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www.symphony.calpoly.edu
Auditions: Mon 9/21 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 126
Tues 9/22 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 216
Weds 9/23 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 126
1st meeting: Thurs 9/24 4:40 p.m. Rm 216

ARAB MUSIC ENSEMBLE
www.music.calpoly.edu/ensembles/#Arab
1st meeting: Wed 9/23 6:10 p.m. Rm 218

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Audition: schedule/sign-ups posted on board by 4/30

SYMPHONY AUDITIONS: Sun 9/20 1-5 p.m. Rm 126
Mon 9/21 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 126
Tues 9/22 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 216
Weds 9/23 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rm 126
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Auditions: for new students:
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There's no place like home:
Still, gray areas exist for students who have left the nest

Kate McIntyre

Cal Poly graphic communication and business senior Char Daum arrives home to find a note taped to her front door, informing her that the house she's renting with her three roommates will be auctioned off in two weeks. She calls her landlord, who has disconnected his phone to avoid telling Daum that the house has been in foreclosure for several months. In the middle of February she moves into a new apartment and continues to fight to get back her $1200 security deposit. But she's learned something. "You cannot put a price on a good landlord," she said.

There are 19,471 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students attending Cal Poly, according to CSU Mentor.com, a Web site that helps students plan for college in the state university system. Beginning in fall, 6,300 students will be living on campus, which means there are over 15,000 living elsewhere in San Luis Obispo County. No matter where they're living, students should know how to prepare for and handle potential issues. The best way to avoid a problem is to begin communicating early, Amy Stapp of Creative Mediation said. "Communication is really the key," she said. "The more clear people are about expectations and what they're committing to, the likelier it is that they'll have a better working relationship." Creative Mediation offers SLO Solutions, a free service that trains people to handle conflict resolution and mediates conflicts between roommates, landlords and tenants, neighbors and family members.

Between July 2008 and June 2009 they assisted 625 people, 200 of whom were Cal Poly students. Fifty-six percent of the cases SLO Solutions handled were between landlords and tenants and included arguments about security deposits, unpaid rent, property conditions, loud noise, pets, lease logistics and subleasing.

Here are some common issues, how to avoid them and how to deal with them if they do come up.

Get along with your roommate
Roommates should come up with an agreement, deciding whether they'll share groceries and how they'll handle the rent and bills and so on, Creative Mediation Ambassador Stefanie Medina said. "With roommates, be clear and anticipate things that could come up," she said. Cal Poly electrical engineering junior Michael Cocchi said he started having problems with his roommate the first day of his freshman year. "There were too many things to remember but a big one is that he kept spraying Glade on my side of the room," he said. "The smell makes me very sick." He added that his resident advisor (RA) and Coordinator of Student Development (CSD) weren't helpful so he was stuck living there for the rest of the year.

There are 13 CSDs this year. Each has a master's degree in student affairs, counseling or higher education. Their job is to oversee the 109 residents and advisors have an expansive list of rules they have to follow. Be kind to your RA, and you'll be better off, he said. "Not having a few wake-ups during the quarter is suspicious, so be sure to thank your RA next time you're stumbling through the halls during 2 a.m. rounds," he said.

Residents can still party, he said, but if they're smart they'll do it away from the dorms. But he's learned something. "I can't believe they let us live there," he said. "We have a pretty liberal roommate-switching policy," he said. Most residents choose to remain with their roommate, he added. But if they're unhappy, residents should talk to their CSD.

"We run a very high percentage of roommate matches that work," she said.

Both CSDs and advisors handle violations of the housing license each resident signs before moving in. This directly corresponds to the next issue, how to remain in on-campus housing.

Don't get kicked out of the dorms
Cal Poly business senior Jordan Yerkes was an RA in Fremont Hall from 2007-2008. He said that both residents and advisors have an expansive list of rules they have to follow. Be kind to your RA, and you'll be better off, he said. "Not having a few wake-ups during the quarter is suspicious, so be sure to thank your RA next time you're stumbling through the halls during 2 a.m. rounds," he said.

Residents can still party, he said, but if they're smart they'll do it away from the dorms.
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Most residents open the door for the RAs; it’s the smart choice because if you are kind to an RA they will report it better for you, but having the UPD called on you is a serious offense.

—Jordan Yerkes
Fornum RA, Fremont Hall

others did as well, although the ones you don’t hear about are the ones who kept their jobs.”

Advisors aren’t allowed to use the master key to get into a resident’s room unless it’s an emergency situation, said Shaffer.

“We ask the students to be cooperative,” she said. “We don’t enter a room unless there’s a serious health or safety concern.”

If a suspect resident is ever unwilling to open the door then the University Police Department is called, Yerkes added.

“Most residents open the door for RAs, it’s the smart choice because if you are kind to an RA they will

report it better for you, but having the UPD called on you is a serious offense,” he said.

RA, CA or CSD files an incident report, the CSD meets with the resident(s) involved, said Shaffer. The student then has an opportunity to explain the situation, but any issues involving illegal substances will be checked by the university police.

“We will follow up. We are a state university, and the state law is 21,” she said.

Get your security deposit back

Cal Poly materials engineering senior ZenonCarlos said he is getting ready to take his landlord to court. At first his landlord tried to improve the house by keeping the $3,000 security deposit and now the deposit is two months overdue, he said.

“ It’s not that I paid him; he already had the money from the security deposit. He just refused to give them back for so called ‘cleaning fees.’ $3,000 worth, yeah right,” he said.

A landlord can charge a security deposit in case tenants default on a rent payment, damage the property beyond normal wear and tear or don’t leave it in the same state of cleanliness as when they moved in, according to California Civil Code Section 1950.5. Security deposits cannot exceed two months’ rent for an unfurnished property or three months’ rent if the property is furnished and rent generally be returned within 21 days.

If it has been 21 days, tenants can write a letter to the landlord demanding the deposit and/or sue, according to the California organization Tenants Together Web site. To avoid having to hassle their landlord or spend time arguing in court, tenants should take a few precautions when they move in, according to the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

The DCA guide to tenants’ and landlords’ rights and responsibilities recommends completing a checklist regarding the condition of the rental when tenants first move in. Both the tenants and landlord should sign and date it, and each party should keep a copy.

Tenants can also take photos and keep those with the checklist. If one isn’t provided by the landlord, tenants can download one online via the DCA Web site.

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Making the fairness grade:
Academic resources keep students and faculty in check

Daniel Triassi

"If you haven't had Professor N.,
you haven't experienced true hell," said Ashley, an animal science
major who wishes her last name stay anonymous. "This guy is a real dink.
Not only is he egotistical, but he is blind to student concerns with ex-
tremely unrealistic expectations!"

Throughout most of the history of higher education, colleges neglected to care what students thought of their teacher's performance. The Puritan ethic to care what student thought of their teachers. However, she still

"It wasn't upset because I got a C," she said. "But because for me as stu-
dent, I didn't miss one lecture, took careful notes, and read all of the mate-
rial for tests. To put in the time and the effort and still end up unsatisfied was
the worst."

You can actually plagiarize yourself
if you turn in the
same work for two
classes.

-Adrian Miller
Coordinator Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

For a general education class, the structure of the tests was also aggravat-
ing to her.

"The tests were completely mul-
tiple choice, 50 questions on each.
Most of the questions had 5 or 6 an-
swers and the choices ranged from
"all of these," "none of these," or just
to throw you off "two of these" so you
really needed to know every single
detail about everything that was cov-
ered."

With problems similar to Ashley's, issues with grades should first be re-
solved with your direct professor. If a dispute escalates, it is brought to
the attention of the department chair, the dean of the college of liberal arts,
or tenure-track member from Student Affairs, all appointed by the chair of the Academic Senate for two-
year terms. Two student members are also selected by AIS.

The board hears appeals based on the belief that the instructor has made a mistake, shown bad faith or incom-
petence, or been unfair, according to their Web site.

From the Fairness Board for Academic
Dishonesty, leads the Academic
Programs Office whose mission is to
administer the Fairness Board. With the Fairness Board, the pre-
sumption is that the faculty member is correct. The onus of proof is on the
student, Conni said.

"In order for a dispute to have merit when it reaches the Fairness Board, it
has to be more than a friendly
technicality. It is up to the student to demon-
strate they were treated unfairly with witnesses and a restitution.

Sometimes professors re-examine
their grade book and see if there is an
error they made said Debra Valencia-Laver, associate dean for the College
of Liberal Arts.

"Academic disputes don't often
reach the Fairness Board," Valencia-
Laver said. "Maybe three or four times a quarter.

Many student come into school with the conviction that they've
worked hard and deserve the high-
est mark. To most, An is meeting the
standard requirements, not a C.

"It's not necessarily did you get the grade you deserve," said Valencia-
Laver.

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questions of academic integrity.

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dividuals of Liberal Arts.

As a student, you are responsible
for the work you turn in. However, plagiarism isn't a black and white is-

Instead of intentional copying, the
main problem students face with pla-
giarism is that they don't know how
to correctly cite their sources Miller
said.

"When people copy, cut and paste
make sure to copy the URL with the
citation," she said. "It's like getting in-
formation from a book, you would
remember the name of the book, like
you should remember the URL of a
Web site."

Cal Poly's policy with cheating and
plagiarism requires students receive an
"F" on the grade and further attend-
ance in the course is prohibited.

Furthermore, the instructor is ob-
ligated to place evidence of the cheat-
ing in writing before the Vice Presi-
dent of Student Affairs with copies to
the department head of the student's major.

The Vice President of Student Af-
"It is as good a place as any to il-

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the department head of the student's major.

The Vice President of Student Af-
...
Prison
continued from page 16

cruel and unusual punishment. Beyond that, the state simply can no longer afford its overcrowding problem, struggling to find $1.2 billion to shave from its prison budget.

The situation ensures the spotlight will remain on prisons such as Chino’s, which has operated at or near 200 percent of its intended capacity, brimming with nearly 0,000 inmates in a facility designed 70 years ago for half that.

Even the stretches of this prison actually designed to house inmates appear bleakly overtaxed. Inside Madrone Hall, two inmates jam into 6-by-11-foot cells meant for a single bed. A second bed chained to the wall during the day is dropped to the floor at night, flat and tin-looking to earn the name “cookie sheet bed.”

The overcrowding also is causing predictable chaos. Indeed, just four days after that unprecedented federal court order, it was the Chino prison that erupted in violence. And while the Aug. 8 riot was linked to race-related tensions, it underscored how incendiary it can be to run a prison so overstuffed with convicted felons.

Jeanne Woodford, former director of California’s prison system and San Quentin’s former warden, says she always put Chino as “one or two” on her list of shabbiest prisons. And she considers the prison a prime example of why state leaders need to make major changes and address the court’s recent orders, or risk years of continued problems in the prison system.

“I really thought I had a prison that had physical plant issues,” Woodford said of her days at San Quentin. “But when I became director and went to Chino, I was shocked. How in modern-day corrections can anybody think this is OK? It’s really not.”

The state prison in Chino, known as CIM, is divided in four. One section is a minimum-security area, an oddly tranquil corner of the sprawling prison grounds worlds away from the elbow-to-elbow overcrowding elsewhere. Inmates mill around outside, go to work in prison jobs and sleep in dormitories.

The other three sections, however, are Chino, page 18

Prison, page 18
Prison continued from page 17

ever, are a Grand Central Station of inmates who fled through Chino on a regular basis, most of them shuffled back through the prison system for violating parole. They can be anyone from a low-level drug dealer to a killer, mixed together by the common ingredient that critics say causes state prisons to fill up too much and too easily: simply violating parole terms and winding up back in the state prison system.

Lt. Mark Hargrove, the spokesman at Chino, estimates 600 parole violators stream into the prison each week, and 400 parole violators are cycled out. The recent federal court order suggested the state could ease overcrowding in part by diverting many of these parole violators out of state prisons.

Summy Featherstone and Ben Turner are repeat felons newly arrived to Chino. They press up against their cell in Madrone Hall, unable to avoid interrupting each other as they point out the flaws of two men their size — Turner is big enough to be an NFL lineman, backer — being housed in a cell meant for one.

Turner moves a few inches to the toilet, demonstrating how close he is to Featherstone’s bed if he needs to go to the bathroom.

“There’s too many people in here, man,” Featherstone says.

For the California prison system and political leaders, there are indeed too many people in prisons such as Chino, and the federal court order concluded overcrowding has reached its limit. Specifically, the three judges found that the prison can’t provide adequate medical and mental health care to inmates, violating their constitutional rights.

At prison like Chino’s, medical and mental health care is a volume business, with little space to handle the crush of inmates. Just inside Chino’s central facility, where inmates first arrive at the prison, cages line one side of a corridor with inmates waiting inside for medical appointments. In the west section, where the riot occurred, inmates had to wait outside the clinic on wooden benches.

The San Jose Mercury News was not allowed to examine the medical clinics closely. But as part of the court case, experts who investigated the prison’s medical care found the conditions appalling.

“The prison squeezes too many prisoners and too many providers into the available treatment area,” Ronald Shansky, former medical director for the Illinois prison system, said in a court paper.

The charted remains of Joshua Hall, in the west section where the riot occurred, show a prison on the edge and in transition.

Inmates inside Joshua Hall torched mattresses, setting the dorm ablaze. One dorm over is where the riot started, in Mari- pina Hall. Dried blood remains on the walls. Windows are shattered, the metal grids outside of them in some cases pried from their ravings; 200 inmates were hospitalized.

Experts have said that riot, given the crowding, was all too predictable. “The housing unit was a serious disturbance waiting to happen,” Doyle Wayne Scott, a former Texas state prison director, warned the three federal judges last year. “If the prisoners wanted to take over the dorm they could do it in a second and no one would know.”

Prison officials have moved more than 1,000 inmates from the west section of the prison, transferring many of them to the nearby juvenile prison that was just closed. But it’s a temporary solution, typifying California’s prison conundrum. Hargrove said they will have to figure out what to do with the west section, which houses 198 inmates in bunk beds in each dorm.

At some point, the prison likely will house all those inmates again. In the meantime, the test of the prison remains as overcrowded as ever The Gym, the day rooms, the “cookie sheet” beds in the double cells.

Aref Fakhoury, the interim warden, concede that a doubled-up inmate population is far from ideal, but he considers it a mistake for the system to release prisoners as a solution to overcrowding. Inside the central facility, Patrick O’Neill, a 21-year veteran prison officer agrees. He is openly skeptical of concerns the inmates aren’t getting adequate care.

“They call them patients,” O’Neill says. “Remind yourself. They earned the right to come to prison multiple times. They are criminals.”

For now, however, prison officials, as well as the state’s political leaders, have to live with a different view from those federal judges who consider prisons such as Chino’s inhumane. In their court order, they observed that one inmate per week, because of the abysmal medical care, had been “dying needlessly” in California prisons.

Woodford, who saw the problems firsthand as one of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s prison leaders, tends to side with the judges right now.

“If we’re to address the medical and psychological problems in our prisons, we have to get rid of overcrowding,” she says. “It seems it always takes the courts because people don’t want to appear soft on crime. But if policy changes aren’t made, it just means another place fills up.”

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Q. What led to the budget deficit?
A. The economic downturn combined with state fiscal issues that included failed tax increase referendums created a $364 million deficit for the California State University (CSU) system.

Q. What steps were taken to solve the deficit?
A. The two major steps that were taken to solve the system wide deficit were a 10 percent furlough for full time staff and faculty and two separate fee increases for students. The first fee increase was a 10 percent hike, while the second was 20 percent, which totals a 30 percent increase.

Q. What is a furlough?
A. A furlough is a forced unpaid day off. The California Faculty Association (CFA) and several other unions that work for the CSU system voted to approve a furlough. It will save the CSU system an estimated $27.3 million by cutting 26 workdays. The furlough made up slightly less than half of the deficit.

Q. How are furloughs going to work?
A. Furloughs will work differently for different people. The library is planning on certain low traffic days to furlough the entire building. Professor furloughs will be handled differently in each department. Some departments are taking furloughs on days that they are not teaching classes, while some departments are doing the exact opposite.

Q. What if I'm receiving financial aid?
A. One third of the second fee increase is to pay for students that cannot afford the increase. Students getting Cal Grants A and B can defer university fee payments for the fall term, because the state might delay the funding of these grants. Students will apply on a case-by-case basis to get short-term loans from the individual CSU campuses. Pell grants will still be given to students who qualify.

Q. Why don't they just let more students in?
A. The CSU system is actually trying to reduce enrollment by 40,000 students because for every dollar in tuition that students pay, the CSU pays $2.50 in state funding. Students that can't afford the increase might apply for grants, and the University would need to approve a furlough. It will save the CSU system an estimated $27.3 million by cutting 26 workdays. The furlough made up slightly less than half of the deficit.

Q. What about the College Based Fees?
A. The Chancellor's office put a hold on the college based fees that students approved last year. It is uncertain when or if the increase will occur.

Q. Could the money allocated for campus construction this summer be used to retain classes and lecturers?
A. The building of a $124 million addition to the Science "Spider" Building and the plan to turn South Perimeter Road into a walking plaza in the fall will be the first to be delayed. There are also no plans for new academic buildings on campus.

Q. Can I continue to receive financial aid?
A. One third of the second fee increase will not be added until construction is completed, which the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Web site projects to be in 2012. The referendum approved a $71 million bond to be taken out in order to pay for the costs. The funds for the UU union reserve fund that can only be used for facilities, said Carl Payne, chair of the University Union Advisory Board.

Q. Is a fee increase legal?
A. Two CSU students have sued CSU over the legality of double billing students. There was a similar case in 2005 when the University of California raised fees for students after hearing already sent a tuition bill. The lawyer that successfully represented the students in 2005 is also representing the CSU students. If the CSU students are successful the over 456,000 students in the CSU system would be eligible for a refund.

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A. The building of a $124 million addition to the Science "Spider" Building and the plan to turn South Perimeter Road into a walking plaza in the fall will be the first to be delayed. There are also no plans for new academic buildings on campus. But work on the Recreation Center and the University Union Plaza will continue as planned.

Both projects use funds that cannot be reallocated to other projects. The gym renovation is being paid for by a student fee increase approved in a 2008 student referendum. The fee increase will not be added until construction is completed, which the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Web site projects to be in 2012. The referendum approved a $71 million bond to be taken out in order to pay for the costs. The funds for the UU union reserve fund that can only be used for facilities, said Carl Payne, chair of the University Union Advisory Board.
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Baucus unveils health plan, draws fire from all sides

David Lightman
MCLEAN COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus' $856 billion plan to overhaul the nation's health care system—a package that lacks the public option that President Barack Obama favors— was greeted Wednesday largely with skepticism and sometimes disdain, even among fellow Democrats.

His package, which would create health care co-ops, raise taxes on insurers and require companies to offer coverage to nearly everyone, is the latest, perhaps last-ditch, effort to find bipartisan agreement on Obama's top domestic priority.

Baucus understands the difficulty better than anyone. For months, the Montana senator and five other committee members, three from each party, struggled to craft bipartisan legislation. They finally gave up, and Baucus went his own way.

He still worked Wednesday to woo Republican support, but only Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, seemed hopeful.

"The bill is a work in progress," she said.

More typical was the view of Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming, the top Senate health committee Republican, who said he was "deeply disappointed" that the group of six, of which he was one, couldn't agree.

"The proposal released today still spends too much, and it does too little to cut health care costs for those with health insurance," he said.

Four other committees—three in the House of Representatives and the Senate health panel—have written health care bills. All were authored almost entirely by Democrats, and all backed a "public option," a government-run plan that would offer an alternative to private insurance.

Baucus thinks that such a plan can't pass the Senate. He stressed Wednesday that he made compromises aimed at winning passage.

The biggest change from the other bills is the co-op idea, which veers away from Obama's plea to a joint session of Congress last week that lawmakers seriously consider a public option.

Instead, Baucus proposed a system of co-ops that can operate at the state, regional or national level, which veers away from Obama's plea to a joint session of Congress last week that lawmakers seriously consider a public option.

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Baucus continued from page 21
level as nonprofit, member-run health plans. He proposed spending $6 billion in federal money to get them started.

Supporters of co-ops maintain that negotiating rates with hospita­
tals, doctors and other providers collectively would reduce health care costs, "without putting the government in charge of health care," as Sen. Kent Conrad, D-
N.D., another one of the group of six, put it. He estimated that Bau­
cus' plan would cover about 94 percent of Americans.

Many other Democrats and their supporters weren't pleased, however, and some were downright angry. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said the Baucus plan "absolutely fails to meet the most basic health care needs of working families and it fails to meet the expectations we have set for our nation."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the second-ranking Democrat on the Finance Com­mittee, branded co-ops "untested and unsubstantiated, and should not be considered as a national model for health insurance."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., issued a tersely worded statement. "The House bill clearly does not have the support of most members of Congress agree. For instance, insurers would have to issue coverage to nearly every­
one, regardless of health status. There would be "limited variation in premium rates" for tobacco use, age and family composition. Most consumers would have to buy coverage or face penalties. If

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### Toppings

- Ground Beef
- Pineapple
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- Bacon
- Mushrooms
- Artichokes
- Italian Sausage
- Garlic
- Meatball
- Chicken
- Jalapenos
- Green Peppers

### Toppings

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- Salami
- Black Olives
- Onions
- Lingualca
- Anchovies
- Ham
- Cheese

### Toppings

- Double or Extra Toppings: $1.00, $1.25, $1.50

### Toppings

- STICKY FINGERS: Pepperoni, Ham, Bacon, Onions, Italian Sausage, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Green Peppers
- Deluxe Hawaiian: Ham, Pineapple, Bacon, Onions, Extra Cheese
- VEGGIE SPECIAL: Mushrooms, Onions, Black Olives, Green Peppers, Tomatoes, Artichoke Hearts

### Toppings

- Chicken, Garlic, Black Olives, Onions, Artichoke Hearts
- Roast Beef: Ham, Pepperoni, Italian Sausage & Cheese
- Italian Sausage & Cheese
- Ham & Cheese
- Meatball
- Cheese & 1 Topping
- Cheese & 2 Toppings
- Cheese & 3 Toppings
- Cheese & 4 Toppings
- Double or Extra Toppings

### Toppings

- Pepperoni, Ham, Bacon, Onions, Italian Sausage, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Green Peppers
- Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Ham, Onions, Mushrooms, Garlic, Pineapple, Onions, Green Peppers
- Antipasto Salad: Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese, Mushroom, Onions, Green Peppers, Black Olives, Ham & Pepperoni
- Individual Tossed Salad: Dressings: Ranch or Italian (serves 1)
Baucus

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someone's income were 100 to 300 percent of the poverty level, he or she would be fined $750 per person, up to a maximum of $1,500 per family. Wealthier people would face penalties of $950 each, up to $3,800 per family.

Baucus aims to make coverage easier to obtain and less expensive by creating health insurance exchanges via Web portals that would show consumers all the available coverage in their ZIP codes. People wouldn't have to give up the insurance they now have, and plans would be able to continue offering the coverage they now provide to those who already have it.

The health insurance market would see four categories for benefits: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. No policies could be issued that didn't comply with the requirements of at least one category. All policies would have to provide a wide variety of basic services, and no lifetime limits could be set.

All that is hardly new; the White House and other senators have been saying for months that they generally agree on 80 percent of what must be done. It's the other 20 percent—including such crucial matters as how much a plan would cost and how it would be paid for—that has stalled the process.

It remained unclear Wednesday whether Baucus had begun to break the ice. Almost all the key lawmakers were guarded.

"This is very complicated legislation, very comprehensive," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., a Finance Committee member.

Obama tried to provide fresh momentum for the effort with his speech last week to a joint session of Congress. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., wouldn't say that the president had done that, but he maintained that "at least the left and right aren't yelling at each other. The atmosphere has improved."

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Jobs may be slow to return although recession has ended

As the economy begins to grow again, the nation faces a huge challenge: Consumers drive roughly 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, but job growth is expected to be quite slow even as the recovery gains steam. Without a rebounding job market, consumer spending is unlikely to return to robust levels, slowing a return to full employment.

Think of it as America's chicken-and-egg dilemma: The economy needs a big jump in consumer spending to spur exceptional growth, but that won't happen as long as unemployment remains high.

Feud Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged this dilemma Tuesday when he predicted that growth next year would be moderate at best. The economy faces strong "head winds," he warned, raising prospects for a jobless recovery like the ones that followed the brief recessions in 1990-91 and 2001.

"Unless the economy grows significantly faster than its longer-term growth rate," which economists see jobs, page 27
Healthcare workers often shun flu shot

William Mullen
CHICAGO TIMES

Every year, top U.S. health officials send out widely publicized reminders to get vaccinated against seasonal flu. And every year, more than 60 percent of the public looks the other way, deciding against the shots either out of fear or simple disinterest.

Even more surprising, nearly 50 percent of the nation’s health care workers also ignore the reminder, often for the same reasons. They think they don’t need it, doubt its efficacy or are convinced the vaccine carries risks of dangerous side effects.

The combination of laxity and resistance is a big concern this season as the U.S. faces a double-barreled blast of seasonal flu and a renewed outbreak of an even more widespread H1N1 swine flu.

H1N1 has spread as a worldwide pandemic since it appeared in the U.S. last April, and it is picking up strength here again. The concern is that with both flu spreading, patients seeking help at hospitals and clinics could overtax health services and a lot of sick health workers would compound the problem.

Failure of a significant number of health care workers to take either or both vaccines could pose a danger to their patients if they contract the sickness and help spread it, and also to their own families and friends if they take it home with them, experts warn.

“The last thing we should be doing is putting our patients at risk when it is totally unnecessary,” said Jorge Parada, director of infection control at Loyola University Health System in Maywood. “In a patient-care sort of setting, this is a big, big safety issue.”

This month, Loyola announced it was doing something deemed rather drastic by others in the medical community: The medical center has told all 7,825 of its employees—from doctors to housekeepers—that being vaccinated for seasonal flu is a condition of employment, or it or leave.

In October, when swine flu vaccine is expected to be ready for mass distribution, Loyola may also make it mandatory.

Loyola’s decision to require regular flu vaccinations made it only the third hospital in the country to do so, Parada said, though New York
“And therefore the unemployment rate will be relatively slow in creating mists peg at about 3 percent annually, and the unemployment rate, now 9.7 percent, is expected to rise above 10 percent soon.

They must find a way to encourage job creation to replace the more than 7 million positions already lost, plus about 1 million new entrants into the work force annually, to get back to an unemployment rate below 5 percent which will require about 12 million new jobs.

The problem here is that once the economy makes the turn, and once we’re not only out of recession but out of this period that feels like recession ... even then the economy is not going to be growing fast enough consistently to bring down the unemployment rate,” said Ken Glassman, senior economist and managing director at JP Morgan Chase, the nation’s strongest large bank, thinks that the Federal Reserve and the Obama administration will do what it takes to improve the jobs outlook.

“We’re going to have to grow faster than trend to get unemployment to come down, which means that it is going to happen ... unless you believe zero (percent) interest rates don’t matter,” Glassman said in an interview at bank headquarters.

His logic goes like this: Because the Fed has held its benchmark interest rate near zero since last December and is expected to leave it there for quite a while longer, lending rates across the economy will remain unusually low as the Fed tries to engineer full employment, which economists consider to be when the jobless rate is around 5 percent.

“The economy is not going to have the same restraints that it normally has. Returning to 5 percent (unemployment) is a national goal,” Glassman said. However, banks aren’t lending much right now despite the low rates as they recover from the recession and the toll it has taken on their balance sheets. Over time, however, economists think, bank lending will grow and low borrowing costs will stimulate economic activity by consumers and businesses, and one result will be job growth.

If unemployment remains intolerably high, the government could take further steps.

“I think policy measures can be used to generate a more robust recovery,” said Lawrence Mishel, the president of the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal policy-research group. In a sign of the times, Mishel also sees a need for targeted public works programs like those of the 1930s and temporary tax breaks for businesses that hire new workers, an idea that conservatives have championed.

“There are going to be distressed communities that are going to need jobs for years to come,” Mishel said. “I think that these are really extraordinary times, and I think we need to do what we can to create jobs.”

Obama doesn’t think so at this point, however. In an interview this week with The New York Times, the president said he was leaning against seeking a second economic-stimulus package. “I have a strong inclination not to do it,” Obama said, citing expectations that the economy is poised to resume growth. “As you know, jobs tend to be a lagging indicator. They come last,” he said.

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Mustard Daily

Flu shot

continued from page 26

state is mandating vaccinations for all health care facility employees in the state this year.

The risk, he said, is two-fold. First, hospital employees might be infected by the flu virus and come to work before flu symptoms appear, spreading the virus to patients already weakened and hospitalized with other ailments.

Second, healthy hospital workers might pick up the flu virus from patients, taking it home from work to spread it even more widely to their own family and community.

There are other hygiene protocols, like wearing masks and sterile gloves, that can reduce the spread of influenza and other hospital transmitted diseases, but health officials say that vaccination is the only 100 percent effective protection against the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta list health workers among the first who should get inoculated once the vaccines are available.

The number of unvaccinated health workers is "a bit surprising," said Katherine Mars, a RAND Corporation researcher who studies the flu vaccine acceptance in the U.S. "We think health care workers should understand how viruses work, how they are transmitted and the dangers posed to their patients if they should be exposed to somebody actively shedding the virus."

In any given year, less than 40 percent of all adult Americans get the seasonal flu shot, according to the CDC. Last year the figure was 57 percent, and until the last couple of years hovered around 30 percent annually.

Traditionally only about 40 percent of health care workers have received the seasonal shot. Thanks to concerted pressure by the CDC and other national health agencies, the percentage of health care workers getting vaccinated has inched up to 53 percent.

"Health care facilities have had to jump through a lot of hoops to convince some to be vaccinated," Harris said. "They have given away prizes, staged pizza parties, entertained with silly videos to get them to sit down for a shot. It's a lot of expensive hassle to reach people who are supposed to view it as no harm to protect themselves and their patients."

Doctors and nurses are most likely to get vaccinated, she said. Less likely are workers like lab technicians, receptionists, orderlies and housekeepers. The least likely to get the vaccine are nursing home workers.

"Vaccines are a touchy issue these days," said Barbara Burlingame, a veteran emergency room nurse at Elmhurst Hospital. "There are a lot of people who believe vaccines are causing an increase in autism, for example. Is it? I don't know, but there are something like 32 vaccines now given to kids, and it is becoming a loaded question."

Burlingame said she has always taken the optional seasonal flu vaccine at Elmhurst, but knows co-workers "who say there is no way they are going to take it." She said she would make up her mind about the swine flu shot after safety tests are completed.

Harris, the RAND researcher, said early indications are that more health care workers are willing to get a swine flu vaccine when it becomes available, but still less than one in four people say they are "strongly encouraged" employees to get the shot. The Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kendall and McHenry counties public health departments have only "voluntary" vaccination policies, too.

Last flu season, 63 percent of DuPage County Department of Public Health workers were vaccinated, and they expect higher coverage this year because of the additional swine flu threat.

"We have been making an effort to make it easier for our own employees to get the flu vaccine, setting up areas to get the shot in our lobby and taking carts around the building right to where they work," said Dave Has, the department spokesman.

Mandatory flu shots for health care workers is not a new idea, said Loyola's Paradis, who pointed out that hospital workers everywhere must be vaccinated for rubella, measles, hepatitis B and rabies as a condition of employment.

Loyola for the last few years success­ fully increased seasonal flu vacci­ nations coverage of its employees on a voluntary basis, reaching 73 per­ cent last year.

"That was good, but it was far from enough in good enough in a health care setting, leaving a quarter of your people unprotected," he said, explaining the decision to make flu vaccines mandatory. "It is the right thing to do."
Obama-as-Hitler poster provokes incident

Lynn Thompson

As a child in Armenia, Henry Gasparian witnessed firsthand the horrors of Nazi Germany. Two sisters were killed, his father wounded and a brother starved to death during the German invasion and occupation of the Soviet Union. So when Gasparian, 70, saw a poster of President Obama with a Hitler mustache near the entrance to the Edmonds Farmers Market Sept. 5, he concedes his reaction was "personal and emotional."

He tried to grab the flyers being passed out by supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, a perennial presidential candidate who has likened Obama's health-care proposals to the Nazi extermination of Jews and other "undesirables."

Two young LaRouche workers told police that Gasparian repeatedly pushed them and grabbed one of their arms. Gasparian said it was they who first pushed him.

Now Gasparian is charged with two counts of 4th degree assault in Edmonds Municipal Court for what he describes as an attempt by "an old man to say you cannot insult the president with this outrageous campaign."

The Edmonds incident has been echoed around the country over the past few months. LaRouche supporters have disrupted town hall meetings on health care, including most famously, the young woman who asked Rep. Barney Frank in August why he supported a "Nazi health care plan." The Massachusetts Democrat replied, "On what planet do you spend most of your time?"

The LaRouche Political Action Committee Web site says "Stop Obama's Nazi Health Plan" and encourages visitors to download the "Obama-as-Hitler poster and take it to town hall meetings."

In Washington state, LaRouche workers have set up tables outside post offices, at the Evergreen and Puyallup Fairs and other public venues.

The local LaRouche activists declined to comment on the Edmonds incident and referred questions to the national office. Nancy Spannaus, a spokeswoman for the LaRouche PAC, defended the Obama-as-Hitler posters saying they are an "honest emblem of what the administration policy represents."

She said the Obama plan is premised on the idea that some people cost too much to keep alive, a change the Obama administration and health-care advocates say is necessary.

But the heightened rhetoric and extreme views surrounding the public debate are raising alarms among political observers and groups that monitor hate speech and threats against minorities.

Hilary Bernstein, Pacific Northwest community director of the Anti-Defamation League, a national civil rights organization, worries that the language first propagated by LaRouche backers, who espouse a far-right political point of view, is now entering the mainstream debate.

"What used to be so fringe is making its way into talk radio, blogs, YouTube and other news sources that people see as legitimate," she said.

David Domke, a University of Washington professor who specializes in political communication, said that while people have been saying terrible things about politicians since the country began, "the intensity and depth of feeling today seems to be at a dangerous point."

We have conversations now in the same way we go to war. We have to demature the other person," Domke said.

Henry Gasparian said that he had seen news reports that included the images of Obama as Hitler, but wasn't prepared when he saw the poster outside the crowded Edmonds market.

The police report says that Gasparian yelled at the LaRouche activists from his car, "flipped them off" and repeatedly yelled obscenities. The activists told police that he returned on foot and assaulted them without provocation.

Gasparian left the scene after the confrontation, but said he drove past the table about two hours later. When he saw a police officer nearby, he said, he stopped and questioned him about the activist's right to use the Nazi imagery.

The LaRouche workers saw Gasparian and identified him to the officer as the man who had earlier assaulted them. That's when Gasparian was handcuffed and arrested. He said three or four patrol cars surrounded the intersection of Fifth and Main "as if they had caught Bin Laden."

Arms Gasparian, 29, bailed his father out of jail 12 hours later. He said his father had never had more than a speeding ticket before this incident.

"It's shocking, to say the least," he said.

Henry Gasparian, photographed Tuesday, September 15, said he tried to grab the fliers being handed out by Lyndon LaRouche supporters. Here, Gasparian tells of how he became enraged upon confronting two LaRouche supporters on this corner, outside the Edmonds Farmers Market, in Edmonds, Washington, as they carried signs depicting President Obama with a Hitler mustache.
"Does your friend have a crush on the hot guy at school?" it says on its Web site. "Use SpoofCard to call her out on a date!"

SpoofCard customers rave about "I spoofed a friend into thinking he won a million dollars," one customer wrote on the Web site, adding that the friend then went out and bought a $600 bottle of champagne to celebrate.

Meir Cohen, president of TelTech Systems in Toms River, N.J., said SpoofCard has been in business for years.

"It's not a secret that it can be a controversial product," he said. "But we have millions and millions of customers and the vast, vast majority are using our product for totally legal purposes."

Many customers use it to protect their privacy, he said.

"Doctors love our product, because if they're on call and they get a page at home and have to call the patient back, they don't want to call from their house phone or cell phone because they don't want to give that number out," he said.

Law enforcement agencies also use it for undercover operations, he said.

Cohen said people may expect caller ID to be 100 percent reliable, but it shouldn't be used to verify the caller.

"A lot of people, their first reaction when they see this service is, 'Oh, this is terrible,'" he said. "It's because with caller ID, we've gotten a false level of security that people felt."

SpoofCard is not traceable, Cohen said unless authorities subpeona the records.

If anybody does use the product illegally, we take a very proactive approach to help law enforcement," he said.

He said his company also has been working to stop "phishing." "We don't allow you to call 911," he said, adding that the service is collecting more police numbers to block from its system.

But critics say the spoofing services give criminals another tool to use on their victims.

"If anybody does use the product illegally, we take a very proactive approach to help law enforcement," he said. "It's hard to imagine any productive use. There are far more opportunities for illicit uses than for productive ones."

When Florida passed a broader "Anti-Spoofing Act" last year, TelTech and others sued the state in U.S. District Court, arguing that the law was unconstitutional because there were legitimate purposes for using "spoofed" phone numbers.

In July, the federal court agreed and struck down the state law.

In Missouri, Democratic Rep. Paul LeVota co-sponsored a similar bill this year, but it never got a hearing.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster said spoofing is a major concern.

"We are seeing increased levels of spoofing across the board, and we deal with it increasingly in our efforts to try and enforce Missouri's no-call list," he said. "It's hard to imagine any productive use. There are far more opportunities for illicit uses than for productive ones."

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Attempts have been made in Congress to restrict spoofing, but they have not been successful.

In June 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a "Truth in Caller ID Act," making it illegal to transmit false caller ID information with the intent to "defraud or harm." The measure did not pass the Senate. Similar bills have been introduced as well but have gone nowhere.

But some states are cracking down on spoofing. This year, Louisiana passed a law banning the use of spoofing services to "mislead, defraud or deceive" the recipients of the calls, and a similar law has passed the state Senate in New York.

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Spoofing
continued from page 30
free access number kept getting called in the early morning hours," he said. "So I Googled it and found SpoofCard. I had no idea this was even a possibility. We subpoenaed SpoofCard records, and lo and behold, they had accounts for her."
According to the lawsuit, the man started working in the woman's home as a babysitter when he was 13 years old and living in Kansas City. The harassment started when he went to college, according to the lawsuit.
The woman called and sent text messages to the man and his friends, using SpoofCard to disguise where the calls were coming from.
According to the lawsuit, the woman placed more than 400 phone calls to the man and more than 100 calls to his former girlfriend.
The woman denied making the calls and sending text messages. She has filed a motion requesting a new trial and asking the judge to vacate his order.
"SpoofCard sounds like just practical jokes," Curry said, "but it really was terrifying for him. He had no control over what any of his friends were hearing about him; he had no privacy."
Clohessy said he did see "a potential silver lining" amid his concerns about spoofing.
"Hopefully, the lesson folks will learn is that if you misuse this service, you'll get caught and the consequences will be harsh," he said.

Friday, September 18, 2009
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Turning Disabilities into Possibilities
The small demand for new locomotives is expected to turn around because the federal government is sending billions of dollars in economic stimulus grants to the states to support high-speed-intensity rail travel. The Obama administration has allocated $8 billion in seed money to work developing about 10 high-speed corridors and purchasing trains, and it has proposed an additional $5 billion in spending over four years.

The infusion of money will help an industry feeling the full effects of the recession. Each month, only about one new freight locomotive rolls out of the plant in Mount Vernon where the National Railway Equipment Co. is building new lower-emission engines that will be shipped to customers in Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and other distant lands. Production is down from about 12 locomotives built every month just two years ago, company officials said.

"Right now, the market is horrible," said James Wurtz Jr., vice president of the 25-year-old company that builds and refurbishes locomotives in Mt. Vernon and four other locations along segments where safeguards are implemented to prevent accidents involving trains and other vehicles. California has launched the most ambitious program, aimed at operating electric-powered trains at 220 mph from Sacramento to San Diego.

The locomotive manufacturers aiming at the Midwest will be competitive only if they can bring to the market powerful new diesel-electric technology capable of pulling passenger trains at speeds of up to 125 mph. The new American-made trains that will be compared to European and Japanese models must be cleaner, quieter and more fuel-efficient than most of the equipment now in use in the U.S., experts say.

National Railway Equipment is forming a team of engineers to develop a concept for passenger locomotives, as well as talking with other companies to build the coach cars, officials said.

"We are already conducting research to test how the wheels and frame of our new generator set engines operate at 110 mph," said Lawrence Beal, president and chairman of the board at National Railway Equipment.

If National Railway Equipment enters the competition, company officials hope a prototype, a sleek, aerodynamically designed passenger version of its N-ViroMotive locomotive, will be completed relatively soon to undergo a safety evaluation at test tracks near Pueblo, Colo., run by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Association of American Railroads.

The N-ViroMotive technology has advantages over its competition because the multiple 7,000-horsepower engines mounted on each locomotive can be operated independently, when lower power is needed, or simultaneously to meet higher demand, Wurtz said.
Mustang Daily

NEWS

Obama scraps long-range missile defense shield

Warren P. Strobel and Margaret Talev

President Barack Obama announced Thursday that he's scrapping the Bush administration's controversial missile-defense shield, citing new intelligence that shows a diminished threat from the long-range Iranian missiles the system was supposed to guard against.

Key components of the program were to be stationed in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Obama's shift in strategy appeared aimed in good part at Russia, which has vigorously opposed deploying the system near its western borders. The United States apparently hopes that the move will ease Moscow's opposition to imposing tough new sanctions on Iran if talks on its nuclear weapons program fail.

While he was canceling the system of interceptor missiles and tracking radars slated for Eastern Europe, Obama said he had signed off on a new missile defense strategy that would be based on proven technologies and aimed more at the short- and medium-range missiles that Iran is thought to be developing.

The graphic outlines the new missile defense plan announced by President Obama to protect U.S. allies and U.S. forces from attack by Iran's short and medium range missiles.

New missile defense plan

President Barack Obama announced a missile-defense system that would protect against Iran's short- and medium-range missile capabilities.

The plan:

Phase one: Missile-equipped Aegis warships to defend European allies and U.S. forces

• New, more mobile radar to detect, track missiles

Phase two: Land-based missile system starting about 2015

SM-3 missile

Intercepts an incoming ballistic missile outside Earth's atmosphere

• Does not carry explosive
• Kinetic energy released in high-speed collision destroys target

 Diameter: 13.5 in. (0.34 m)

Operational range: 310 mi. (500 km)

Aegis destroyer

Uses ballistic missile defense system to protect against short-, medium-range missiles

Crew: 323 (23 officers)

Speed: 36 mph (58 kph)

Range: 5,060 mi. (8,140 km)

NOTE: Destroyer and missile not drawn to scale

The graphic outlines the new missile defense plan announced by President Obama to protect U.S. allies and U.S. forces from attack by Iran's short and medium range missiles.

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be greek
Discussion of public option necessary for health care reform

I am a granola-crunching, free-trade coffee gulpng, socially conscious, 70's rock n' roll Jesus freak. I am a liberal, in part because I like my politicians honest, and despite Rep. Joe Wilson's (R-SC) outburst during the President's Address to Congress Sept. 9, Barack Obama hasn't lied yet. After hearing the partisan fear-mongering spewing from the Republican Party this summer, I'm sad to say that I can't say the same for them.

As the summer heated up, so did the debate over public option health care — especially when the conservatives ran out of lemon's at their tea parties and they started crashing the Democrats' town hall meetings. At an event in New Hampshire and an event in Arizona that President Obama attended to discuss health care, two conservative men showed up with guns. That extreme behavior is a result of the public fear over health care reform that Republican politicians and talking heads have tapped into. As they demonstrated at President Obama's speech to Congress Sept. 9, Republican politicians refuse to let the ideas put forward by Democrats to reform health care. Instead, Republican's claim that the government will be given the power to deny care to senior citizens, give free health care to illegal immigrants, turn America into a socialist nation, and force everyone into the public option health care. I'd just like to point out that once some thing is forced, it is no longer an option.

These claims remind me of what George Washington wrote about partisanship in his farewell address: "It serves always to distort the public councils and enfeebles the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomenters occasionally riot and insurrection."

Ultimately the Republican claims only distract us from the positive goal of ensuring that the 46.3 million Americans without health care (according to the Census Bureau) do not die from a disease or illness that could have been treated or prevented by seeing a doctor. And Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) explained conservatives' attitude and motives well when he said, "If we're able to stop Obama on this it will be his death knell." (October 9, 2009) Two copies of this bill could probably wallpaper the entire Spider Building.

While the public option is outlined in the bill, much of the bill deals with ensuring that existing insurance plans completely cover individuals. It essentially sets a high standard through the public option that all policies must meet.

At the end of Section B, the bill states that the purpose of the public option is to ensure "choice, competition, and stability of affordable, high quality coverage throughout the United States." It goes on to note that "In designing the plan, the (Health and Human Services) secretary's primary responsibility is to create a low-cost plan without compromising quality or access to care.

The public option is on the table to provide healthy, capitalistic competition for the other insurance companies currently charging high premiums for low quality coverage — and without the public option, all talk of health care reform is meaningless. Sometimes the late Ted Kennedy wrote about President Obama in a letter delivered upon his death struck me as interesting to contemplate as the political future of America unfolds: "At stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of right and justice and the character of our country."

I think the character of the United States is worth giving some thought to. What kind of America do we live in? What should America look like in the future? And what kind of America am I helping to shape through my political and social ideas? Instead of pledging allegiance to a par ty's ideas, I think we should consider the character we are instilling in this country by the opinions that influence us as a whole.

I think the political future of America is worth giving some thought to. What kind of America do we live in? What should America look like in the future? And what kind of America am I helping to shape through my political and social ideas? Instead of pledging allegiance to a party's ideas, I think we should consider the character we are instilling in this country by the opinions that influence us as a whole.

Stephanie England is an English senior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

"I don't understand why people would degrade themselves like that ... it just seems so demeaning and insulting and any person with some sense of 'self-worth' would not participate in those activities ... aren't there other more positive ways to forge strong bonds?"

- Alumnus

Response to "Gedick on greek? Look before you leap, a Mustang Daily 'Know Your Rights' special!

"Of course the government is breaking out. This occurred in the 1970s, they said millions would die! They had mass advertisements that scared people into taking shots to avoid it..."

-Brent Buck

Response to "BLOG: Vote no on the Rail Gun project"

"You forgot to mention going to the Library on Higuera and being disappointed there are no books."

-Blake

Response to "How to spot a tourist in San Luis Obispo"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to an article posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily print comments that are coherent and future intelligent discussion on a given subject.
The Republican party should rebuild, not rebrand inefficiencies

Jasper Hicks

I am perplexed. How can it be that someone is a "better" Republican than someone else? I never knew one's commitment to his or her political party could be measured, let alone ranked. Nevertheless, Republican infighting between Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and Rush Limbaugh has been reduced to just that: Who can be cliued to the title of best Republican. Turn on any news program nowadays and you can watch "America's Next Top Republican.

All kidding aside, this issue is important for all American voters. The fighting raises questions as to what the Republican Party will look like in the future. From one point of view — that of Limbaugh and Cheney — Republicans must cater to their more conservative-leaning constituents in order to oppose liberal-leaning Democrats. From the other point of view — that of Colin Powell — Republicans must expand their base as much as possible to win elections. The way I see it, the Limbaugh and Cheney camp is attempting to rebrand the Republican Party as the party of conservatives will not fix the party or win it votes, but rather give the GOP a new paint job, while losing moderates and independents in the process. To win elections, Republicans need to win voters, not alienate them.

In order to rebuild itself, the Republican Party must revise its principles to reflect the moderate current of public opinion, while at the same time remaining true to traditional, Republican values. Some fear such a move towards the center would silence much of the conservative opposition currently being voiced around the country. But while this conservative opposition is legitimate, the way in which it has been voiced is anything but. Their gripes may be relevant, but it nonetheless appears that Cheney is solely attempting to save face and Limbaugh is just attempting to boost his ratings.

Colin Powell, however, is the only participant in the current debate who I believe is solely attempting to save the party. And if Republicans follow his advice and consider more moderate stances and more moderate candidates when picking new leaders, they may actually have a shot at winning elections. This process begins first by finding more likeable and competent candidates (like pre-election John McCain). If Republicans can find young, moderate leaders to compete in upcoming elections, they will greatly improve their chances of success. But finding such candidates is only the first step necessary for a party that is currently in shambles. To truly rebuild itself, the GOP must restructure its party platform so that the Republicans, and not the Democrats, become the party that voters believe is in touch with the country.

Rebranding, for the GOP, inevitably requires rethinking some issues on which many critics consider Republicans to be stuck in their ways. The Republican Party, for example, can still adhere to the conservative principle that marriage is between a man and a woman, while supporting a wide range of rights for same-sex couples. Likewise, although Republicans fear that environmental regulations will stifle business, they can acknowledge that global climate change is a problem that needs to be dealt with immediately. Rethinking and rebuilding are essential for the Republicans if they are to become viable in upcoming elections. Although the GOP is the party of traditional values and ideas, it need not be the party of sedentary beliefs. Restructuring the party, finding appealing young leaders and following Powell's suggestion of opening up the base to more moderate views will be the triffeca that wins the new Republican Party success.

Friday, September 18, 2009

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Islamic terrorist recruitment rising

Jared Stancombe
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (INDIANA U)

With the pictures coming out of Abu Ghraib and the stories of torture and abuse in Guantanamo Bay among other things, Islamist terrorist recruitment figures are on the rise.

They are recruiting poor, angry and uneducated people that see America as a threat to their livelihoods and existence.

They are brainwashed into an ideology that distorts religious texts to fit militant agendas.

However, with an open dialogue with the Middle East, misconceptions and misunderstandings can be resolved.

While there are those who will not be swayed through meaningful engagement, the use of diplomacy may prevent many who share misconceptions from falling for the twisted ideas of Islamist extremism.

In the United States, discourse between opposing sides is heated because of Obama's agenda.

People are showing up to town halls full of rage and an ideology that blinds them from facts.

They show up with assault rifles to intimidate and exclaim blatant lies to force people to become emotional and shatter any chance for logical debate.

Images of the American flag are used; people talk about how "unconstitutional Obama's health care plan is and how the government wants to kill grandma.

They seek to brainwash those who are vulnerable into thinking Obama's agenda is a threat to their livelihoods and recruit the ignorant into their ranks.

Their passion prevents them from acknowledging the merits of the opposing side.

The far-left and far-right are both using lies and misinformation to recruit those into their ranks.

The far-right states that the health care plan is a threat to their way of life and the prosperity of America, just as terrorist groups claim that the existence of Israel and U.S. intervention in the Middle East is a threat to Muslim faith.

The vulnerable believe these arguments because they are oblivious to the facts and refuse to listen to all sides of an argument and think for themselves.

Intellectual laziness is driven through emotion, and soon the opposition becomes demonized and any chance for understanding and compromise is lost.

While Sayyid Qutb may be a champion for Islamist militant thought, Glenn Beck, Keith Olbermann and other pundits have become champions for their own respective thoughts.

They all use distortions of existing beliefs, news on justice and the rule of law to advance their own agendas.

What is needed is reasonable, logical civic discourse.
WOWies take over Cal Poly: The following pages explore what kept students busy during the last days of summer...  — and what had them excited about the year ahead.

To see pictures of the events that WOWies participated in, see WOWies, pages 39-41, 43
WOWies
continued from page 58

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Dinners of students took advantage of discounted admission prices at Mustang Lanes (above), bowling and eating pizza on Wednesday afternoon. WOW leaders received free admission to the lanes, while new students paid $1 for a week-long pass. WOW Group 8 (below) played a game involving a series of hand slapping to knock players off their balance. This was one of several games WOWies and their leaders were spotted playing on lawns across campus throughout the week.
Thousands of WOWies gathered on the Cal Poly Sports Complex (above) to play bonding games at WOW-A-RAMA Wednesday evening. Alumnus Frank Warren returned for another year as the event’s master of ceremonies. Members of WOW Group 83 (below) spent their afternoon rock climbing outside of Poly Escapes in the University Union. Some activities remained a mystery to students: leader and biomedical engineering sophomore Nick Hanne said his group is looking forward to a surprise event that was to be held on Thursday night.

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Cal Poly Arts celebrates silver anniversary

Cassandra Keyse

It’s pretty rare these days for anything or anyone to reach a 25th anniversary — marriages end, businesses go under and fashions go out of style. For many, making it to the 25-year mark is an achievement worth celebrating, and that’s just what Cal Poly Arts director Steve Lerian plans to do when the organization celebrates a quarter century of performances this year.

“The greatest legacy of this anniversary is the fact that we have been able to bring more than a thousand artists to this community,” Lerian said. “Without Cal Poly Arts, this community would not have been able to experience any of this.”

This year’s lineup features 41 different artistic acts including theater, classical music and a variety of different dance companies. To Lerian and other officials, it seems that although the economy has brought people down, the arts can be depended on to lift spirits.

To Lerian and other officials, it seems that although the economy has brought people down, the arts can be depended on to lift spirits. Lerian said that it was performing or not, “especially with faculty and staff having to take furlough days ... and tickets are something that people have an option to cut back on.”

With that in mind, ticket sales for this year have been decreased by six dollars and an extra 20 percent discount is offered to faculty and staff members, the same discount that was offered to only students in the past. Student rushes, which give students who arrive immediately before shows start the opportunity to buy discounted tickets, will be offered for select shows.

“We would really like to encourage more students to attend so we’ve started using social networking Web sites such as Facebook and Twitter to get the word out,” Ron Regier, managing director of the Christopher Cohan Center, said. “We realize that ticket prices can be prohibitive so we’re really trying our best to lower the barriers to students.”

Regier has been involved with the program since 1987, first as the director of the Center for the Arts for eight years, and now as managing director. He said that the program has made significant improvements over the past two decades.

For graphic communications mentor Evan Rohwer, a discounted student ticket price would be a deciding factor in choosing whether or not to see a show.

“Cheaper tickets are always going to help me decide, but it would also depend on if I recognized who was performing or not,” she said. Although no particular theme went into planning events for the upcoming season, more attention has been paid to showcase popular culture and music than is normally the case, Lerian added.

Performance highlights for fall quarter include an exotic dance show by the Belladance Superstars, country music legend Merle Haggard as well as a special acoustic Jethro Tull concert by member Ian Anderson.

One event, co-sponsored by Associated Students Inc. (ASI), will feature Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery. They will be in residence at Cal Poly for four days in early November, during which they will be creating a mandala sand painting in the University Union lobby. Later in the week, they will perform traditional dances and chants at the Christopher Cohan Center. Another ASI sponsored event will feature two free comedy acts in Alex & Poyo Spanos Theater on Sept. 19.

“In terms of where the program has come from and the season that’s coming up, it would be too hard to choose a few as my favorite. There are just too many good shows,” Regier said. “The number of events and overall quality has improved dramatically.”

For this 25th anniversary celebration, there is no one show that seems to stand out among the rest. “Every show this year is a must-see,” Lerian said.
WOW groups attend a Respect Workshop in Chumash Auditorium (above) Wednesday afternoon. The new mandatory activity addressed issues like campus diversity and the university’s inclusive excellence policy. Below, WOWies enjoy down time shooting pool at Mustang Lanes in the University Union later that day.

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Splash Cafe

Welcome from page 41
Fox’s “Glee” will keep toes tapping

Cassandra Keyse

“Glee” is a show that tries to appeal to very specific demographics: those who fell under the “High School Musical” spell, those who are actually in high school and those who loved high school theater so much they can’t get enough of the clashing cliques and constant drama.

The equation is simple for this junior varsity soap opera. Take six parts student misfit, add in one part show choir alumnus-Spanish-teacher, top it off with a heaping serving of teenage awkwardness and what’s left is a veritable cocktail for a musical melodrama.

The May premier introduces high school teacher Will, a man with an optimistic outlook on reviving the school’s show choir, despite a lack of interest among the student body. Will and his wife have a rocky marriage, a fact that has not helped to discourage him from flirting with the school’s guidance counselor, Emma.

Then there are the students: Rachel is the perfectionist with a passion for musical theater; Finn is the popular football player who has been forced into the club via blackmail; Kurt is an individual who is sometimes thrown in the garbage can for standing out; Artie is a bit of a nerd but doesn’t let that stop him; Mercedes is the resident diva and Tina is a non-conformist with her own sense of style.

Show tunes play right before every commercial break, unrequited love abounds and the social issues that resound in every high school’s hallways are just as common in this show as in all of its predecessors.

It’s the musical component that has the potential to keep viewers anxious for more. The pilot’s claim to fame was in its closing number, Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin,” the song that not only secured club advisor Will’s investment in the future of the club, but also had a way of asking viewers to give the new Fox series a chance. And it seems that the request for an audience was answered, as the fall premier on Sept. 9 caught the attention of over seven million viewers.

But is the song and dance enough to sustain an entire show? If people can handle the predictable plot twists (Will’s wife has already faked a pregnancy to keep his attention) and cheesy adolescent moments (such as first kisses during voice practice), it just might work out for the better.

For all the “Gleeks” out there, let’s just hope they can keep the show tunes at the center of attention and the drama to a minimum.
Sorority girls can't make slasher film worthwhile

Ash Anderson
THE CLAREMONT BURLINGTON UNIVERSITY

Hollywood is absolutely obsessed with showing members of fraternities and sororities as lecherous college students.

In least thread in the weave of this stereotype is "Sorority Row," a movie about a prank gone terribly wrong that leaves one of the members of Theta Pi (which isn't a real sorority, mind you) rotting down a well.

The set up for this situation is actually quite good. Each sorority girl is introduced in a way unique to her personality. There's the nice one, the irritable one, the more-attractive-than-the-rest one, the druggie one and the smart one, all of whom help the anorexic one get back at the guy that cheated on her.

They give the guy some pills, tell him they're roofies, and watch what happens when they pretend that she has died from an overdose.

You know what happens from here because you've undoubtedly seen the trailer. The girl who isn't actually dead gets actually dead when she's impaled with a tire iron, and the girls make a "pact" to never tell a soul. Well, obviously someone finds out. Otherwise there wouldn't be a story and there certainly wouldn't be a killer with a "pimped-out" tire iron, as one of the girls that's still alive so deftly points out.

The rest of the movie is simply gratuitous moments of stupidity involving all but one of the girls. She's the hero, remember. She can't be stupid.

Marketed as a slasher film, "Sorority Row" is awful when judged with the lowest of standards. It's hard to make a bad horror movie, and yet Summit Entertainment has officially succeeded.

Maybe it's because I've been spoiled each Halloween for the last six years with each subsequent "Saw" installment. Or perhaps because I'm affiliated with Greek life and realize just how annoying this stereotype really is.

Either way, the fact of the matter is that this is not a good film. The characters are annoying - even the heroine - and, worst of all, by the time the killer was unveiled, I really didn't care who it was.

At its core, "Sorority Row" had all the necessary ingredients for a successful slasher film: overly attractive men and women, unnecessary swearing, massive quantities of alcohol and passive-aggressive parents.

Be that as it may, the writing is absolutely terrible, and none of the aforementioned qualities can save these characters from themselves.

After all, would you really want to watch a movie where a killer hides in a big pile of Jacuzzi bubbles?
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FBI
continued from page 46

business giant Archer Daniels Midland who volunteered to help the feds convict his co-workers of price fixing.

Whitacre, whom Damon plays with comic abandon, turned out to be much more than a whistle-blower. He wore an FBI wire into closed-door sessions with his ADM bosses, but even while providing evidence that would end up convicting several of his firm’s executives, Whitacre was involved in scams of his own. He led to the feds, he lied to his bosses, and, while working with the FBI, he embezzled more than $9 million.

The informant would end up spending more time in prison than the co-workers he turned in.

The convoluted case was laid out in minute detail in “The Informant!” Kurt Eichenwald’s non-fiction book published in 2009. Herndon had the FBI’s permission to talk numerous times with the author.

Now it was Hollywood’s turn. Unlike the book, the movie was made with almost no input from Herndon.

All Herndon could hope for was that the film would spread a message about corporate fraud and greed.

But as the lights went down and his wife, Raclene, took his hand, the FBI agent prepared himself for the possibility that his big-screen portrait might not be all that flattering.

“A Secret Service agent attended my church,” Herndon, 46, recalls of his boyhood in Kansas. “An FBI agent lived a few doors down. I always dreamed of joining the FBI.”

After graduating from high school, he studied accounting at the University of Kansas and joined a CPA firm. But in 1986 he applied to the bureau, then looking for numbers crunchers to handle white-collar crime, and was accepted.

Herndon’s first posting was in New Orleans, where he was part of a team that brought down a corrupt jurist. “It was the first time the FBI wired the courtroom of a federal judge,” he said.

He was working in the Springfield, Ill., office when he became part of the ADM investigation. He worked closely with agent Brian Shepad (played by Scott Bakula) who had first been contacted by Whitacre.

For several years Herndon and Shepad directed Whitacre’s efforts, making sound or video recordings of almost 200 conversations between their informant and targets.

They were ranked from, the case after ADM’s attorneys aired an anonymous accusation — Herndon thinks it was from Whitacre himself — that among other things the agents had appropriated some of Whitacre’s embezzled money.

“That caused an internal investigation,” Herndon said. “After that Mark turned us in a lawsuit claiming we had appropriated some of Whitacre’s embezzled money.”

Still, the agents resented not being able to complete their investigation. Vindication finally came with the conviction of the ADM officials.

“One after another the guilty verdicts came in. Brian and I felt validated. The jurors were affirming that we weren’t some bad guys, that we’d done our job.”

Herndon is a straight arrow. Father of three. Highly religious. And of course, he’s with the FBI.

He doesn’t much in common with the type of people who make movies. Or at least that’s what he thought.

Several things have happened over the last couple of years to change that perception.

Two years ago his son Matthew, then 11, was diagnosed with a life-threatening brain aneurysm. While the family gathered in a Dallas hotel room on the eve of Matthew’s big surgery, the phone rang.

It was Matt Damon. He wanted to talk to Matthew.

At that point filming on “The Informant!” hadn’t begun. But Damon had been cast and knew all about Herndon. Somehow he’d heard about the family’s crisis.

“Matthew is talking on the phone and at one point he puts his hand over the receiver and asks, ‘Who’s Matt Damon?’” Herndon recalled with a laugh. “After his successful surgery he watched the ‘Beorne’ movies, and of course now he’s a Damon fan.”

Then, while “The Informant!” was in production last summer in

see FBI, page 52

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The back-to-school adventure begins:

It's important to stay balanced when schedules get busy

It's back-to-school time and everyone is attempting to organize their lives into perfectly color-coded bins purchased from Bed Bath & Beyond — only they have yet to find out that one thing doesn't fit quite so perfectly into these bins, namely, your relationships (or lack thereof). It's hard to meet new people, be the responsible student, make the most of your day and still have time to be alone. The dilemma here is how to start a school year successfully, while still keeping your options open for possibly beginning a new relationship or keeping the one you already have. The solution is simple, but does require balance.

Balance isn't just a term used in your yoga class or to describe your diet; it should also be used to organize your relationship bin. Life in general will be better when you use balance as your guide in your schoolwork, social as well as sex life and wellbeing.

This doesn't mean that in one day you can't sleep in late, go to an all-day party, find some cool girl to hang out with all night and barely make it home at 3 a.m. You just have to ensure that the next day you get all your homework finished, all your laundry cleaned, and that you study for your midterm. In other words, everyone's concept of balance is going to look the same; some need to fit all of their hookups and sleepovers into their weekend, while others seem to have no problem wearing them in throughout the week's tasks.

It also means you don't have to find that significant other right in the beginning of the quarter. If your life revolves around school in the beginning and a social life later, follow through with that. If that person is right for you, he or she will most likely still be waiting next month. And if you're already in a serious relationship, a lot of that back-to-school stress won't affect you since you've both already learned how to make a relationship work.

If the balance isn't really there, it might be time to try something new. For example, if studying on the bed is too tempting for you, try going to the library or making goals for one another. When a goal is reached, give each other some sort of reward. This way you'll get stuff done as well as enjoying each other's company.

Not everyone can be lucky enough to find the perfect boy­friend who just so happens to live right across the hall; it might take a little more work than that. Getting involved in as many things as possible is your best bet for finding that perfect relationship at any time of the year. You don't have to be the life of the party; you just have to be at some parties. Don't be afraid to join clubs, run, swim and bike for the triathlon team or even cheer for the football team from the bleachers. You're guaranteed to meet the most people by just putting yourself out there and doing new things.

So, while keeping up with your responsibilities when school begins, don't forget to put yourself out there and do things you've never done, because you never know who you might meet and what adventures you will have.

Cassandra Becking is a liberal studies junior and Mustang Daily relationship columnist. "Chatting with Cassie" is a weekly column that will appear on Tuesdays.

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Post-WWII novel examines literature's ability to unite across boundaries

I'll admit it — I don't generally read best-sellers. It seems to me that it is due more to advertising than to good writing that they appear on the list in the first place. Nevertheless, I couldn't help but be intrigued by this title and wanted to know if the list in the first place. Neverthe- less, it is due more to advertising than to good writing that they appear on the list in the first place. Nevertheless, I couldn't help but be intrigued by this title and wanted to know if

The intimate letters written between Juliet and the people of Guernsey weave together complex relationships between the writers. The letter format allows the reader to hear a little bit of each of the characters' voices and get an idea of their relationships in a way that we don't get from a single narrator. I was actually quite impressed that the authors were able from the town eccentric to the handyman, everyone who wants to feel some sort of connection is included, no questions asked. These are the sort of bonds that don't form every day but are made all the stronger because of the difficult circumstances from which they arise. This is truly the high point of Shaffer and Bar­ rows' work, showing how very resilient the human spirit can be as well as how fragile, and how very thin that line is.

One of my favorite lines in this book comes at the beginning, when Juliet writes to Dawsey, "Perhaps it was all a coincidence when Dowsey came across Juliet's name scribbled in one of his favorite books, which he found at a second-hand shop. Their letters soon become more than simple questions about where to find more books by a certain author and actu-

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Jewish high holidays provide fun in the kitchen

KOSHER IN THE KITCHEN

BETHANY ABELSON

From my major, to eating, to watching the Food Network, the topic of food is on my mind most hours of the day. I view food as something I put into my body as an ordinary daily activity for most, and this is very significant to the two holiest days of the Jewish year. Every time Rosh Hashanah comes around, I stalk up on sweets in order to make it.

I have always loved food and coming to college has expanded my love and made me want to pass it on to others. This time of the year is an especially fun one for me, since it’s one of the holiest days of the year. While not all of my columns will focus on Jewish cooking, this time for the Jewish high holidays, I promote eating, the other fasting. Since Rosh Hashanah is the New Year, people enjoy eating something sweet in order to have a sweet New Year, a personal and traditional favorite is apples dipped in honey. I know it sounds unusual but I suggest you try this simple delicacy because it will satisfy your sweet tooth and give you a good source of dietary fiber and vitamin C. For the bakers at Poly, who want to make it.

I recommend trying a simple recipe that breaks the task down into simple steps. There are several variations you can use when making rugelach, so look for a recipe that allows for that, too. For students who don’t eat cheese, substitute more butter or margarine for the cream cheese. I enjoy the cinnamon and sugar filling the best because it adds a nice sweetness to the pastry but does not mask the flavor of the dough as much as the other fillings. Rugelach can also be found in your local grocery store if you don’t bake or do not have time to make.

While Rosh Hashanah encourages eating sweets, Yom Kippur calls for fasting from sundown the previous night to sun down the next day. It’s funny that the act of eating, an ordinary daily activity for most, is very significant to the two holiest days of the Jewish year. Every time Rosh Hashanah comes around, I stalk up on sweets in order to make it.

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Grand Lake searches for identity, truth in debut album

In "City of Glass," the first story from Paul Auster's The New York Trilogy, protagonist Quinn writes detective stories under the pen name William Wilson, only to end up acting as a detective under the name Paul Auster. It's a cruel postmodern mindset of identity questions that still only begins to scratch the surface of the increasingly disappearing line between self and creation. The story debuted in 1983 and since then, the psychology continues to probe who we are, the elaborate constructions of self we create and analyze, the elaborate constructions. Nothing is as big as it's made to be, and Nichols reserves the only positive assertion for the mundane in telling someone, "You are a walk in the park." "She's a Hater" fights against other people's projections of themselves with the lyrics slashing out at a friend's girlfriend only to give into a playful bounce. It rearranges overstated conflict as child's play, with shouts of "she's a hater" and the juvenile jab of "See you on craigslist, I'm hitting!"

Album closer "Blue Hoodie" gently moves away from confined modern anger and slips into confined modern love. Love drifts out into synesthesia, two blue hooded sweatshirts lying together and a place on someone's top-eight. At times, it veers into a juvenile sense of love more fascinated with imagery than with emotional connection, but it's the overwhelmin g uncertainty of emotion that pushes it back. It chastely closes with "You're a brilliant mistake" You're my kind of guy" somehow displaying the confusion between desperate love and something much more genuine.

Graham Culperton is an English graduate student, KCRW DJ and Mustang Daily music columnist. "Hipster Bullshit" is a column that will appear on Mondays.

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Los Angeles, Herndon was invited to bring his family for a day on the set.

"Matt Damon spent about an hour and a half with us," he said. "He talked about moving to Dallas or Kansas City, getting away from Miami and finding a different sort of place to raise his kids."

Herndon also got to know the actor who was portraying him. 

"Joel told me he played the part straight up. No comedy. I asked him, 'Are you sure you're playing me as a good, boring FBI agent?' And he said he was.

"We've been in contact off and on ever since," Herndon said. "Joel came here last February for a comedy event and invited my friends and family backstage. He's a really top-notch guy. Good family values. Spent most of the time talking about his kids and wife."

As the lights came up after the "Informant!" screening, Herndon sat for a moment deep in thought. So what did he think?

"Mostly, I think they got it right," he said. "I never felt like they took a cheap shot."

Several scenes, in fact, used dialogue taken directly from the surveillance tapes Herndon and Shepard had made.

The film is played for farcical effect, but the agent said that was a valid approach, especially since the real-life Whitacre had so many idiosyncrasies.

"During the investigation we always thought we were a day away from seeing the case ruined," Herndon said. "It's always that way when you're working with informants. They can decide at any moment they don't want to do it anymore."

The agent says he thinks Whitacre suffered from a mental ailment and had told so many lies that he no longer knew what was true and what wasn't.

"We agents would have discussions about whether that was really Mark's hair or a rug," Herndon said.

They got their answer when they attended Whitacre's sentencing. The convicted embezzler was bald.

"Brian always claimed it wasn't a wig. So I leaned over and said 'I win.'" 

After the conclusion of the ADM and Whitacre cases, Herndon returned to his hometown. Among the cases he has worked since then was that of Kohert K. Courtney, the pharmacist convicted of giving patients diluted cancer drugs.

Herndon and his wife left Kansas City International Airport Monday evening to join the "Informant!" cast at the film's New York premiere.

"This time I can just relax and enjoy the movie," the agent said. "And we're going to a party afterward. George Clooney is an executive producer, and we're hoping he shows up."
Growing international interest in spirituality transforming today’s film industry

Dana Oland

Five years ago, Mary Gervase turned her dream of founding a film festival into a reality. It started with the Dalai Lama’s visit to the Wood River Valley in 2005. She got involved in the effort and kicked it off with a festival of all Buddhist films, from animated shorts to documentaries.

It was a success.

“It was just this beautiful compliment to his (Dalai Lama) message,” Gervase said. “It helped round people’s understanding of what was happening.” That proved to Gervase that she didn’t want to show just any films, but films that have meaning.

“Our goal is to bring people together in a theater setting to see cutting edge films about the meaning of life,” she said. “Everybody has that search. We’re all trying to figure out why we’re here. People are going through that exploration all over the world, in many faiths and spiritual traditions. It’s something that brings us all together.”

The Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival, which runs Friday through Sunday in Sun Valley, Idaho, is part of an expanding international interest in spirituality. You can see 24 films, meet filmmakers and learn more about the movement.

There is a growing hunger for these stories and conversations about spirituality specifically through film, says filmmaker Peter Rodger, whose film “Oh My God” will show on Saturday.

The movement is growing both in the production of independent films and in the number of people who are exploring their own spirituality through films on the Internet.

“People are very conscious about consciousness, and they can use this medium now to explore things that are dear to them,” Rodger said. “Film touches the heart, and I think that’s what’s coming. I think (spiritual film) is going to change everything.”

see Film festival, page 56
The problem with reality:

New video game releases cause a divide among fans and celebrities alike, the line is blurred between fiction and reality

Brian Crecente

Video games are meant to be flights of fancy, but as with television, reality has become an increasingly popular concept to tap into.

Nowhere is this more evident than in music-themed video games. Titles like Guitar Hero 5, The Beatles: Rock Band, and soon-to-be released DJ Hero all use real musicians, living and dead, to help create a stronger sense of realism.

But is that a good thing? For the surviving members of The Beatles and their fans it seems to be.

The self-titled Rock Band game released to phenomenal reviews and delivered an experience that was solely devoted the band. The game, it seems, was an effort not to only give people a chance to play through their favorite Beatles hits, but to get a better sense of how The Beatles grew both as musicians and a band.

The same week that fans of the fab four were rejoicing in the singular experience of The Beatles; Rock Band, the wails of fans and bandmates of late grunge icon Kurt Cobain were up in arms over his inclusion in Guitar Hero 5.

Before the game’s release, publisher Activision told Rolling Stone magazine that Courtney Love wasn’t just integral in bringing Cobain to life in the game, she was great to work with.

But in a frenzy of late-night Twitter updates a week after the game’s release, Love denied that she was happy to be involved in the project, posting 214 Tweets over a six-hour period declaring the game. Cobain’s inclusion in it and most hotly the ability to have the grunge singer perform other songs.

It’s this single feature, which allows gamers to unlock Cobain and have him sing everything from Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire” to Bon Jovi’s “You Give Love a Bad Name,” that seems to be the most upsetting to Nirvana fans and family.

Some critics, too, were unhappy with it. Koelke’s own review de-
Games

continued from page 54

in Guitar Hero 5.

The company did send a prepared statement saying that the game had the necessary license rights from the Cobain estate in a "written agreement signed by Courtney Love to use Kurt Cobain’s likeness as a fully playable character in Guitar Hero 5."

While Love didn’t respond to our requests for an interview, her attorney did, saying that while there was an agreement in place, it didn’t allow the sort of treatment Cobain is getting in the game.

"Mr. Cobain is extremely upset about Activision’s use of Mr. Cobain’s likeness in the video game, " said Keith A. Fink, Love’s attorney, toldKatia. "Activision was granted permission by Kurt’s trust solely to use his name and likeness. Activision was not given an unbridled right to use Mr. Cobain’s name and likeness.

"The agreement Activision has with the trust doesn’t allow them to use his likeness in ways that denigrate his image."

Love’s response to Guitar Hero 5 is a far cry from the response The Beatles: Rock Band. Rock Band is getting from the family and surviving members of The Beatles.

Perhaps that’s because in the Rock Band game players can only perform? as The Beatles in songs by The Beatles. The game comes with 45 tracks, and none are on the way, but they’re only going to be Beatles songs. And none of those Beatles songs work on Rock Band 2.

It’s a clear distinction that could explain Love’s emotional and slightly delayed reaction to Cobain’s use in Guitar Hero 5.

Had she seen The Beatles: Rock Band I’m sure she couldn’t help but ponder over what could have been a video game that celebrates Kurt Cobain rather than using him. A title that ponder over what could have been: a sort of treatment Cobain is getting in the game. Cobain rather than using him. A title that perhaps keep in mind that what makes reality so motivating is that it’s real, not that it’s a jumping off point for a distasteful fiction.

Jamie Block
(MANAGING EDITOR OF MULTIMEDIA)

There are three types of television shows in this world: crime and/or medical dramas, during reality shows and shows that get canceled. We live in a world with a million "CSI" shows, a brand new "NCIS" coming, shows like "The Shield" and "Dark Blue" for everyone’s bad cop, a vast surplus of "Law and Order" offshoreis, enough televised bloody surgery to make even a chief of medicinesquirmish and enough hot tub love to melt the polar ice caps. And then there’s everything else.

People have historically been reluctant to watch some of television’s most original programming. The ever-cult-classic " Arrested Development" was practically the only show of its kind in regard to its absurd storylines and humor. But not enough people watched the Emmy-winner to save it from unjust cancellation.

Then there are shows that don’t even get a full first season, like "Firefly. " From creator Joss Whedon (mastermind behind "Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog" and " Buffy the Vampire Slayer"), "Firefly" told the story of a group of cowboy-esque space rogues roaming a relatively newly colonized galaxy in the year 2517. They were running from the dastardly alliance while smuggling and harboring mysterious fugitives. Yeah, it sounds absolutely word, but it was absolutely scintillating — at least during its 14-episode existence. People just hear something like "cowboy sci-fi" and think it’s so absurd that it can’t be good. But it was great. And most people never gave themselves the chance to know.

Rejecting a show based on premise alone is never a good idea. A great writing team can turn any idea into a supremely entertaining show. The whole point of new shows ought to be that they aren’t like anything that came before them. Yet I’ve heard some ridiculous excuses for avoiding "CSI," page 56

"CSI" gets away with murder in new season

Jamie Block
(MANAGING EDITOR OF MULTIMEDIA)

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something based on previous experiences: ‘I won’t watch ‘Glee’ because I didn’t like ‘High School Musical.’’” or, most unreasonably, “I won’t watch ‘Lost’ because I didn’t like ‘Giligan’s Island.’” None of these comparisons are fair, yet many viewers are content to make

these two-second assumptions instead of taking an hour to simply watch the show once and see if they like it. The crime drama plague is convincing people that originality is dead.

Fortunately, in recent years, some original premises have been making a comeback. The aforementioned “Glee,” the satirical tale of popularity as viewed through a high school show choir, is enjoying its position as FOX’s most-hyped new show.

And Jos Whedon’s latest venture “Dollhouse,” which documents a secret facility where people give up five years of their lives to have their personalities replaced and bodies rented out to hall-wanting clients seeking romantic partners or even assassins, will be starting its second season soon — a season that most people suspected would never come. It’s not like anything that’s come before it, and that makes it all the more fantastic. But most encouragingly, people must actually be watching it.

“Dollhouse” is the perfect example of new television at its best. The premise is completely original — the closest thing we’ve seen so far is “Steptford Wives,” and that’s only vaguely similar. The writers are creative and the actors are motivated by the fact that they’re doing something new. A crime drama can be entertaining; it can even sometimes be well done. But no matter what twist you put on it, I won’t let you get away with calling it “original.”

But there is an easier, more realistic and less “War Games”-esque way to quell the expansion of the ever-growing blob of unoriginal programming. Watch something different. I don’t care if you didn’t like “Stargate: Atlantis.” You should still watch “Eureka.” Sure, they both air on SyFy (the new name of the old Sci-Fi Channel), but that doesn’t mean they’re the same, and “Eureka” is flip-flop brilliant. Original, high-quality television is being murdered, and we need to take action before they make a new “CSI” about it.

Film festival

continued from page 53

years are going to be very interesting.” Rodger’s film is a personal quest to discover the nature of God. “I just got fed up with people killing and blowing themselves up trying to buy a ticket to heaven,” he said.

A successful commercial director, Rodger took his camera crew around the world asking people of all backgrounds, ethnic origins and beliefs and a few celebrities such as Hugh Jackman and Seal, “What is God?”

It’s an extremely simple idea, Rodger said. “Then out of that comes a myriad of thoughts. At the end, it’s a promotion for tolerance, understanding and ultimately peace and love.”

These are many of the issues all the films at the festival address, from very personal and global perspectives.

“Spirituality is such a hard thing to describe because it is such a personal experience,” said Stephen Simon. Once a mainstream Hollywood producer and director, he now is founder of the Spiritual Cinema Circle, a mail-order film club that sends spiritual-based and influenced films, culled from festivals and filmmakers around the globe, to people in more than 70 countries.

“These are films that ask the big questions about who we are, and why we’re here,” Simon said.

“These also help you feel better about being a human being. This isn’t about a Pollyanna view, but there is always a pathway through the darkness to redemption. In the world today that’s hard to do,” But it is an important thing to do, he said.

Festivals like this one that boldly puts the word “spiritual” in the title, are an important link in the process because it is where the conversation starts, said Jim Walsh, CEO and founder of the Human Energy System Alliance, a research facility that works with top university scientists to bridge the gap between science and belief.

He will be showing his short film, “Cracking the Cosmic Egg” and talking about his research into intention and its affects on material and biological systems.

“We’re now able to measure things that before we had to accept on faith. That was once the language of spirituality, now it is the language of science,” Walsh said.

These twin — yet different — ways of looking at the world kept very wide distance from one another. Now, they’re talking.

“I’m new to the spiritual film festival, but it’s such a cool idea,” Walsh said. “Putting these spiritual ideas into film gets to it in a deeper way than just through words,” Walsh said. “It’s expressing this point of view to people beyond any one tradition or church. It’s just a way to start the conversation on a wider basis and help us all understand.”
Larry David reconvenes the “Seinfeld” gang on “Curb Your Enthusiasm”

The upcoming seventh season of Larry David’s HBO show “Curb Your Enthusiasm” will feature several episodes with the main cast of “Seinfeld.”

Larry David would be the last person you’d cast as matchmaker, but it’s none other than the King of Cosmetic who has masterminded a highly anticipated “Seinfeld” reunion for his seventh season of “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” which starts Sunday on HBO.

Of course, the event takes place in David’s world, which means no group hugs or mushy tears. Any drop of sentimentality would be the spirit of the series TV Guide recently dubbed the greatest sitcom of all time. “Seinfeld,” co-created by David, featured four self-centered characters who spent an exorbitant amount of time together, if only because no one else could stand them. In “Curb,” David plays a version of himself: a short-tempered, short-sighted comedy writer born without a self-edit button. In other words, the reunion should be nothing short of disastrous.

Yet how it falls apart, though, remains a mystery. It’s nearly impossible to extract details from David, who seems to talk to the press only in order to frustrate us. He confirmed that Seinfeld & Co. would appear on about five of the 10 new episodes tracking the evolution of a “Seinfeld” special with script read-throughs, rehearsals and clips from the “broadcast.”

Obstacles that get in the way include Larry’s attempted reconciliation with his wife, a cruel insult hurled at him, a prison sentence incurred for breaking the Good Samaritan Law, and also because he realizes he may have a second chance with his estranged wife (Cheryl Hines).

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With his latest recording, David tries to weasel out of her marriage, which culminated in the title character in the continuing CBS sitcom “The New Adventures of Old Christine.”

“The first day of rehearsal was on the stage with two of our sets put back up and, frankly, it was as if we had taken a three-week hiatus, and we were back at work. Everything was there, just, you know, better compensated and stuff like that. Ultimately, it was a ball.”

Some may view this season as a “do-over” to the 1998 “Seinfeld” finale. It’s that highly viewed episode — which by David years after he quit the show — the gang ended up in jail for breaking the Good Samaritan Law. Many fans thought it was too corny and contrite, a fact that “Curb” acknowledges by having Jason Alexander openly hope that “we’ll go out on a good note this time.”

But in interviews, David defends the finale and says anyone who doesn’t agree is a “mooon.”

He’s a little kinder to two reviewers of his shows — his daughters.

Neal Justin

The result is more natural than you’d think.

The actors thought so, too. “It was extremely easy,” said Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who has won Emmys as both Elaine and the title character in the continuing CBS sitcom “The New Adventures of Old Christine.”

“You’re on a good note this time.”

For years, I’ve been asked about the possibility of a TV reunion. I never do that. It’s a lame idea,” David said. “But it might be very funny to do on ‘Curb,’” he said.

Having a season-long arc has been a key component of “Curb” since its debut year. Past adventures include David’s ill-fated attempt to open a restaurant; his shot at starring in a Broadway production of “The Producers”; and last season’s destruction of his marriage, which culminated with David finding himself in the arms of his Hurricane Katrina boarder, Loreta Black.

That relationship is the centerpiece of the first two new episodes as David tries to weasel out of her clutches in part because Black played to the hit by Vircia A. Fox, may have cancer, and also because he realizes he may have a second chance with his estranged wife (Cheryl Hines).

It’s not until the third episode that viewers of his shows — his daughters — see “Seinfeld”, page 59.

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The title character in the continuing CBS sitcom “The New Adventures of Old Christine.”

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Kanye West’s remarks give Taylor Swift much needed publicity

Editorial Board
(DAILY TRENDS TURNS UNIVERSITY)

If you thought the Michael Jackson tribute was going to be the big moment at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, then you were wrong. Rapper Kanye West and his latest stunt were the big talk across media outlets all over America yesterday. West insulted country-pop music singer and songwriter Taylor Swift when she received the award for best female video last night. In the middle of her gracious acceptance speech, West ran onstage and grabbed the microphone from her, talking up himself. Beyoncé Knowles was in the same category. "Taylor, I’m really happy for you, and I’m gonna let you finish, but Beyoncé had one of the best videos of all time," West said. Both Swift and Knowles had looks of shock on their faces, and really didn’t know how to react to the statement. After receiving the “Video of the Year” award for “Simple Lovers,” Knowles invited Swift back onstage to finish her acceptance speech. It was reported that West was kicked out of Radio City Music Hall shortly after his rant. West’s stunt at the award show, which is known more for its antics than the music itself, stole the spotlight for the rest of the evening. Swift gave a put-together performance after being dissed and dismissed by the rapper. Lady Gaga’s blood-stained outfit was outrageous, and the Michael Jackson tribute was great. But is West’s big mouth that is creating a buzz. The trending topics on Twitter were all either Taylor Swift, Kanye West or VMA related. The most watched video on CNN yesterday was the recap of Swift’s speech getting interrupted, then her being invited onstage by Knowles to try it again. Something about this nonscripted moment — a MTV had to stress it was — is making people go nuts about the ceremony and the artist it involves.

West has always been known to be a loud mouth and obnoxious. Who can forget his famous comments about former President George W. Bush? Even though MTV executives and producers are saying the act was unscheduled, on their part, could it be that West was trying to get himself some extra press? He was photographed walking down the red carpet with a half drunken bottle of Cognac, so maybe he should just blame it on the alcohol, as they say. He has a history of ranting and raving when he doesn’t get an award or recognition for his work, so it was only expected that he would try to steal the spotlight somehow. He just chose to do it to the wrong person; it was almost like he was helping the country star because she beat out someone whose music he preferred. This moment will only boost Swift in the eyes of Americans.

The sympathy sad press Swift is getting now is more than she could have hoped for by just winning the award. If anything, she should be thanking West for what he has done for her. Both artists will continue to see their names on television, Web sites and video clips in different media outlets as long as the clip keeps getting talked about or replayed. Already you can find it on YouTube with comments and views galore. MTV is known for their award show’s crazy moments, and this is definitely the highlight of their 2009 show, which will leave this being discussed for years to come.

The public does need to remember that there are other news stories going on in the world right now that do not involve the VMAs, so it’s crazy to think that this can be the number two most popular story under a missing body being found on CNN. West interrupting Swift has gotten more press than Rev. Joe Wilson. R.U.C.G. is the number one trending topic, with Swift’s performance being ranked second. "This is the kind of news that people go crazy for, which is kind of sad. This was one of those stories that even if you didn’t see it happen live on MTV, if you were by a computer or radio you knew that it happened. The instant updates of Facebook statuses and tweets were all about how rude West was and how Swift rocks. People choose sides between the images of “American Sweetheart” and the guy who likes to speak his mind no matter how crazy it is. It would be nice to see the same kind of enthusiasm about a story that matters. It is odd that people choose to care more about a story that has nothing to do with them and their well being over something of substance that actually does.

Everyone is guilty of getting wrapped up in a popular culture trade, rant or crazy story, but it shouldn’t be the only thing you see VMA, page 59
Peter St. Onge
MUSTANG DAILY
ARTS

Best beer for the buck: For maximum flavor and fullness at an affordable price, these work the hardest

Welcome to your lawn-mowing beer. At $4.99 and available at most supermarkets, Yuengling offers more everything you'd want in a lager — broadly sweet- ness, smooth feel, and a crisp and slightly hoppy finish. If you want a little more oomph, Yuengling's Black and Tan is a porter and lager blend with a bit more malt and bitterness.

Under $6: Stockyard Oatmeal Stout, Goose Island Beer, Chicago. This $5.49 beer stands up to stouts twice the price. You'll find the same classic attributes of the style — robust coffee and chocolate flavor, pleasant creaminess and bitter finish. Perhaps a bit thinner than some elite stouts, but because of that, Stockyard is more accessible to those who don't want to fight their beers. Sold at Trader Joe's, Stockyard might be the best-valued brew in your local shop.

Under $7: American Ale, Budweiser, St. Louis. Hold on. Are I think maleness in a Budweser beer? And hops? Yes, yes, I am. You'll notice song nicely mated flavors here — caramel and, perhaps, bitterness — but you won't find the pronounced metallic twang that make other Bud brews revered in craft beer circles. American Ale is a thin but solid brew at a good price.

Cheap-but-honorable mentions:

Saranac Pale Ale ($5.99), supermarkets; Trader Joe's Barharan Heffeizen ($5.49); Blue Moon Belgian White ($6.99), Total Wine.

Champ of cheap: Pabst Blue Ribbon really

the best of the cheap American beers! PBR has made a resurgence of sorts in recent years in hipster circles — artisans, restaurateurs and young professionals who sneer at mass-marketed monoliths like Budweiser. Those beer drinkers also note, with regularity, that PBR beat the big boys in a Consumer Reports blind taste test in the 1990s. Problem is — it didn't happen. Yes, Consumer Reports held a taste test of American lagers in 2004, but Stroh's and Old Milwaukee won the macrobrewed domestic category, with PBR finishing in the middle of the pack. PBR has, however, fared reasonably well in other published taste tests in the past decade. We decided to hold our own. See cheap American macrobrews.

“Seinfeld” continued from page 57

They'd rather watch “Gossip Girl” or “Hannah Montana,” the Disney series that corralled I Davidson for a guest “Hannah Montana,” the Disney series that corralled I Davidson for a guest

So what to do if you want a cheap beer with some flavor? Some of us face this when looking at $30 four-packs or $9 bombers of craft beer. Such splurges don't always fit tightening budgets, even if the cost per ounce is a better deal than a bottle of nice wine.

We scouted beer shelves for beers as inexpensive as your basic $3-$5 six-pack — but with the flavor to please at least some of the snooty among us. Here are three that should do so, including one that might be a surprise. All prices are per six-pack before taxes.

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Beer
continued from page 58
Six unmarked glasses. Three judges — Observer food writer Kathleen Purvis, myself and Catherine Rabbi, co-owner of Fenwicks Restaurant and an associate professor at Johnston & Wales. Rabbi also reviewed wine for the Charlotte, N.C., Observer.

We picked six cheap domestic beers — Schlitz, Milwaukee's Best, Bud Light, Rolling Rock, Miller High Life and Pabst Blue Ribbon. We evaluated the beer on flavor, fullness and crispness, but really, one overriding factor: Which would taste best after mowing your lawn on a warm summer day?

Our taste test was blind — six beers poured into wine glasses at Fenwicks. We talked about those brews after we had finished tasting, and each of us pronounced two or three favorites.

Getting high marks from the panel was Schlitz, which offered a hint of caramel sweetness and was the hoppiest of the group, and Rolling Rock, which was fuller and more rounded than most. One taster liked the graver taste of Rolling Rock. Another, however, thought the flavor was flat.

Tasters were largely indifferent to Miller High Life, which got neither high nor particularly low marks. One noted that it had a "beauty parlor" aroma of sulfur.

The bottom feeders were Bud Light, which had no weight, no finish and a syrup taste, Milwaukee's Best also was pasted as metallic and thin — reminiscent, said one taster, of the flavor of unshucked asparagus.

That leaves your winner, a unanimous choice: Pabst Blue Ribbon. The tasters noticed a citrus flavor, low acidity and a maltness more pronounced than its brethren. One noted a pleasant snap of bitterness at the finish.

Were we surprised? A little. And yes, pleasantly so. You might be, too.
Mustangs beat Sac State in opener, on to Ohio

SPORTS

Junior quarterback Tony Smith-rushed for one touchdown and passed for three more scores as No. 12 Cal Poly opened its 2009 football season with a non-conference victory over Sacramento State at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Smith completed his first five pass attempts of the game and finished 12 of 19 for 218 yards. He also rushed 20 times for 92 yards for Cal Poly (1-0).

Sacramento State, losing to Cal Poly for the fifth straight time, fell to 0-2 on the year. Cal Poly now has a 16-15 advantage in the series dating back to 1967.

Smith, who ran one yard for a touchdown in the first quarter, connected with sophomore wide receiver Jarred Houston (41 yards), senior slotback Jon Hall (52 yards) and junior wide receiver Mike Anderson (six yards) on touchdown passes as Cal Poly raced to a 38-12 lead in the first three quarters and never looked back.

Cal Poly’s other points came on a one-yard touchdown run by senior slotback Jayones Thierry and a 24-yard field goal by junior Cdiris Pinto. Pinto made all four of his PAT attempts and junior Jake West added the other.

Junior Dominique Johnson, a transfer from UC’LA, caught four passes for 61 yards in his Mustang debut. Hall and Houston each added two receptions. Hall contributed 58 yards rushing on nine carries and junior Jordan Vocum added 33 yards, also on nine trips, as Cal Poly amassed 296 rushing yards and 476 yards in total offense.

Safety David Fullerton notched his eighth career interception and Kenny Jackson and Scottie Cordier also recorded thefts for the Mustangs. Defensive end Ryan Shotwell recovered a Sacramento State fumble and linebacker Carlton Gillespie recorded the lone sack of the game.

Gillespie, who recorded five tackles in the loss, was brought in from NIU as a graduate transfer and has tallied six tackles in his first two games.

Tom Barkert providing the play-by-play. An audio stream of the non-conference contest as well as GameTracker will be available on www.CalPoly.com.

The Mustangs are ranked No. 14 in the Football Championship Subdivision coaches poll.

The Mustangs, who a year ago led the PCS with 44.4 points and 487.5 yards per game, lost their head coach, quarterback, leading receiver and top three rushers from that squad but didn’t miss a beat in the season opener.

Walsh was hired last January to replace Rich Ellerson, who left after eight seasons at the Mustang helm to head the football program at New Mexico State University.
The enduring term " pennant race " has really been a misnomer for the past 40 years, ever since divisional play dictated that first-place teams needed to do additional work to obtain the league title flag.

But by any name, nothing excites a fan like good, tight competition down the stretch. And with the advent of expanded playoffs and wild-card teams, there are now eight potential " pennant " races for the price of one.

Alas, most of them have fizzled out this year. With three weeks to go, the most compelling divisional race is in the National League West. The torrid Rockies, riding the same sort of otherworldly momentum that took them into the World Series two years ago, crept within two games of the Dodgers heading into the weekend.

But the wild card, which has done so much since its inception in 1994 (but not implemented until '95 because of the strike) to provide September suspense, might actually detract from the drama in this case. The whole idea is that there should be an equal chance for a division winner, Costas said. "The wild-card team doesn't deserve it because it hasn't qualified for an equal chance over 162 games."

"I don't necessarily agree, because in some instances the wild-card team has a superior record to one (or even both) of the other division winners. Last year, for instance, the AL wild-card Red Sox, with 95 wins, surpassed the 89 wins of the AL champion White Sox and the NL wild-card Brewers, with 90 wins, surpassed the 84 wins of the NL West champion Dodgers.

I don't think the Red Sox should have been penalized with diminished home games had they met the White Sox in the ALCS just because they happened to be in a tougher division. I vote to leave it the way it is."

The Red Sox again have control of the AL wild card, but the Rangers are hanging around, impressive-

ly. The cool Web site coolstandings.com, which calculates each team's playoff chances by simulating the rest of the season's games millions of times, has the Rangers as the current non-playoff team with a fighting chance of sneaking in.

Heading into the weekend, they were given a 34.4 percent chance of making the postseason, compared to 9.3 percent for the Twins (second in the AL Central), 9.4 percent for Florida (second in the NL East), 0.8 percent for the Cubs (second in the NL Central) and 10.2 percent for the Giants (second in the NL West).

In other words, the Cardinals (99.9 percent), Dodgers (98 percent) and Rangers (98 percent) are locks; the Phillies (93.2 percent), Angels (98.4 percent), Rockies (97.4 percent) and Tigers (85.6 percent) are close to locks; and the Red Sox (77.1 percent) are sitting pretty.

So much for the pennant races that once loomed so prominently. It was just Aug. 4 that the Cubs and Cardinals were in a dead heat in the NL Central. It was just July 20 that the Yankees and Red Sox were in a dead heat in the AL East, with the Rays breathing down both their necks. And the Giants and Rockies went into September in a flat-footed tie.

The Tigers once seemed destined to be pushed harder by the Twins and White Sox, while the Marlins were definitely in the Phillies' heads after sweeping them in early August.
There are moments on this planet where the stars align. You breeze through every stop light on green. You don't hear the dogs barking at six in the morning. You watch a sporting event in which petulance and putrid manners aren't rewarded. You hit the Holy Grail this past weekend.

Serena Williams got blocked from the U.S. Open women's final. Kyle Busch didn't qualify for NASCAR's championship run. Jay Cutler got benched late by a lousy call — double-fault at love, 30-0, 54-71, 5-6, 15-50 of the second set — in a moment that should never be made at such a crucial point in a match.

Petulance by celebrating her 10th Grand Slam doubles title and splitting $420,000 with her sister, Venus. Imagine this boorish behavior in any other league. Roger Goodell would have been exercised.

Busch has a habit of bumping into things, whether it's cars or people. He seems to always be involved in some sort of point-the-finger-at-the-other-guy racket. Maybe he can't help himself. Maybe it's the way he's programmed as a competitor.

Williams wasn't the only one mumbling a few expletives. Busch, NASCAR's temperamental bad boy, fell just eight points shy of qualifying for the Chase after finishing fifth in Saturday's race at Richmond International Speedway.

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Why was Brett Farve's decision so hard?

Ashley Fox
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

What was Brett Favre thinking? Seriously. What was he thinking? Everyone knows he's one of the biggest drama kings in the NFL and, OK, so maybe he really was torn about whether he should retire (again) or give his aged right gun one more shot at glory (again).

But did he really need half the summer to decide to join the Vikings or, did he just like being on the ticker every night on ESPN? After watching Adrian Peterson on Sunday, Favre's decision looks like the biggest no-brainer since the Eagles sent T.O. home for the season. Favre's shoulder shouldn't even be an issue, not when all he has to do is hand off to Peterson, hand off to Peterson, and hand off to Peterson.

Take Sunday against the Browns. Farve had a pedestrian day — by his three-time-MVP standards — completing 16 of 21 passes for 110 yards. After a slow start, Peterson finished with 25 carries for 190 yards and 3 touchdowns. He gained 155 yards in the second half alone, including 64 yards on a touchdown run that highlighted his combination of speed and strength.

With the Vikings ahead by 27-13, Peterson took the ball, cut around the left side, and made five defenders miss him, including defensive back Eric Wright. Peterson gave Wright a stiff-arm, then threw him out of bounds with one hand.

Minnesota won 10 games last season, but lost five by a touchdown or less. If Favre could have changed the outcome in just two of those games, the Vikings would have tied for the best record in the NFC and would have been the conference's No. 1 seed. That would have meant a first-round bye, rather than a date with the Eagles.

Favre apparently had to consider all this before deciding to join the Vikings.

Or maybe he just couldn't stomach living in a dorm for a couple of weeks during the Vikings' camp at Minnesota State-Mankato.

Regardless, this should be the easiest year of his indomitable career. He simply has to manage games and figure out precisely how Peterson likes to get the football, and where.

That can't be that hard, can it? "I haven't pried with a running back like that," Favre said afterward, according to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. "Everyone in the stadium knows Adrian Peterson is going to get it, and he still gets 190 yards. It's remarkable.

Carolina coach John Fox said yesterday that he was sticking with quarterback Jake Delhomme — and then went out and signed A.J. Feeley. After his performance Sunday, Delhomme has little margin for error, which gives him something in common with Fox. With a bad season, Fox is probably out. Asked to describe the security of Delhomme's hold on the starting job, Fox said: "Probably like the security of all of us as day to day."

Think it was a coincidence that Tony Romo had his best game at the Cowboys' quarterback without you-know-who on the field with him? Let's see: Dump your girlfriend? Check. Lose your loudmouthed receiver? Check. Throw for 353 yards and three touchdowns, with no interceptions? No problem.

What a Sunday it was for Broncos fans. First, Brandon Stokley took a tipped ball 87 yards to beat the Bengals in the final minute. Then, in the featured 8 p.m. NBC game, former Denver quarterback and villain No. 1 JayCutler blew up, throwing four interceptions in the Bears' loss to the Packers.

Cutler was brunt, but even worse was the news about Brian Urlacher. The Bears' defensive quarterback. He's out for the season with a dislocated right wrist. The linebacker had started 49 consecutive games and missed a total of seven in his career. The Bears' record in those seven games (all from 2004): 0-7.

Look out, Detroit, you might have company.

Vikings' quarterback Brett Favre celebrates a touchdown during their victory over the Browns Sunday. He tallied 110 yards and one touchdown.

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The Kennedy Library at Cal Poly has provided a pick-up point for those who wish to receive the daily paper on campus. Off-campus home delivery will continue to be available at the same education rate.

All subscriptions for on-campus delivery through the library, or off-campus home delivery, can be ordered via the toll-free number below or online.

Subscriptions for on-campus delivery to the library will be accepted through Friday, 10/9 for the Fall 2009 term.

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KCOY donates cameras to Cal Poly

KCOY CENTRAL COAST NEWS

Learn by Doing is taking a big step forward in the Journalism Department at Cal Poly with the donation of three cameras from KCOY CBS 12. KCOY is donating three Panasonic professional cameras, lenses and tripods, valued at almost $25,000 to be used in the department's weekly student-produced TV news show.

"After getting so much bad news for so long about budgets for higher education, this is a very welcome development," Bill Loving, professor and chair of the journalism department, said. "The cameras will mean a significant improvement in the technical quality of the student newscast."

Professor John Soares, the department's chief broadcasting faculty member, worked to make the donation a reality. "What a great partnership we have with KCOY," Soares said. "I asked for the cameras and KCOY worked hard to make it happen — they are always interested in contributing to the success of our students."

"We are excited to be able to do this for Cal Poly," said KCOY's General Manager of KCXW. "We have many alumni already working at the station and hopefully this donation will only strengthen our relationship with the University."

KCYO: Mission Inn Beach Invitational

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

The Cal Poly volleyball team returns to the central coast to open both a five-match home-stand and the second-annual Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational, scheduled for Sept. 18-19 at Mott Gym. Cal Poly (2-8), returning from its season-opening, 18-day, 10-match road trip, opened tournament action Friday, Sept. 18 against Seattle (5-7) at 10 a.m. before facing Santa Clara (5-3) at 7:30 p.m. The Mustangs completed their portion of the competition Saturday against former Big West Conference foe Idaho (3-4) at 7 p.m. UC Santa Barbara (6-2) finishes the field.

INVITATIONAL RE-WIND: In front of 2,533 spectators — the fourth-largest volleyball crowd in Mott Gym history — Cal Poly capped opening-day action of the 2009 Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational on Sept. 5 with a three-set loss against then-No. 2 and eventual NCAA Tournament national semifinalist Nebraska. The defeat also doubled the first home sweep suffered by the Mustangs under Jon Stevenson. Cal Poly bookended its loss to Nebraska with sweeps of Nebraska. Cal Poly capped opening-day action of the 2009 Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational on Sept. 5 with a three-set loss against then-No. 2 and eventual NCAA Tournament national semifinalist Nebraska. The defeat also doubled the first home sweep suffered by the Mustangs under Jon Stevenson. Cal Poly bookended its loss to Nebraska with sweeps of UNLV and Northeastern. Below are the complete results from the first Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational.

FRANKS ABOUT KILLS: She may rank third among Mustangs with 2.19 kills per set but froth opposite Holly Franks has been Cal Poly's most-consistent hitter of late. Highlighted by a career-high 17-kill performance and a .375 hitting percentage during day one of the season against Weber State Sept. 5, Franks has recorded at least nine kills in four of the program's previous six matches.

BAPTISM BY FIRE: Featuring arguably, the youngest offensive attack in Division I volleyball, four of Cal Poly's top-five hitters are freshmen. Aside from Franks, first-year outside hitter Megan McConnell and sophomore middle blocker Ramses have emerged as Cal Poly's leading attacking options. McConnell, who enters Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational with a team-leading 2.91 kills per set, has reached double-digit kill figures in Cal Poly's last six matches. Pinn, highlighted by a career-high 17-kill performance that keyed Cal Poly's four-set victory against Weber State Sept. 5, has reached the double-digit kill mark in four matches and owns a 2.53 per-set mark.

OLOWOLAFE QUICKLY IN FORM: Junior Dominique Olowolafe enters the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational averaging a career-high 2.13 kills per set and the middle blocker is once again showcasing the hitting efficiency that helped her earn All-Big West first team praise a year ago A team-leading .316 hitting percentage that ranks seventh among Big West players this season has pushed Olowolafe's career mark to an even .300 figure that remains the fifth-highest mark in program history. Olowolafe, having topped out with a season-high .500 (13 kills, 24 attempts, 24 percent) hitting percentage against then-No. 23 Kansas State Sept. 5, has hit better than .312 in six occasions this season.

FAMILAR FOE: Santa Clara, Cal Poly's Friday opponent, featured current Mustang assistant coach Caroline Wasker in its lineup when the program reached the NCAA Tournament national semifinals for the first time in 2005. A three-time All-West Coast honorable mention selection, the conference's all-time leader with 1,932 career digs and Santa Clara's career leader with a 4.59 assists-per-set average, Wasker appeared in 421 of a possible 438 sets during her career.

MUSTANGS AGAIN FEATURING STOUT SCHEDULE: In what has become a hallmark of Jon Stevenson's five-year tenure, Cal Poly is again competing one of the nation's most-challenging schedules in 2009. Four of Cal Poly's initial 10 matches occurred against programs ranked in the AVCA Division I Top 25 Poll while a pair conference contests against No. 18 UC Irvine also loom. As of Sept. 14, Cal Poly's schedule included 12 total matches against teams either ranked or receiving votes in the AVCA poll. Excluding NCAA Tournament matches, Cal Poly is 3-16 against nationally ranked programs under Stevenson.

 Mustangs to Host Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational

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Football

continued from page 62

gram at Army. Walsh accumulated a 137-82 record in 18 seasons as head coach — four at Sonoma State and 14 at Portland State — before spending the last two years as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Army.

Walsh is now 13-1 all-time against Sacramento State and Cal Poly has won its last five games in the series against the Hornets. Cal Poly's defense, with eight returning starters adjusting to the switch from the 3-4 to a 4-3 formation, held Sacramento State to 288 total yards and forced four turnovers.

Ohio, a 23-16 loser to Connecticut in its season opener two weeks ago at home, pulled out a 31-30 double-overtime win at North Texas on Saturday. Both teams scored field goals in the first OT. Cam Montgomery ran seven yards to give North Texas a 30-23 lead in the second OT, then Theo Scott hit Taylor Price with a 15-yard TD pass for Ohio and, after a roughing the passer penalty on that play, Scott passed to Price for the game-winning two-point conversion. North Texas was 1-11 a year ago.

Ohio, coached by Frank Solich (fifth season at Ohio (24-27), 11th season overall (82-46), Nebraska '66), returns 83 lettermen, including 14 starters, of last year's team which went 4-8 and finished tied for fourth place in the MAC-East Division at 3-5. One of Ohio's assistant coaches, linebackers coach David Brown, was defensive coordinator under Ellerson at Cal Poly four years ago.

Ohio has averaged just 62 yards rushing and 178 yards passing per game so far this season. Chris Garrett has rushed for 78 yards while Scott has completed 14 of 29 passes for 161 yards. Another quarterback, Bch Jackson, has connected on 17 of 30 passes for 194 yards. Price, named to the Fred Biletnikoff Award watch list — he netted 51 passes for 694 yards and five touchdowns last season; 14 of those catches came in the season opener at Wyoming, a school record — is the Bobcats' top receiver this fall with eight catches for 112 yards. Garrett has caught six passes for 24 yards. Linebacker Nosh Keller has 23 tackles. Matt Weller is 4-for-4 on field goals, including a 50-yarder, and 3-for-3 on PATs.

Ohio, which converted only 39.6 percent (67-169) of its third downs a year ago, is 8-for-32 this fall.

The Mustangs and Bobcats are meeting for the first time.

The Mustangs have won 49 of their last 70 games dating back to the 2002 season finale and have won 18 of their last 31 games on the road and 31 of their last 37 home contests. Cal Poly has won seven or more games each of the last six seasons, the longest such streak in school history, and scored in 41 of 44 quarters last fall.

Cal Poly has won five of its last seven season openers and is 7-9 in season openers since moving to the FCS in 1994. The Mustangs are 15-5 in their last 20 games against teams from the Big Sky Conference.

Next week Cal Poly visits San Jose State on Sept. 26 with kickoff set for 5 p.m. The Mustangs have won three of their last eight games against FBS schools, defeating San Diego State 16-14 in 2006 and 29-27 in the 2008 opener.

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The UCLA Brain defense smothered San Diego State running back Brandon Sullivan in the backfield at the Rose Bowl on September 5.

SPORTS
Pac 10 deserves nod, not just Southern Cal

Andrea Adelson
THE DAILY TIMES

Southern California’s stirring home-from-behind win over Ohio State ended another great day for the Pac-10 in games against BCS opponents.

The league went 3-1 Saturday in those games. The biggest win obviously belonged to No. 3 USC, but UCLA deserves credit for beating Texas A&M in Knoxville, in front of 100,000-plus fans. Tennessee might be down, but Neyland Stadium is never an easy place to play.

The Pac-10 is routinely disdained because people view the conference as unc and everyone else that the league deserves respect. Last season, it went 3-0 in bowl games. Four of those opponents were from BCS leagues. Four Pac-10 teams ended the season ranked in the final coaches’ poll.

Though only two teams are ranked in the AP poll, No. 3 USC and No. 8 California, the Pac-10 made second in my conference power rankings so far this year. (Note: Oregon State is ranked in the coaches’ poll). 1./sec: The last three national champions have come out of the SEC. Currently, four teams are ranked in the top 10, including the No. 1 Florida Gators. While the Gators haven’t played anybody of substance yet, they essentially returned everybody from their national championship team. Alabama won a huge non-conference game when it beat Virginia Tech to open the season. No conference has two teams as good as UF and Alabama right now.

2. Pac-10: Why? USC freshmen QB Matt Barkley grew up big-time Saturday night, and the Trojans looked impressive on that final drive to win it. California has looked solid, too. The winner of this game could end up playing for a national championship. Watch out for UCLA.

3. Big 12: The conference has more ranked teams than the Big East, and the same number as the Big Ten. 4. Big East: Sorry, guys. Cincinnati is the lone ranked team, at No. 17. The league is 0-3 in games against BCS opponents this season, and 0-2 against ranked teams.

In the hot seat...
We had Virginia Coach Al Groh on the hot seat last week, and we were wrong. Virginia Coach Al Groh is on the hot seat again this week after a loss to TCU sent the Cavaliers to 0-2. They went scoreless in the first 56 minutes of the game, and a little more than 48,000 showed up to watch, their lowest attendance since 1999. Groh has got to go.

On the rise...
Houston. Could the Cougars be the first team from Conference USA, to be a BCS buster? It sure looked that way after a 45-35 win over Oklahoma State on Saturday. Houston moved into the Top 25 at No. 21, its first AP ranking since 1991. The schedule is a tough road game at Mississippi State, followed by UT and Georgia Tech, respectively. There is a tough road game at M ississippi State, followed by UT and Georgia Tech, respectively.

On the decline...
The Pac-12 never an easy place to play. The Cougars host Texas Tech into the Top 25 at No. 21, in first AP ranking since 1991. The schedule is tough. After a shocking loss to TCU last week, the Cougars dropped 15 spots in the AP poll to No. 16. Was this a letdown game after the huge opening win over Georgia? To make matters worse, top RB Kendal Hunter hurt his ankle in the second quarter and didn’t return.
Condoleezza Rice would love a job in football

Kent Babb

Condoleezza Rice attends the Hoover Institution, a provost and the U.S. Secretary of State. She's running late.

"It wasn't really proper for a little Southern girl," said Condoleezza Rice, "to part with old ways."

"I've never been a very good football player," Rice said, "but I have always been interested in the game."

"Just my father and me," she said. "One Sunday morning in September, their front yard was a football field."

"It wasn't close enough. Friends said now that she wanted to marry a football player."

"My parents never really liked to watch football or participate in sit-ins, afraid their daughter would sully a movement that they had kept them home: because blacks weren't permitted at Legion Field."

"I was going to miss the game. Condi asked players how football affected their personal lives and how it affected their personal lives and how it affected their personal lives."

"Total opposites," says Haven Carter, saying Condi was attracted to the idea of dating a player. "But in 2005, there was a problem."

"No, Condi heard the minister say that she kind of inserted herself," Rice said. "She was plopped on a cul-de-sac, surrounded by friends."
Rice
continued from page 69

It was 2000. John Rice was in the hospital, his brain damaged after suffering cardiac arrest months earlier. Visits were difficult, and conversations were impossible, Condoleezza Bailey says. Visits were difficult, and conversations were impossible, Condoleezza Bailey says. They'd moved to California to be near Condoleezza. As John's living room had been an auditorium, they sometimes kept her going was that Sunday was approaching.

"Sports were always sort of an escape," she says. "I always knew that the next day or maybe the next time, I was going to be confronting something pretty awful."

Sunday mornings were for church and a weekly call to the British foreign minister, but afternoons were for football. She'd watch her favorite team, the Cleveland Browns, studying each play.

"She knew more about the actual structure and technique of the game," former Browns and Browns president Carmen Policy says, "than I did."

Policy and Condoleezza had become friends when he was with San Francisco, about 30 miles from Stanford's campus. Later, Policy would invite her to speak to his team. She'd tell stories of distant lands, how she was bringing football with her, and how she sometimes used sports to soften tough conversations.

"I could connect," she says. "By asking how their team was doing."

Condoleezza had no delusions of becoming the NFL commissioner. She likely missed her chance when Roger Goodell selected Tagliabue three years ago. At the time, Condoleezza was at the footballs of her term as Condoleezza says she doesn't know how to answer the question. "I don't want to polarize anybody over anything," Condoleezza says. "I don't want to get caught up in globalizations, having someone like Condoleezza Rice be very good that Bush didn't make a lot of friends around the world.

"The gender issue, that could be a bigger problem. The NFL might be reluctant to take a bold, risky step that way."

"They don't want to polarize anybody over anything," Condoleezza says. "They're just so much."

"I hear the infernal Longhorns," she says. "I hear the infernal Longhorns."

Condoleezza Rice uses a T-shirt presented by Dr. Arlene Ackerman, superintendent of School District of Philadelphia, May 4 at Bodine High School in Philadelphia.

Policy, the former executive, says others have doubted Condoleezza. He once shared a suite at a 49ers game with Condoleezza and Dwight Clark, the long-time San Francisco wide receiver. As Condoleezza had done so many times, she asked questions. How did he see the game changing? Where was the NFL headed? In the second half, Condoleezza faced the field and predicted formations and situations. Policy couldn't help but laugh. Later, Clark pulled Policy aside.

"Dwight," Policy remembers Clark saying, "that lady knows her stuff."

Condoleezza sits in her office at Stanford, a lifetime of memories surrounding her. Books on foreign policy, literature in the four languages she speaks, and more football gear than the room can hold.

She says she's done dozens of footballs at her home in Palo Alto, Calif., and more than enough hidden in her office. Condoleezza's chief of staff, Colby Cooper, opens a cabinet and removes a Buffalo Bills workout shirt that former Stanford quarterback Trent Edwards sent as a gift.

"There's just so much," Cooper says, returning the shirt to the cabinet. "You could open a store."

Some of Condoleezza's memories are more personal. In 2005, she was invited to flip the coin at Alabama's game against Tennessee. More than 30 years after blacks weren't allowed at Alabama games, one of the nation's most influential people finally made it inside.

Condoleezza has never married. Her friends say she never found the one who could challenge her. Others say she never found a man who could compare to her father.

"He was just totally different," says Condoleezza's stepmother. "It would be difficult for her to find someone who even half measured up."

Condoleezza says she doesn't know what her future. She has ideas for the NFL — improved technology, ways to ease time-zone concerns if the league goes international, methods to maintain the community feel in markets such as Green Bay and Kansas City — but she's keeping doing what she's always done: wait for an opportunity.

In the meantime, she's writing her memoirs, focusing the book on her parents' lessons. She'll get a few pages done, lay flying, and then there's another e-mail from Bush, reminding Condoleezza that Texas, her favorite college football team, is primed for a big season.

The internal Longhorns, she says with a smile.

Condoleezza stands and heads toward the door. Life might be done, but that doesn't mean it's stopped. And, once again, she's running late. Where's her headset? Condoleezza stops and extends her hand.

"We'll see," she says.
Don't look for pretty football from the Niners

The 49ers have started the season with a victory over the Cardinals, 20-16, but the defensive struggle exhibited anything but offensive fluidity.

Tim Kawakami

GLENDALE, Ariz. — You want pretty football? Go dig up films of the Bill Walsh 49ers, of some other long-faded iteration of this once-hallowed franchise.

The 2009 Mike Singletary 49ers are not about anything close to ballet, of course.

More like ballet, bone-crushing and long stretches of watching 11 offensive players continue to beat their heads against a wall.

You want pretty football? There was not much of it on display here in the 49ers' crushing 20-16 victory over Arizona to open the 2009 regular season.

Instead, this was a 49ers display of stubbornness, of principle, of trench-to-trench toughness, and yes, of pure proof against in the cause of victory.

They earned every headache-inducing bit of it, and now they only have to keep doing it for 15 or so more weeks.

"I could care less whether it's an ugly game," Singletary said. "It's beautiful for us.

"So I don't really care about all that other stuff, the stats and what it looked like, bombs and long runs", it wasn't that kind of game.

I don't think it will ever be that type of game for the 2009 49ers.

Pass-happy Mike Mattz was fired last year, and new offensive coordinator Jimmy Rave is following Singletary's power-offense concept.

But it will not be easy to keep moozing through NFL opponents with so little creativity or room to breathe.

"It's going to be tough," said Frank Gore, who was the crash-test dummy for the 49ers offensive crushing. "I know it's going to be tough. (But) as long as we keep getting wins, I'll be happy with it." Those feelings were detectable in the locker room afterward: the 49ers players, who giddily celebrated every weird thing they need to, we've still got a lot of ways to do if we want to be as consistent as we need to be on offense." Do you think the Cardinals' defense was set up to be beat by the pass in the fourth quarter because the 49ers ran so much? "Yeah," Heitmann said, shooting a knowing glance at left tackle Joe Staley nearby "I believe that." It was enough on Sunday to beat an Arizona team that had been off-kilter through the pre-season and showed no signs of progress against the 49ers.

The 49ers gained only 203 yards -- just enough. They had one play from scrimmage longer than 20 yards -- a 50-yard pass to Isaac Bruce.

They pounded their heads against the wall, repeatedly, for hours, until they figured out a way to win. Only 13 more games to go, if their bones and brains can last that long.
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