Cal Poly student dies over summer

Susie Kopecky

Cal Poly electrical engineering junior Kevin Trevor Rodriguez fell to his death at Sequoia National Park Aug. 10, officials from the National Park Service (NPS) said. Rodriguez is survived by his sister, an older brother and his parents, Robert and Trinidad.

Rodriguez, 19, was about to enter his third year at Cal Poly when the hiking accident occurred. He had just finished three courses at Sequoia National Park Community College during his summer break and was celebrating his academic success by going to Sequoia National Park, said his father, Robert Rodriguez. Rodriguez left the park with two childhood friends and his family Aug. 9.

Rodriguez and his friends left to go hiking around 11 a.m. on Aug. 10, his father said. Rodriguez's family dropped off their son and his friends near a trail and planned to meet up later that day. Rodriguez was hiking near Tokopah Falls, a very rocky area, when the accident occurred in the late afternoon. Rodriguez was hiking down a steep drop when he slipped.

He fell 50-60 feet to the base of a canyon and suffered severe head injuries, landing in what the California Park Service described as a small pool below the rocks. His family was informed of the tragedy around 6 p.m., after his body had been airlifted by a medical helicopter to a nearby city.

Park authorities and paramedics at the scene attempted CPR for about one hour before pronouncing him dead at 4 p.m.

Officials speculate that Rodriguez and his hiking companions chose to take an easier route. "While less steep, the rocks they chose to descend were slippery due to water passing over them during high water," according to a statement from the NPS.

One of the roommates he would have been living with this year was with him on the hike.

Rodriguez was a member of the renewable energy club at Cal Poly. Club president Patrick Bernard said that without Rodriguez the club would not exist. Rodriguez was the only person to show up to Bernard's first meeting as president. It was not only his commitment to the club that Bernard remembered but also his outgoing personality.

"He always wore a smile," Bernard said. "He was always inviting people to dinner and was always down to go to the beach or on a hike."

Bernard also said that Rodriguez was his go to guy and was smart beyond his years.

"In five years Kevin would be a millionaire, gargantuan genius," Bernard said.

Bernard regrets not taking pictures at club meetings because he feels like he does not have enough see Rodriguez, page 2.

Students wild about Week of Welcome

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Most students want to start a new school year on a positive note, but that wasn't the case for some students who attended parties during the Week of Welcome, Cal Poly's orientation program.

The University Police Department (UPD) gave 42 citations and arrested 43 people between move-in day Sept. 12 and Sept. 21. UPD Chief Bill Watton said almost all of the arrests and citations were for alcohol-related incidents.

Watton also said that UPD increased patrols for the Week of Welcome and the first few weeks of school.

The San Luis Obispo Police Department also issued more than 80 citations from Sept. 10 to Sept. 21, including 49 citations for open containers, 16 for noise violations and 12 for urinating in public. The San Luis Obispo Police Department also arrested more than 25 people for a variety of offenses, including public intoxication, driving under the influence, one case of driving under the influence that resulted in an injury, battery and resisting arrest.

There were also two Cal Poly students arrested for trespassing early Sunday and Monday mornings, according to a press release from the San Luis Obispo Police Department. Both students did not know where they were; the disorientation was the result of alcohol intoxication.

San Luis Obispo police Capt. Ian Parkenson said, despite the tone of the university that the amount of patrolling was about the same as in previous years. He added that while this year's activity was about the same as in past years it began earlier.

"We noticed problems starting on Saturday this year after the end of the football game," he said.

The San Luis Obispo Police Department and UPD did not have the total number of arrests and citations for the Week of Welcome last year. Area hospitals saw an increase in traffic during Week of Welcome festivities. Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center spokesperson Ron Yukelson said that the hospital had seen a "sharp spike" in alcohol-related incidents since Week of Welcome began. It treated one individual who had a blood alcohol content of .36, extremely close to the .39 to .45 percent of recently deceased Cal Poly student Carson Starkey.

Yukelson said the hospital wants to combat the fear and anxiety some students might feel about seeking medical help for friends or loved ones. "It's very important to bring in friends and loved ones who are severely intoxicated—don't let them sleep or put them to bed—bring them in," he said.

see WOW, page 2
**Rodriguez**

**continued from page 1**

The passing of Rodriguez, a Malibu resident and former Malibu High School student, prompted the creation of a 447-member strong Facebook group, titled "In Loving Memory of Kevin Rodriguez, R.I.P." Rodriguez's younger sister Diana started the group.

Many members of the group shared reactions to the news of Rodriguez's death on the group's Facebook wall.

"Kevin was always such a nice person," one member wrote. "I didn't know him well, but he made going to Malibu High a lot easier for me as an incoming freshman some six years ago. I'll always remember you as the caring, smart person who accepted everyone for who they were and always had something nice to say."

Rodriguez is remembered by friends and family as a friendly face and someone who enjoyed learning. He liked surfing, both at home in Malibu and at school around Pismo Beach and Morro Bay. His friends described him as respectful and loving.

Rodriguez was interested in programming and software development and wanted to develop his own computer games, his father said.

Ikobert Rodriguez noticed that his son was becoming increasingly spiritual about three to four weeks before the accident.

"There was no time to say goodbye the day you went away," Ikobert Rodriguez wrote about his son's passing. "We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. If tears could build a staircase and heartaches make a lane, we would walk the path to Heaven to bring you home again... bly well sweetie, till we meet again."

"He always believed in this: 'knowledge is power,'" Ikobert Rodriguez said. "He always liked to treat others the way he liked to be treated. He always said, 'never assume' or 'never judge.'"

A church memorial service took place on Aug. 23 in Westlake Village. Rodriguez would have been 22 this November.

**Starkey**

**continued from page 1**

a non-profit organization called With Carson, to help educate students about alcohol. A bill was also passed in Texas, Starkey's home state, called the Clarson Starkey Alcohol Awareness and Education Act.

Labar said that they have not asked for any money in the suit at this time.

Labar also said that other fraternities have been sued over wrongful deaths successfully in the past.

"The national fraternities do not take charge," he said.

There is no outside supervision in these organizations; teenagers are supervising teenagers, he added.

Scott and Julia Starkey hired two different law firms, one from Washington D.C. and one from San Francisco. Both have experience in litigation involving fraternities.

"We will continue to honor Carson by doing everything we can to end widespread misconduct by fraternities," said Scott Starkey in a press release. "By bringing this lawsuit, we hope to bring attention to the dangers of hazing, cause fundamental change in fraternities and prevent other families from suffering as we have."

**WOW**

**continued from page 1**

Furthermore, Yukelson stressed the hospital's "safe zone" policy, which protects underage drinkers from police intervention.

"We're a safe zone, so you don't need to worry about us calling your parents or the police," he said.

The office of university president Warren Baker sent a campus-wide e-mail Wednesday in line with students of acceptable partying practices, encouraging them to keep gatherings under control by calling campus police if they see illegal behavior.

The e-mail urged students to make "wise and responsible choices" including checking IDs at the door of parties to ensure no underage individuals are drinking alcohol.

Student Affairs also sent out an e-mail on Friday about a student who was kicked out of his dorm just a few hours after moving in when he was caught smoking marijuana.

The total number of residents evicted from the dorms was not provided by the time of publication.

Tim Miller and Rebecca Maples contributed to this report.
CHICAGO — At 84-year old, Juan Guano would seem an unlikely candidate for a kidney transplant. But on Sunday, the day he received his kidney, he said he had been waiting for it for a dozen years.

Until recently, that kidney would not have been eligible for use in a transplant, because of the age of the deceased donor. But this summer, surgeons at Northwestern Memorial Hospital transplanted it in Guano, making him among the nation's oldest-old transplantation recipients.

His surgery illustrates two intersecting trends in transplant medicine: People 60 and older represent the fastest-growing age group on transplant waiting lists, and kidneys from donors 65 or older have been accepted for use in older people and donors who had health problems before they died.

Organs from these "expanded criteria donors," which otherwise would be discarded, can give patients like Guano a new lease on life, said Dr. Juan Carlos Caicedo, a grandfather of five and great-grandfather of six, because he recalls being summoned to the hospital on Father's Day for surgery. The octogenarian undergoes six years of dialysis after his kidneys failed.

"I was surprised; I was shocked," Guano said. He bestows the name of Santa Claus figures and a small clay model of a sculpture to his grandson, said Caicedo.

"You have to do is to have the best match between donor and recipient," Caicedo said. "We don't want to transplant kidneys from young donors into old people or vice versa. We want the match to have the best outcome, making sure the patient and the kidney have the longest survival. In this case, we were able to use an expanded-criteria kidney that probably would not be good for a 20-year-old. And we used a kidney that in many cases would have been thrown away or not used.

"I am a old 25-year-old," C'aicedo said to reporters. "Some times you have a 65- to 70-year-old patient and you are at the end of June, nine people 65 or older got kidneys from a deceased donor in the U.S.; nearly received a kidney from a deceased donor in the U.S.; two received kidneys from deceased donors 65 or older. The transplant waiting list is aging because people are living longer and developing diseases like diabetes and hypertension that lead to chronic disease and eventually end-stage organ failure, said Dr. John Friedewald, vice chairman of the kidney allocation committee of University of Pennsylvania.

Became aware of the problem doing transplants, clearly more than the supply of organs justify," he added. "The more people want to end their lives, but also they push hard to use organs of somewhat questionable quality. It is a simplistic answer.

More than 16,000 kidney transplants were performed nationwide last year, a number the current waiting list for kidneys stands at about 81,000. The use of expanded-criteria kidneys has increased about 30 percent since 2002 and now accounts for about 11 percent of all kidney transplants. Guano is one of 18 patients through Northwestern's Hispanic Transplant Program. Dr. Juan Carlos Caeidco, the program director, said that of the almost 3,000 kidney transplants performed through the program since 1988, 188 came from donors 65 or older.

"Part of our informed consent process is to explore if that patient will be on the waiting list for the rest of their lives, and in effect, that is to explain to every patient all the risks and benefits, and they have the first one word," Caicedo said. "They can decide if they want it if they don't want it." People who accept an expanded-criteria kidney have a shorter wait for an organ and are less likely to die than patients on dialysis.

A recent study published in the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology found that about half of kidney transplant candidate donors older than 65 will die before getting a deceased-donor kidney. The risk of dying before transplant was even higher for African-Americans, donors those 70 or older and those with blood type B or O.

The downside of taking on an expanded-criteria kidney instead of a standard kidney is a higher risk of organ rejection and death.

"The primary reason (for using these kidneys) is to try to get the most out of the organs we have, but another factor is that transplantation is lucrative," said Adam Caplan, director of the Transplantation Institute at University of Pennsylvania.

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China, U.S. promise bold steps to safeguard climate at U.N. summit

Warren P. Strobel and Renee Schooler

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and Hu Jintao of China — the leaders of the two countries that emit the most greenhouse gases — pledged at a United Nations summit Tuesday that their countries would take bold actions to protect the Earth's future climate from irreversible damage.

Obama and Hu listed what their countries already have done to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases and acknowledged that much more would be needed, although they didn't specify what new steps they'll take.

Negotiations for a climate agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December have been bogged down — industrialized and developing countries argue about which should act first, and how much they should cut emissions. The goal in Copenhagen is for industrialized countries to set midterm and long-term limits on carbon pollution and for developing countries to declare what steps they'll take to reduce emissions, a step short of making mandatory reductions.

Another area of dispute is how much the world's wealthy nations will pay to help poorer ones reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change. Any general agreement probably would require more work after the Copenhagen talks to fill in details.

"Success in Copenhagen will have positive ripple effects for global cooperation on trade, energy, security and health," Hu said, "Failure to reach a broad agreement in Copenhagen would be morally inexcusable, economically shortsighted and politically unconscionable."

Obama warned that unless the world's nations act "boldly, swiftly and together, we risk consigning future generations to an irreversible catastrophe."

Obama announced that at the Group of 20 meeting Thursday in Pittsburgh he'll propose phasing out fossil fuel subsidies so that money can be directed to climate protection.

The United States has done more to promote clean energy and reduce carbon pollution in the last eight years than at any other time in our history," Energy and climate legislation is moving slowly in Congress, however, taking a back seat to Obama's priority of health care restructuring.

China's Hu said his country would cut carbon dioxide emissions as a percentage of economic output by a "notable margin" by 2020, but he didn't specify an amount. China's overall emissions are expected to keep growing through this period.

This is a new goal and "the clearest signal yet that China is willing to take on responsibilities that are commensurate with its resources and global emissions impact," said Harold W. Leibowitz, a senior policy analyst at the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan research institution that supports Obama's initiatives.

Wong said that Hu's statement implicitly committed China to measure and report its emissions in a way that international observers could verify. A plan for how that would work for all countries remains to be decided.

Hu's statement followed other policy actions by China's leadership in recent years that reduce the rate of increase of the country's emissions.

"Quite frankly, China is making great strides in many areas," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a television interview Tuesday with McClatchy Newspapers.

Obama said it was possible to keep temperatures from rising by 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit, the level that world leaders and scientists have agreed shouldn't be crossed.

"This goal, which is an ambitious goal, is achievable, but we'll have to work very hard to get there," he said. "Having said all that, the thing we've got to do is get started. We've got to realize the dangers of what would happen" if temperatures increase by 11 degrees Fahrenheit or more, as scientific studies have shown could happen if no limits are put on emissions.

"At all costs we want to avoid entering into that region, because it would be a very different world," Chu said.

China, India and other large developing countries have said that it's impossible for them to put a binding cap on emissions.

India announced last week that it would make voluntary emission cuts through greater efficiency and more use of renewable energy.

Obama's Mideast talks fall short of expectations

Warren P. Strobel

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, expressing impatience with stalled Middle East peace talks, told Israeli and Palestinian leaders Tuesday that "it is past time to talk about starting negotiations — it is time to move forward."

His meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was the highest-level Middle East diplomatic breakthrough of his presidency, but it fell short of expectations. As recently as a week ago, U.S. officials had hoped it would yield an announcement of renewed formal negotiations on an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

However, Obama special envoy George Mitchell was unable to secure a deal in which Israel would freeze construction of West Bank settlements in return for Arab states taking small steps toward recognition of Israel. Obama and his aides seemed to be switching gears after seven months of frustration, as they played down the settlements issue and emphasized the need to begin talks right away.

"Permanent status negotiations must begin, and begin soon," Obama said, referring to talks on the fundamental issues that divide the parties, such as borders, the status of Jerusalem and the settlements.

The meetings at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel — Obama met Netanyahu and Abbas separately, and then brought them together — produced no breakthroughs. The only apparent progress was a commitment by both sides to send negotiating teams to Washington next week, and a general agreement that peace talks should re-start quickly.

Mitchell, who's repeatedly shuttled across the Middle East, said the Obama administration has made significant progress in narrowing the differences between the two sides. But he added: "We know this wasn't going to be easy."

Tuesday's talks were "blunt" at times, Mitchell said, with the Israelis and Palestinians retrenching their positions and Obama beseeching them to "get things done."

Netanyahu, at the helm of a right-center coalition, has steadfastly refused U.S. calls for a full freeze in construction of Jewish settlements in the contested West Bank. He offered a temporary nine-month pause, but negotiations have stalled.
State

Sacramento (McClatchy-Tribune) — By 2030, California will need approximately 214,000 to 253,000 new health workers. The need for new workers comes from population growth in California, and people retiring or leaving the field. California will grow by 10.2 million people by 2030, with the population of over-65 residents doubling to 9 million, the report projected. Occupations in highest demand are nursing aides, medical secretaries, medical assistants, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, home health aids, dental assistants and dental hygienists. The group includes up to 50 job classifications and comprises about 60 percent of the health care work force.

Chicago (McClatchy-Tribune) — After a microscopic look at several famous marriages, author Christopher Andersen takes his pen on some saga, a hatchet to the Obamas in his latest book, “Barack and Michelle: Portrait of an American Marriage.”

He describes a reluctant groom-to-be, sometimes-stormy union, and woman sick of emr, overpowering asthma-and being shut out by his ambition. He says she craves battles of hurt and anger, helping to nurse daughter Sasha to health after meningitis, and coping with early political deficit and debt, the Obama survived-and thrived. By the inauguration they were “indispensably the First Couple, not only of America but of the world.”

Detroit (McClatchy-Tribune) — General Motors Co plans to add new shifts at three U.S. assembly plants, restoring 2,400 jobs, the company announced today. The shift will be added at plant in Lansing Delta Township, Mich.; Fairfax, Va.; and Fort Wayne, Ind., the company said.

GM said the actions are the result of consolidating products built at factories that are being retooled for new products, closed or being placed on standby as previously announced.

International

Urumqi, China (McClatchy) — China’s leadership says it has calmed this city after almost 200 people were stabbed, bludgeoned or beaten to death in July riots and more violent protests this month forced the removal of top officials.

Despite the assurances from Beijing, however, Urumqi remains on edge less than two weeks before the 60th anniversary celebration of China’s communist regime. The region’s main ethnic groups, Han Chinese and Uighurs, Turkic-speaking Muslims, are locked in a cycle of violence in this enclave of more than 2.3 million people near China’s western border.

Hundreds of soldiers with automatic rifles and riot shields are stationed on street corners. Pickups zoom through the streets blaring propaganda from loudspeakers, exalting the communist regime. The region’s main ethnic groups, Han Chinese and Uighurs, Turkic-speaking Muslims, are locked in a cycle of violence in this enclave of more than 2.3 million people near China’s western border.

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Senate panel takes up health care, but final bill may be months away

David Lightman
Mc Clatchy Newspapers

The Senate Finance Committee Tuesday began the latest, and so far the most crucial, piece of writing legislation to overhaul the nation’s health care system… and quickly demonstrated how tough a task lawmakers face.

Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., revised key elements of the carefully crafted compromise that he announced only a week ago. The 13 Democrats and 10 Republicans took more than three hours to make their opening statements expressing their views. Committee members offered 56 amendments.

Sometimes, they seemed almost averted by their mission. “This is our opportunity to make history,” Baucus said. Other times, they expressed concern about a wide variety of issues, notably whether middle- and lower-income consumers could afford the coverage they’d be required to buy under his bill.

The committee, which hopes to finish its work by the end of this week, is the latest stop in a months-long process that still lacks a clear finish line. Everything done in Senate Finance may be changed again on the Senate floor, or later in a House-Senate conference committee. Any final legislation is months away.

So far, three committees of the House and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee have produced their versions of health care legislation, all written largely by Democrats. Each includes a government-run alternative to private health insurance coverage, or a “public option.”

House leaders are trying to merge their three bills into one, and a floor vote is expected soon. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said that the public option will pass the House, setting up a likely showdown with the Senate, where many think a public option can’t pass. The Finance Committee is expected to back cooperatives, or nonprofit, member-run companies, as an alternative to a public option.

Once Senate Finance is done, its work will be combined with the Senate Health Committee’s measure, and the full Senate will consider a single bill, subject to amendments. If that passes, a House-Senate conference, or negotiating committee, will write a final version. It then would go to each chamber for final passage. If each chamber approves the final version, it then would go to each chamber for final passage. If each chamber approves the final version, it then would go to each chamber for final passage. If each chamber approves the final version, it then would go to each chamber for final passage.

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Where will you buy your Textbooks?

Prices were obtained on Wednesday, September 17th.
The Patriot Act, a favorite of the Bush administration's fight against terrorism, turns 10 later this year as the Justice Act at the hands of Republicans and Democrats alike. But law itself, including its controversial provisions that gave FBI agents more leeway to search computers and bank records, is likely to live on, albeit with some changes to limit who can be searched.

"Security and liberty are both essential in our free society," Senator Patrick Leahy said Tuesday in introducing a bill to extend three provisions of the law due to expire on Dec. 31. He said Democrats would "update checks and balances by increasing transparency of the government's investigations."

As a senator from Illinois, Barack Obama was a critic of the Patriot Act. Last week, however, the Obama administration asked the House and Senate to extend its three existing provisions.

"The Administration is willing to consider the law (for modifying the law), provided that they do not undermine the effectiveness of these important tools," Assistant Attorney General Ronald Welch said in a letter to Congress.

This small concession was greeted by House Democrat Tuesday as a "refreshing break" from the Bush era.

The House subcommittee on the Constitution held its first hearing on extending the Patriot Act Tuesday, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., chairman, said the law has "amassed a great deal of controversy and concern," but it nonetheless "remains a useful tool" in investigating and preventing terrorist attacks.

But many liberals are still upset by the far-reaching search authority, and they are not ready to back the extension, even in a non-Democratic administration.

The law was pushed through Congress after 9/11," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich.

When an Obama administration lawyer testified in support of extending the law, Rep. Nadler stopped him short. "You sound like a lot of people who came over from DOJ," he said, referring to the Department of Justice under President George W. Bush.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., the lone opponent of the Patriot Act in 2001, served notice he will lead an effort with other Senate Liberals, including Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., to make "fixes" in the Patriot Act. Their bill, which the Justice Act also would allow lawsuits against telephone communications firms that cooperated with the Bush administration and supplied information on their customers.

More controversial than the three provisions about to expire is the FBI's use of "National Security Letters" to obtain financial records and computer information... and without the approval of a judge.

Both Leahy and Nadler said Tuesday they will not seek to repeal, but they will press for changes. Lea­ h y said he "would require the FBI to include a statement of facts articulating why the information it sought is necessary to a reasonable investigation."

He also said he planned to seek a change that would call for disclosing these searches in some cases after 21 days. The Obama administration said it had not decided on whether it would support or oppose changes in this part of the law.

The most controversial of the three expired provisions allows the FBI, with a judge's approval, to obtain an order to get business records, financial data, computer information from personal e-mail records that are believed to be "relevant" to a terrorism investigation. These searches and seizures of personal e-mail data, for example, are not to notify the customer.

Leahy and Nadler said they will seek a change in the law that would require investigators to show a clear link between the records sought and an actual terrorist.

On Tuesday, an Obama adminis­ tration lawyer discounted concern from the ACLU about library books in testimony before the House sub­ committee.

"At the time of the USA Patriot Act, there was concern that the FBI would exploit the broad scope of the business records authority to collect sensitive personal information on constitutionally protected activities, such as the use of public libraries. This simply has not occurred, even in the environment of heightened terrorist threat activity," said Tod M. Hinnen, a deputy assistant attorney general.

Another section authorizes a "roving" wiretap of suspected terror­ ist or foreign agents who move around and switches cell phones to avoid detection. These wiretaps must be approved by a judge. An Obama administration lawyer said it has been used about 22 times per year since 2001.

The third provision allows the government to target a foreigner who is suspected of terrorism but is a "lone wolf" with no apparent con­ nection to a group such as al-Qaeda. Prior to 2003, the law allowed the FBI to spy on terrorists or foreign agents in this country, but only if they could be linked to some terrorist group or foreign government.

Government lawyers said they have never used this provision of the law, but urged that it be extended in the event a similar situation arises in the future.

Republicans said the Patriot Act helped prevent a terrorist attack in this country, but said the provisions should be extended as they are.

"The clock is ticking," Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said Tuesday.

An ACLU lawyer said much of the current law is "unconstitutional" and should be repealed or revised. "The time for the Patriot Act reform is long overdue," said Mike German, an ACLU lawyer and former FBI agent. Schwartzengger's proposed eliminating all $2.4 million in state general fund money for parks by next year, which the state parks department said would mean a 220 of the 279 state parks to close.

After public outcry, the Legislature restored all but $8 million of the state's $1.4 billion 2012 budget. A state parks director said last month there was no way to make ends meet but to close as many as 100 parks, and the governor's office did not overrule her. Further, the official state budget summary Schwartzengger's office released July 28 declared that the cuts "will result in the closure of probably more than 100 parks."

California's state of parks systems is to the acute redhounds of the state. The sloughs of Lake Tahoe, glistening "Baywatch" beaches and historic sites like Sutter's Fort.

In recent weeks, the prospect that Schwartzengger would become the first governor in the 108-year his­ tory of the state parks department to ever close a state park to save money has prompted protests, letters from the public, critical newspaper editorials and requests from Republican lawmakers in rural districts that their parks not be closed because of the loss of tourism.

Schwartzengger's staff tried Tuesday to downplay that the changing policy was a major shift in the gover­ nor's position. Last Monday, however, Schwartzengger was asked at a press conference about closing parks, and did not mention that his staff would be re-evaluating the plan to close 100.

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picture of the day

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This new mobile restaurant brings breakfast grub, grilled sandwiches, specialty fries, and late night favorites to you around campus. Find out where Curbside Grill will stop next at www.twitter.com/polydeals.

Check out the new salad & soup bar, teriyaki bowl station, local coffee & espresso drinks, grilled paninis, and more at Campus Market. You’re guaranteed to find something tasty!

Try one of the many new desserts and ice cream sensations at Sweet Destination, located inside 19 Metro station.
A Clear Blurr is the clear choice for Blink 182 faithful

Sloane Kopceky

SLOAN KOPCEKY

A Clear Blurr is one such band, with a vibrant new album and a whole lot of potential.

The band is made up of four members: Kevin Nicotera, Tom Kenney, Karl Pearson and Cole MacDonnell. The men are from New Jersey and continue to make the Garden State their base of operations. "Trigonometry" is the band's sophomore album and will officially be released on Sept. 29.

From the very first track, one is hard-pressed not to recall the height of the '90s pop punk craze and blink 182. Nicotera named Misfits and The Starting Line. He explained that the band is made up of four members: Kenney, Pearson and Cole MacDonnell. When the news that they were high school freshmen. They have since graduated and switched gear to focus on their music careers.

The band works together to come up with new songs. Nine times out of 10, the members "will just get together and start working up some kind of idea with hopes of turning it into a song. Over time we'll pick it apart and change things here and there," Nicotera said. "We don't look like the kind of kids that would be in a band, and we don't drink or do drugs," Nicotera said. "We're the normal kids you would see in school… We are friends with everybody and everybody can relate to our music."

For those traveling to the East Coast soon, A Clear Blurr can next be seen on Sept. 25 at the Fall Fest in Edison, N.J.
Memoir reveals the hard knock life of an abandoned foster child

We've probably all heard the horror stories of kids who are shuffled around in foster care, but this girl actually lived it. Ashley Rhodes-Courter lived in 14 different foster homes in the space of only nine years. Before she turned 4 years old, she and her infant brother were taken away from their mother. One thing that is a little vague is the role that her mother played in this separation. She clearly didn't want her children to be taken away, and it isn't entirely clear why they were taken away to begin with.

A vague reason is the stepfather being in trouble with the law, but in the beginning, it doesn't seem as though her mother had done anything wrong.

This was an interesting moment of confusion for me — at first I thought that Rhodes-Courter was leaving out some painful memories, but as you get to the end of the book, you realize that she hasn’t spared any other details, so why now? My guess for this lack of clarity about her mother’s role is actually a criticism of the foster care system. As you see later in the book, there is a serious incompetence on the part of the social workers and a lack of care of Ashley and her brother.

I think that she is hinting in the beginning that the foster care system did not actually have much reason to keep

“Parks & Recreation” actor finds humor in unlikely places

Maureen Ryan

Nick Offerman has a rare skill: the ability to swing laughs from silence.

In the Sept. 24 episode of the much-improved NBC comedy “Parks and Recreation” (8:30 p.m. EDT Thursday), his character, park district manager Ron Swanson, mostly silent, trying to ignore his colleagues, offered C’ffferman the role of Swanson’s humorlessness humorous, but it never worked out for Offerman, who has lived in Los Angeles for more than a decade.

Somehow Offerman makes飻

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Nick Offerman stars as Ron Swanson in the NBC comedy “Parks and Recreation.” The show airs on Thursdays on NBC.
Personal touch lost with evolving hand-held technology

Bobby Bingle
The Heidts (DeVry College)

Personal technological advances such as the iPhone, BlackBerry, and iPod have changed the way we live on a daily basis. They have countless benefits. Their advantages outweigh any disadvantages, but I feel that with their existence we nonetheless have lost some valuable things.

Before I continue, I should make it clear that I’m not an expert on technology. In fact, I’ve often been described as technologically challenged. My dad and I once predicted that PDAs would be a fleeting fad because they were the size of a portable calculator with menus. Hell, I probably would have thought the wheel was a gimmick. With that in mind, take what I say with a grain of salt.

Phones and Blackberries can do almost anything. You can check e-mail, make calls, surf the Internet. There’s an app for finding a restaurant, budgeting your money, taking a shower, following a recipe, shopping for clothes, sending postcards and breaking up with your girlfriend.

But at some point, people become too interconnected in touch with the world and each other. We have almost unanimously given up a decent amount of our privacy. We’ve become walking Global Positioning Systems. How often do you go somewhere of some importance when someone doesn’t know where you are, whether it is from a text, a call, or an e-mail message? Anyways, I doubt kids these days are able to just tell their mom they’ll be home at five for dinner, hop from the deep end, but she is definitely incapable of caring for them due to work or chores to get B*Witched’s self-titled debut. You couldn’t just click a few buttons and have a hundred new songs at your fingertips. This meant that when you had the CD, not only did you own a disc, but you possessed the music.

Also, there are really CD mixes anymore. There are playlists on iPods, but they don’t carry the same po­tency as the CD mix. A playlist can have over a hundred songs on it from your catalog of thousands. Depending on the length of a song, your CD mix could only contain about 12-15 songs. This meant that at the time of your CD mix’s creation, those handful of songs were the songs that you had found a way to get and truly enjoyed. Giving or receiving a CD mix was once a significant gesture. Those were songs that you had gone out of your way to get. And those were songs that you wanted someone else to share. Maybe they were just songs that simply sounded good or maybe they had meaning to you. For example, I made a CD mix for a girl I liked in grade school that opened with On Bended Knee by Boyz II Men and closed with Cherry Pie by Warrant. As we made more and more gains in personal technology, there are feelings and moments that we lose. These dissolve in our brains under a charge of our fast-paced lives.

Monday morning? Or have you ever lost your charger for a week and had no phone? I can tell you, it’s exasperating. It’s not that you cut off, it’s that you’re driven. There are almost no outside distractions. Rather than testing or looking up who finished second in the N. East in 2006, you become engrossed in the present. Maybe I’m just ignorant because I’ve never owned an iPhone or a BlackBerry. And as I said before, their benefits outweigh their drawbacks. But there are still drawbacks. And plus, they’ve ruined Trista Night.

iPods are another development that has changed our lives completely. I truly do like iPods. You can keep your entire music catalog in your pocket. You can download hundreds of songs (free if you choose) in minutes and put them on your iPod. You can press a genius button which will choose a whole playlist for you to listen to that fits the style you want to hear.

However, the iPod has caused the loss of some important aspects of music. I’m speaking from the perspective of a kid growing up in the ‘90s and early 2000s. No, I’m speaking about the cassette and CD era. But I’ll focus on CDs.

One thing that has been lost is the regularity of listening to a CD, or albums, in its entirety. Though this is still done, all the choices and options the iPod affords make it less frequent. Though I believe that people should listen to whatever they want whenever they want, I still feel there is something to listening to an album in its entirety. (I used to think listening in its entirety was the only way. Then I came down from my shining, gold, high horse).

The artist or band didn’t release just one or two songs. There was value to a whole album even if 10 out of the 12 songs are just fillers. There was still some time put into them and you may find gems you never would have known about otherwise. Or you may hear songs so terrible that your opinion of the artist or band may change. Finally, anyone who has listened to an album they love, from beginning to end, knows how satisfying it can be.

Before iPods, getting new music meant something more. If there was a CD you really wanted, you had to work to get it. Maybe you saved up birthday and Christmas money to get Floored by Sugar Ray. Or maybe you begged your parents or did extra chores to get Brit’Witchy’s self-titled debut. You couldn’t just click a few buttons and have a hundred new songs at your fingertips. This meant that when you had the CD, not only did you own a disc, but you possessed the music.

As we make more and more gains in personal technology, there are feelings and moments that we lose. These dissolve in our brains under a charge of our fast-paced lives.
President Obama plans to make history Thursday by chairing a special, summit-level meeting of the U.N. Security Council. This will be the first time an American president has done so, and only the fifth time in the United Nations’ 64-year history that such a high-level meeting has been convened in that body.

The focus will be on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

The pressure will be strong for Obama to emerge with some sort of substantive outcome that can be hailed as a success.

Beware. In the matter of making history, there are some things worth doing, such as breaking the racial barrier to the White House or ending the Cold War.

And then there are other instances, in which, if something has never been done before, there may be good reasons for not doing it now.

In the case of chairing the Security Council, there are plenty of reasons a president should not do it, ever. It demeans the United Nations, undermines the art of U.N. diplomacy and potentially devalues a president.

If it did, quite a number of member states would be enrolled, and others would have been kicked out years ago (that’s never happened).

In practice, the United Nations is the world’s most desperately out-of-date collective outrage, grieved in diplomatic immunities, and thus largely unaccountable for its actions.

The biggest voting bloc in the General Assembly is the 130-member G-77, which this year picked for its chair — I’m not kidding — the genocidal government of Sudan (whose President Omar al-Bashir is under indictment by the International Criminal Court).

The Security Council isn’t all that much better.

Chairmanship rotates monthly through the 15 member states, where it yet my tuition went up more than the in-state students, where the nature of the institution itself.

In the case of chairing the Security Council, there are plenty of reasons a president should not do it, ever. It demeans the United Nations, undermines the art of U.N. diplomacy and potentially devalues a president.

When the United Nations was founded in 1945, it was imagined as a noble peace-promoting parliament of all mankind. It has not worked out that way.

The United Nations holds votes, but it is not a democracy, and it does not cleave to its own lofty charter principles about upholding human dignity. If it did, quite a number of member states, including one of the major founders, the Stalin’s Soviet Union, would never have been entitled, and others would have been kicked out years ago (that’s never happened).

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Health insurance costs are putting U.S. companies out of business

In 1999, it cost about $5,800 to buy employer-provided family health insurance coverage. If premiums had increased at the same rate as inflation, that same policy today would cost $7,239. Instead, it costs $13,375. That's an increase of 131 percent — more than five times the overall rate of inflation.

Companies don't provide health benefits out of the goodness of their hearts. They do it to attract the best workers and because healthy employees with healthy families are more productive.

But when insurance costs grow at five times the rate of inflation, it's worth wondering how much longer they can afford to do it.

Since the early 1990s, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation has been surveying U.S. businesses about the cost of health benefits offered to employees. Its latest survey, released this week, demonstrates why health reform is so urgent.

Let's put premiums for family health insurance coverage into a human scale.

A person who worked full time at a minimum-wage job in Missouri would need his entire gross wages from January until the second week of November just to buy a policy — assuming he could get the group rate. For about $3,000 less, he could buy a new car; a base model Hyundai Accent sells for $10,065.

Employers pay about three-quarters of the premium for health insurance that they offer their workers. That means the minimum-wage worker's company would be paying about $9,000 for his family's coverage, a figure equal to about two-thirds of his annual salary.

The cost of covering just that worker, excluding his family, would equal about what he would earn for working about 17 weeks.

No wonder so few companies that employ mostly low-wage workers offer health benefits. The Kaiser survey found just 39 percent of companies with large numbers of low-wage workers offer health benefits.

About 46 percent of companies with nine or fewer workers provide health benefits.

The result is that millions of Americans have been priced out of the health insurance market.

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About 46.3 million were uninsured in 2008. Current estimates based on the unemployment rate put that figure at about 56 million uninsured today.

Covering them is one of the key goals of health reform. But another is to shore up the current employment-based system of health insurance. The reform proposals would create a so-called insurance exchange — essentially a giant group market that would be open to small businesses, the uninsured and people who buy coverage on their own.

Propelling the current system is crucial to the 156 million-plus Americans who get coverage through their jobs. Because health insurance premiums keep growing at a rate anything like their recent pace, many people who now get health insurance through their jobs would soon be uninsured.

Last year, consumer prices increased by 6.1 percent. Health insurance premiums jumped by 9.3 percent. That's unsustainable.

If premiums keep growing at the rate they have over the last five years, family coverage will cost more than $24,000 in 2019.

If they grow at the rate they have over the past 16 years — an average of 5.7 percent per year — family coverage would cost nearly $31,000 in 2019.

If that happens, it won't only be low-wage workers who are priced out of the health insurance market. Millions of middle-class Americans would find themselves uninsured, too.

The Mustang Daily needs

Job Description:
After 30 days with no food, Twinkie the Kid didn’t like the looks he was getting from the rest of the Donner Party.

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Jeff Miller  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

LOS ANGELES — Six weeks ago, he looked so good that he was the starting quarterback at USC.

On Monday, Aaron Corp was being ridiculed on a national radio show for his physical appearance.

Corp never was sacked in his starting debut Saturday at Washington, but he has been taking shots ever since, some cheaper than others. And some from very close range.

But that's how we've evolved as a society; we've grown by shrinking, our attention spans to our patience to our perspective all shriveling because that's the easier path.

This much is certain: Age 20 is a lot older than it used to be.

Corp did not play well in USC's 16-13 loss to the Huskies, a team the Trojans defeated last fall by eight touchdowns. His performance, in fact, led to the least productive passing game since Pete Carroll took over before the 2001 season.

Since this is USC, which is supposed to win every game, and since he plays quarterback, a position that's supposed to be manned by a Heisman Trophy candidate, Corp is being buried.

"The quarterback threw a pick but could have thrown a couple more," Carroll said Tuesday. "Those were most alarming to me, that we could have had two or three more interceptions in that game."

This, from a coach whose optimism usually is thick enough to pour over ponciples. Carroll later was more encouraging toward Corp, though the coach continued to leave little doubt just how far this sophomore has fallen in a month and a half.

Corp doesn't deserve praise, but does he really deserve this? After you start, his first since Dec. 16, 2000 Against Palo Alto High? After just four quarters that also included his more experienced teammates fumbling four times and being called for eight penalties?

Let's start by remembering something everyone seems to have forgotten. Corp is still dealing with the affects of a broken leg. A broken leg!

He didn't suffer a thigh bruise last month or a cut on the pinkie of his non-throwing hand. He cracked his fibula. This was a rather significant occurrence, especially for a quarterback who relies on mobility.

"He needs to get back to fullness," Carroll said. "I don't think his arm strength is there. He's been playing with a broken leg for five weeks now. He has compensated in a way where he's not at his best this year.

In a similar manner, Corp has been denied the chance to stand on two sound legs mentally, Carroll said, especially for Matt Barkley bordering on comical. The coach even was asked this week if he has a crush on the freshman.

The atmosphere Carroll has established around his program might be almost a pat on the back.

development of a second quarterback. For a guy who loves to encourage competition, Carroll has masterfully discouraged Corp numerous times.

Last week, even as Barkley went day after day of missing practice because of a sore shoulder, Carroll never publicly announced Corp would start against Washington.

It wasn't until trotting onto the field with the first team Saturday that Corp was sure himself.

And why, exactly, didn't Carroll officially back Corp even as he admitted "it was so obvious" who was going to start? That, once again, was for Barkley's benefit, to ensure his mental readiness.

"Specifically, it was to keep Matt alive in the process," Caroll explained. "Aaron knows more than Matt did. If you tell a guy 'OK, you're not playing,' it's really, really asking too much to have a guy hold that warrior mentality."

Recall that in naming Barkley as the starter in August, the same coach did so more than a week before the opener in order to allow Barkley to prepare his mind. Corp wasn't afforded a similar opportunity.

"That might have helped him. I don't know," Carroll said. "I don't think it would have helped him immeasurably."  

None, hearing his coach's words, what is Corp learning? The same thing we all are, that a healthy enough Barkley is decidedly this team's starting quarterback. From the sounds of it, the gap between the first- and second-stringers from Orange County isn't close.

Carroll expertly has handled the abundance of talent he has recruited to USC; the past nine years, finding ways to keep the majority of his skill-position players happy while still using just a single football.

With this quarterback situation, however, he has been ham-handed.

always-in-charge Carroll appeared this season, maybe we'll all be seeing what Carroll actually has seen.

And Corp doesn't need anyone's sympathy. This is his third year in a program that forces its players to grow up quickly or be crushed.

It's just that we think he deserves better, deserves more. We know he certainly doesn't deserve this.
Athens, Ohio — Cal Poly's passing offense failed to produce in the 28-10 loss handed by Ohio, and its defensive miscues were much more evident in week two.

Senior quarterback Theo Scott passed for 238 yards and three touchdowns as Ohio defeated the Mustangs defensively. Safety Darrell Smith completed just one of 11 passes against Sacramento State a week ago, turned the ball over three times Saturday as Smith threw a game-high four interceptions and lost a fumble to the Bobcats.

Linebacker Marty Mohamed recorded nine tackles, including 1.5 for lost yardage, to lead the Mustangs defensively. Safety Darell Smith completed just one of 11 passes with no interceptions and was sacked.

Ohio built a 14-0 lead in the first 17 minutes of the game and never looked back.

Erik Ejeke intercepted a Tony Smith pass and ran 25 yards for the first score of the game with about seven minutes left in the first quarter and Scott smashed the Bobcats with a five-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter as Ohio built a 14-0 lead.

Cal Poly scored its first points on a 42-yard field goal by Chris Price with 2:37 left before halftime.

Ohio had two chances to score late in the first half but Matt Weller missed field goal attempts of 26 and 43 yards. He also missed a 35-yarder five minutes into the third period.

Scott connected with Taylor Price twice for 42 yards. Price ran a touchdown pass early in the third quarter as Ohio extended its lead to 21-3.

Price, who caught 51 passes last year, is a Fred Biletnikoff Award candidate and finished with nine catches for 135 yards Saturday.

Scott's third scoring toss spanned 62 yards to Terrence McCrae with 7.20 to go in the game. Cal Poly's only touchdown of the game came courtesy of the defense as sophomore safety Greg Francis returned an interception 60 yards with 2:56 remaining in the game.

Ohio's ground attack was paced by Chris Garrett with 91 yards on 17 carries.

Cal Poly junior fullback Jordan Yocom established new career highs of 27 carries and 130 yards. Smith completed just one of 11 passes for 12 yards. The completion was to Dominique Johnson in the first half.

Last week, Smith was 12 of 19 for 218 yards and rushed for 92 additional yards against Sacramento State. He was held by the Bobcats defense to 20 yards on 11 carries.

Despite the loss, Cal Poly had an advantage of 5 minutes, 52 seconds in time of possession and outscored Ohio 17-14 in the first 17 minutes of the game.

Cal Poly, which did not have a turnover in its season-opening win over Sacramento State a week ago, turned the ball over three times Saturday as Smith threw away two of interceptions and lost a fumble to the Bobcats.

Senior quarterback Coral Hooser made seven saves for Cal Poly. Hooser's biggest stop of the afternoon came in the 75th minute, when she was in perfect position to rob Kelly LaVoie from 10 yards out in the middle of the box.

For Hooser it was her fourth win of the season and her second shutout, earning her Big West Athlete of the Week honors.

The Mustangs took 10 shots, five on goal while UC Davis 21 shots with seven on goal.

Hang on to the Mustangs defensive pressure was evident as the Bobcats had no answers Saturday.

The Bobcats had seven minutes left in the first half to get their offense going but could not find a rhythm.

Ohio extended its lead to 21-3 in the second period.

A shot following a pass from sophomore forward Ashley Miller was saved by senior goalkeeper Coral Hooser for the goal. It was Miller's third assist on the season.

With the loss, the Mustangs improve to 3-1-0 on the season.

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