLO Criterium Central Coast Cycling Classic, a bike race and festival, will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 5th. More than 600 racers are expected to compete for a portion of the $11,000 in prize money.

“The idea is to encourage downtown SLO to become a playground for the day. We want to get people who are not typically interested in bike races to come out and watch,” said Shala Mohseni, founder of Nimble Creative Events, the organization that runs the race.

The SLO Criterium is not typical for downtown SLO. It was started in the early 1970s by a group of impassioned cyclists looking to spread their love of the sport. The race had its years of glory in the mid-1980s, attracting many national champion and Olympian racers, according to Mohseni.

The SLO Criterium experienced a downtown, however, in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to discrepancies with the SLO Downtown Association and downtown SLO businesses, according to Mohseni.

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“Last year I worked at a hair salon downtown and it really affected our business. Customers had appointments, but they couldn’t find parking and had to cancel, just because they were unaware of the event,” said Amber Bider, an employee at Frog & Peach in downtown SLO. “I don’t think it will be detrimental to a downtown. It really depends on what you sell.”

While some businesses may experience a decrease in customers, places such as The Natural Cafe, a healthy, green-friendly restaurant and Sporn Authority expect to be very busy.

“Last year it affected us positively. The Criterium helps us bring like-minded people who are into fitness and health into the store,” said Daniel Costales, the store manager of Sports Authority.

Besides the effect on downtown businesses, the SLO Downtown Association has been notoriously against the race primarily because of a lack of continuity with who was the director of the event.

“Nobody has a clear picture on why (the race stopped for a period of time), but downtown being closed down to traffic is definitely a contention. It’s very difficult to keep something going if the city isn’t behind it,” Mohseni said.

The city of San Luis Obispo, a separate entity from the SLO Downtown Association, ultimately having the final say that kept the event going in 2001.

After taking over for the Cal Poly Wheelmen, a Cal Poly cycling club, in 2007, Nimble Creative Events held SLO Criterium with great success, drawing over 6,000 people to downtown San Luis Obispo each year to participate and watch the race.

Nimble Creative Events was created by Mohseni, a Cal Poly graduate with a degree in business management and an undying love for bike racing. Concentrating on her passions, including music, art, bicycling, local issues, sustainability and business, Mohseni created a company to fuse her interests and experience a decrease in customers, places such as The Natural Cafe, a healthy, green-friendly restaurant and Sporn Authority expect to be very busy.

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Race  
continued from page 1

The men's race starts and ends on Garden and Higuera streets, mowing clockwise on Higuera, Broad and Monterey streets and then going through Mission Plaza. The course then turns onto Osos Street and finishes with a right turn back onto Higuera.

Competitors include bicyclists ranging from beginners to professionals. Riders from the New Zealand-inspired, professional women's race, which begins at 3 p.m., are the most advanced women's race, which begins at 3 p.m.

Other noteworthy races, including the Women's Pro/1/2/3 races, the most advanced women's race, which begins at 3 p.m.

Stop the presses

NYT will no longer be distributed on campus

Genevieve Loggins  
July 2, 2009

For the past two to three years The New York Times has been available multiple places on campus, but as of next year it will no longer be free.

The funding for the paper was a joint effort from 11 campus groups. ASI contributed $5,000 and the president's office gave $10,000 to supplement the $42,000 budget.

"ASL was the one initially approached by the paper and agreed to organize and fund it around resources for the different colleges asking for a few thousand dollars," said Mike Miller, dean of library services. "But when it came up for renewal this year, ASI didn't feel comfortable continuing a budget.

The uncertainty in the budget forced ASL to cut The New York Times on campus as a precautionary measure, Griggs said.

"Everyone is preparing themselves for the worst scenario, which unfortunately is depending on the budget being proposed," she said.

"We put the issue through the library because it was agreed that something educational that involves literature should be going through the library funding," she added. "But unfortunately, the library like any other part of campus, needs to cut back on funding so they aren't able to fund the whole program.

"Animal science junior Skip Kanemaki said it's "terrible" that the newspapers will no longer be free.

"I've never been one to pick up the New York Times, but I know a lot of people do," Kanemaki said. "A lot of kids see The New York Times as a legit news source.

Miller is unlike the library in favor of offering the paper to students and encourages readership, Miller said. "But with all the pressures on the budget and knowing that The New York Times is available for free electronically, it just seems that $42,000 could be put to better use. So it was basically a financial decision.

Kinesiology senior Dylan Conrad said, "We've never seen education paper to students, and encourages readership, Miller said. "But with all the pressures on the budget and knowing that The New York Times is available for free electronically, it just seems that $42,000 could be put to better use. So it was basically a financial decision.

Kinesiology senior Dylan Conrad said, "We've never seen even The New York Times on campus," said Conrad. "I don't know how many people even get their information from The New York Times, especially when they can just go online."
Hugging cancer patient, Obama pitches health plan

President Barack Obama hugged a cancer patient Wednesday after he vowed to bring greater efficiency and accessibility to the nation’s health care system.

"Debbie Smith, 53, of Appalachia, Va., a volunteer for Obama’s political operation, fought tears as she told the president of her kidney cancer and her inability to obtain health insurance or hold a job Obama embraced her and called her "exhibit A" in what he said was an unsustainable system that is too expensive and costly to those behind it.

"We are going to try to find ways to help you immediately," he told Smith as hundreds looked on at a community college forum — and countless others watched on television. But the nation’s long-term needs require a greater emphasis on preventive care and "cost-effective care," he said.

Smith obtained her ticket through the White House. Aides for America Now, which recently organized a Capitol Hill rally for overhauling health care.

Also questioning the president — via the Internet — was Republican Rep. Michael Burgess of Texas, an obstetrician.

Obama aides said half the tickets were distributed through the community colleges, with the balance handled through the White House. The president said the best way to drive down health care costs is to persuade doctors and hospitals to emphasize quality of care over the quantity of procedures.

Health experts have long cited formulas that tie Medicare payments to tests and other services that may not always be the best way to treat a patient. Obama said the formula system drives up costs "but doesn’t make you better.

Obama did not make specific recommendations for changing the incentive formulas. Nor did he offer new proposals or details for other tough issues, such as whether to limit medical malpractice awards or to tax employer-subsidized health care benefits.

He repeatedly said the current health care system is not acceptable and must be overhauled this year. He urged the audience, which included people following on Facebook and YouTube, to reject critics who say his plan is too costly and a step toward socialized medicine.

Obama gave a nearly 20-minute introduction and answered seven questions.

Obama said a government-run "single-payer" health care system works well in some countries. But it is not appropriate in the United States, he said, because so many people get insurance through their employers working with private companies.

But he again called for a government-run "public option" to compete with private insurers, a plan that many Republicans oppose.

Obama said the public option would provide "competition" and "keep insurers honest." Obama also said his health care plan will benefit small businesses and people who are self-employed by giving them more leverage in dealing with insurance companies. He would do it through a health care exchange for employers who have too few workers to get a good health insurance package, and for people who are self-employed.

Obama said he would be able to look at the plans available and join with others in the same situation. They would be able to use a "big pool" with the leverage to drive down costs, he said.

Ohio Republican Sen. Jim Telner, a volunteer for Obama’s political operation within the Democratic National Committee, among other questions was a member of the Service Employees International Union and a person with Health Care for America Now, which recently organized a Capitol Hill rally for overhauling health care.

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by year’s end. That is double the number of troops in Afghanistan in 2008, but still half as many currently in Iraq.

While Marine troops were the bulk of the force, recently arrived U.S. Army helicopters were also taking part in the operation in Helmand province.

In March, Obama unveiled his strategy for Afghanistan, seeking to defeat al-Qaida terrorists there and in Pakistan with a bigger force and a new commander.

The government of Helmand province predicted the operation would be "very effective.

"The security forces will build bases to provide security for the local people so that they can carry out every activity with this favorable background and take their lives forward in peace," Gen. Qaibong said in a Pentagon press release.

The White House also is pushing to build clear goals for a war gone awry and get the American people behind them, to provide more resources and to make a better case for international support.

There is no timetable for withdrawal, and the White House has not estimated how many billions of dollars in its plan will cost.

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Briefs

Oxford, Miss. (AP) — A prosecutor says a jury is considering the kidnapping of a teenager in Hollywood, who is accused of kidnapping a teenager over a drug debt and then ordering his death.

Hollywood testified he kidnapped his half-brother owed him money for marijuana but denied having any role in the teens death.

Napa, Calif. (AP) — The identity of a homicide victim whose remains were found in Napa County is being identified as that of her mother. Darnell, 32, told police officers who were looking for his girlfriend that her mother was discovered the snake was about 80 feet long and was attacking a child.

** Allah Python measuring more than 8 feet long broke out of a terrarium and went to the girl's room, where he found it on the girl and bite marks on her head, authorities said.**

Albuquerque, N.M. (AP) — A passenger jet carrying 53 people from Yemen crashed into the Indian Ocean in bad weather early Tuesday while trying to land at the island nation of Comoros. Search teams rescued a child in the sea, officials said, but there was no word on any survivors.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — At least 447 Iraqi civilians were killed in June, double the toll from the previous month, according to an Associated Press tally, as insurgents took aim at crowded areas to maximize the number of casualties.

The spike in violence reflects the stiff challenges facing Iraqi security forces following the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from urban areas this week. But the numbers are still far lower than previous years, and the bombings by suspected Sunni extremists are not triggering the type of retaliatory attacks from Shiite militias that nearly led to civil war in 2006-2007.

Texas agency investigates its own raid on a gay bar

Angela K. Brown

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is investigating its joint police raid on a gay bar that left one man hospitalized with a head injury and sparked claims of brutality and procedure violations.

The agency said Wednesday it would review the agents’ actions and determine how Chad Gibson was hurt. He was in a TABC agent’s custody when he was injured, and he needed treatment for alcohol poisoning, according to the agency.

“We are saddened that this incident occurred and extend our sincere hope that Mr. Gibson recovers quickly,” agency Administrator Alan Seidman said in a statement. “I take seriously all allegations concerning inappropriate or illegal behavior by our employees.”

Gibson, 26, was in fair condition Wednesday at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, hospital spokeswoman Janice Brown said. His family has said he suffered bleeding on the brain.

Early Sunday morning, some TABC agents and Fort Worth police officers went to the Rainbow Lounge after going to two other bars that don’t have a gay clientele. Authorities said they were doing routine inspections to ensure compliance with state alcoholic beverage laws. In all, more than a dozen people were arrested for public intoxication, a misdemeanor.

But some Rainbow Lounge patrons said authorities grabbed people or shoved them onto the ground. They have denied police claims that anyone grabbed or made lewd gestures toward officers. On Sunday night about 100 people protested in Fort Worth, and a vigil was held at the bar Wednesday night.

Word on the Street

“What news medium did you go to confirm the death of Michael Jackson?”

“I went to CNN.com. My friend texted me ... I think it’s a legit news Web site.”

—Skp Kanimaki, animal science junior

“I was at the optometrist’s office and the receptionists kept receiving text messages. I just kind of listened to them ... but never went and confirmed it later.”

—Jerry Nance, architecture graduate

“I checked on my phone — on Google. (The news of his death) was still there now I didn’t research it first.”

—Gabrielle Rivera, communications senior

“I just went on the Internet and went to Yahoo. I was like ‘What?’”

—Tommy Gatta, communications senior

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Lighting up the Central Coast

Fireworks extravaganzas at dusk, live music, the smoky aroma of barbecue and a lot of wine and beer can only mean one thing: San Luis Obispo is gearing up for another action-packed Fourth of July.

"I plan to relax, hang out with friends and enjoy my day off," psychology sophomore Shauna Sheu said. "I'm going to Shell Beach with friends during the day. I've heard of a lot going on so it should be a fun celebration."

Pismo Beach, Cayucos, Paso Robles and Morro Bay will all be having Fourth of July celebrations.

As for the festive festivities, Pismo Beach will be celebrating with free live music and food on the pier during the day and a fireworks show over the water at dusk.

"It's a traditional Fourth of July event where families come together and enjoy the day, all culminating with the fireworks show at night," said Rebecca McMurry, CEO of the Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"As far as your eye can see, in every direction, there are people covering the beach," McMurry said.

Cayucos will be ringing in the fourth with a free sand sculpture contest, parade, barbecue and firework display from the pier.

"It's kind of like, 'What happens in Cayucos, stays in Cayucos.'" There are all sort of quirky little things, wall-to-wall people and it really has that hometown America feel," said Susan Estes, a public relations representative for the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce.

Meridian Vineyards will be holding a celebration in Paso Robles, which includes live music, food and beverages, ice cream, wine and beer for an extra fee and a fireworks display over the vineyard at dusk. Tickets are available at the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

"This event has been going on for 12 years and every year it sells out. There is always a mix of people, families, locals, people from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, all over. Last year, there were over 1,000 people and we expect the same this year," said Erin Okamoto, merchandise coordinator at Meridian Vineyards.

Morro Bay will also be holding their annual Fourth of July Celebration, which includes free carnival games, sack races, egg-spoon races (racing with an egg balanced on a spoon), tug-of-war, and a laser show starting at 9 p.m.

The laser show is something unique to Morro Bay; it looks better with fog, the city funds and lessens environmental impact, including the potential for wildfire and harmful effects on wildlife, according to the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Web site.

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Michael Jackson's death has brought out both the best and the worst in how information spreads over the Internet.

The day of the pop star's passing, the world was able to watch the events unravel in real time, and not just from one source. Everyone, people visited gossip blog TMZ to the popular CNN for the reported truth, Twitter for the mass outcry, and Facebook to download favorite MJ songs.

Within 24 hours of Jackson's death, music icons P-Diddy, Chris Brown, Usher, Boys2Men and others united to write, produce and mass-distribute a Michael Jackson tribute song through file-sharing site Bon Jon. Within just hours, social media blogs had reported on its internal blog that the sudden increase in traffic caused the site to think it was under some kind of attack. Because millions of people were searching for the same terms, users received an error that said, "your query looks similar to automated requests from a computer virus or spyware application. To protect our users, we can't process your request right now."

The Internet was overwhelmed with a single tragedy. We've seen it happen in other countries. During the elections in Mumbai and sudden attacks, millions of citizen journalists flooded the Web with information and inquiries. But this was the first time that the United States had experienced something of the same magnitude online. People were seeking the answers to the same questions about Jackson's possible death.

Each event reveals that we continue to speed up how we get information — from the days of print when we were updated once a day, to TV when it was multiple times a day, to the early Web days when it was every few hours, to today's social media outbursts when we're updated by the second.

But is this whirlwind of light speed information good or bad? Facts spread exponentially and instantly, but misinformation spreads equally and rapidly.

Rumors about Jeff Goldblum, Natalie Portman and George Clooney's death quickly started and spread across social networks in the hours following Jackson's death — all of which were untrue.

New Zealand broadcast networks reportedly called in the death rumors and reported incorrectly that Goldblum had fallen off a cliff to his death — a major blow to traditional media credibility. Comic book artist John Stewart made a spectacle of the error by bringing Jeff Goldblum on the show to "tweet from the dead."

If everyone is now flocking to the Web for something — we've known and further proven through Jackson's death — how will we create a system for verifying information? As we continue to spread so much overload on the Web, who will be the ones to confirm, organize and spread the facts?

For that, journalists should step up to the plate. Mass media has looked for the opportunity to save itself and this may be the key proving that credibility and speed are the keys to success online. Journalists will have to figure out what it takes to secure that trust.

When we thirst for knowledge during these moments of tragedy and uncertainty, what will it take for us to behave in the new and spread that information, rather than just becoming another voice in the wildfire?

And if this event has taught traditional media anything, it is that now is the time to start becoming the masters of speed and credibility. It's not about what kind of slideshow you use or what kind of camera you're shooting with or how experienced your reporters are, but who can be trusted and who can give you the news in the next 30 seconds, 3 minutes, 10 minutes? In the next 5 to 10 years, we're going to see one of four things happen: Bloggers will become that trusted source, mass media will return to its post as the all-knowing and all-trusted, or we could continue to experience a mix of both.

A third, increasingly likely scenario is that both forms will collapse and the crowd will win out, as we saw with Mumbai and are now seeing with Jackson's death. The millions of voices in the sea of tweets and posts will become the overpowered voice, for good or for bad.

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Mrs. Bruce Banner

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4. Cry upon
5. Philip's problem
6. Ugly
7. "Under Two Flags" novelist, 1867
8. Dutch philosopher
9. Bill sharer
10. Stay up nights
11. Consistently reaching an impasse
12. Within
13. Superstar? might
14. Goal-oriented
15. Ravel's "Boléro"
16. "Cry upon"
17. "Verrte's Fogg"
18. "Lens-grinding"
19. "Philosopher"
20. "Stay up nights"
21. "Superstar?"
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97. ""Verrte's Fogg"
98. ""Lens-grinding"
99. ""Philosopher"
100. "Stay up nights"
Jensen earns spot on third freshman All-American team

Cal Poly second baseman Matt Jensen earned a third freshman All-American honor, this time from Baseball America on Wednesday. Jensen, a first-team choice, joins three other Big West Conference players, all from Cal State Fullerton, selected by the Baseball America staff.

Jensen has already been named to the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's 2009 Louisvile Slugger Freshman All-American Team and the 2009 Pro-Line Athletic/National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division I Freshman All-American First Team.

He also landed a spot on the 2009 American Baseball Coaches Association/ Rawlings Sporting Goods Division I West Region First Team last week.

Jensen was hitting .375 before a fractured collarbone ended his 2009 baseball season. He earned Big West Conference Freshman Player of the Year honors and was named to the All-Big West first team despite missing the final 15 games on Cal Poly's schedule.

“Cal Poly has some good players — players that can play at the next level,” Peterlin said. While the leap to European soccer seemed implausible to some, his former Cal Poly coaches had faith in their former player.

“If people have watched Anton over the last three years here, the one thing that Anton has is an amazing work rate,” Cal Poly head coach Paul Holocher told the Mustang Daily in May. “He is a tireless worker. He's in a defensive midfield position which is really an important position on the field and he has learned to master that position.”

Peterlin will join an Everton club that is well-respected worldwide. The Toffees finished as runners-up to Chelsea in May's FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium and qualified for the 2009-10 Europa League after finishing fifth last season in the Barclays Premier League table.

Everton, which was founded in 1878, holds the EPL record for having played continuously in the top flight for 107 seasons. The lone other American at Everton is United States Men's National Team goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Howard recently impressed with his play in leading the United States to the Final of the Confederations Cup in South Africa last week. Peterlin will arrive at Everton attempting to prove that he belongs on the pitch helping Howard and his teammates in the defensive half.

"I'm excited to head over and try to break into the first team,” Peterlin said. He may have an immediate opportunity to break into the first team when the club opens its preseason schedule on July 12 when the club contests its first match on African soil against either Ashanti Kotoko or Hearts of Oak, both of Ghana. The Toffees return to England six days later for a match at League Two (fourth tier) side Rochdale AFC.

Everton faces Argentinean club River Plate in Edmonton on July 25 before competing against the MLS All-Stars at Real Salt Lake's Rio Tinto Stadium July 30. The Toffees open the Barclays Premier League campaign at home to Arsenal Aug. 15.

Peterlin could be with the team during those matches and may get a chance to compete.

Everton's reserve side, Blues XI, begins its schedule at Welsh club Airbus UK July 18.