Deans weigh in on CBF delay

Will Taylor and Katie Koschalk

The chancellor's announcement that College Baseline Fees (CBF) would be put on hold has caused Cal Poly administrators to rethink college expenses.

In March, Cal Poly students voted to approve an increase in CBFs in order to prevent cuts in classes and classroom equipment.

Erik Falls, a representative of the chancellor's office, said the reason Cal Poly cannot increase the CBFs is to ensure that all California State Universities (CSU) remain affordable.

"This is meant to maintain access and affordability for students to the greatest extent possible given this year's reduction in state support," he said.

Cal Poly administrators think that it is a mistake to treat every one of the CSU campuses in the same way.

Both Dr. Deborah Valencia-Lavery, the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and R. Thomas Jones, dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design said Cal Poly is unique from the other campuses because Cal Poly has a higher graduation rate than many other CSUs. Upper division students cost more because there are more classes required and because upper division classes usually cost more.

The whole CSU system is being affected by this economy, but Jones warns against an attempted fix for the system.

"A one-size-fits-all fix, for when we have 23 unique campuses, seems inconsistent with CSU progress," he said.

"Chancellor Reeder is concerned with potentially creating a two-tiered system in the CSU system." Valencia-Lavery said.

Other administrators at Cal Poly also see problems with the system moving together.

"There is an egalitarian spirit in the state of California that would like to see a rising tide raise all ships," Robert Koob, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Cal Poly said "Cal Poly, for whatever reason, seems to be rising faster or sinking slower."

One large impact Cal Poly could see if the CBFs are not approved is a severe reduction in the summer school program.

"We almost certainly will not be able to have a state-supported summer school," Koob said.

Although the state may not support it, Cal Poly will still try to provide an open university and continuing education, Koob said.

"It will certainly be more costly if it works," he said.

There have been cuts already because of the budget deficit. The College of Liberal Arts, which holds a large portion of Cal Poly's general education courses, has very few members of their lecture staff left, even prior to the CBF delays, Valencia-Laver said.

"We've lost faculty and staff," Valencia-Laver said, although she said she did not know an exact number. And there are more impacts to come.

The CBF delay will affect the availability of classes in major courses and GE's, Valencia-Laver said.

In addition, specialty GE courses and other College of Liberal Arts enhancements will be lost as well, she said. These reductions will most likely be greater in the winter and spring quarters.

"Where (CLA) feels it most is in arts," Will Taylor said.

SLO City Council hears community's concerns Tuesday

Kate McIntyre

More than 130 people attended the San Luis Obispo City Council meeting Tuesday night, where San Luis Obispo Police Chief Deb Linden presented five strategies to deal with the noise and unruly gatherings.

"This is meant to maintain community's concerns Tuesday," the San Luis Obispo City Council said.

Kate McIntyre

The temporary exercise facility in the Cal Poly Recreation Center is now open and in constant use with gym goers. The opening occurred as scheduled by Associated Students Inc. (ASI) on Sept. 15.

A 75 percent majority of students voted for the expansion and remodel of the Recreation Center in Feb. of 2008.

About 65 students still remaining at Cal Poly are now seeing their votes in action through major changes at the gym. The exercise room that was once upstairs has been moved to the main gym area on the first floor.

The ASI service desk and entrance to the gym are now located across from the Health Center. The racquetball courts are closed and the movement of the exercise room has resulted in the loss of two full basketball courts.

Despite the changes, ASI has worked hard to streamline the process so as not to disturb gym users' workout patterns or exercise classes, according to Greg Avakian, ASI assistant director of recreational sports who manages the facility.

The top priority is keeping general gym usage open because every Cal Poly student pays fees towards this, Avakian said. ASI then accommodates kinesiology classes and Cal Poly also see problems with the system moving together.

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Students pumped about renovation to Cal Poly Rec Center

Will Taylor

Poly athletic programs. From there the activities that students have to pay for, such as popular exercise classes and intramurals, are considered. These displaced activities will be distributed around campus at other fields, courts and venues.

"The challenge is we're still a school with athletics and kinesiology," Avakian said. "We have a commitment for the academic side. We support that."

The commitment results in what Avakian called an "ebb and flow" of exercise classes. The more popular classes like yoga and spinning, receive more room time, while less popular classes receive a more restricted schedule.

Some people say they have seen the benefit of the, "It's good because we have our own room now," Lauren Menz, a part-time spin instructor said. "The class is more accessible to people, especially new students."
The College Based Fees would be the only thing keeping our department up with the latest equipment.

—Philip Bailey
Dean of Science and Math

The Recreation Center is maintaining its normal hours during the Fall quarter’s renovations.

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design is already working with a million dollars less in its budget and an absence of students, Jones said. The faculty has been working on the 1st floor of the Recreation Center, Avakian said. The old exercise room held a maximum of 140 people, while the temporary area can hold an estimated 300 people. Avakian said. He also said that before the move, students often complained about overcrowding.

"We think the room configurations hopefully will allow people to have a better workout, to do more circuit training," he said. "The ambience and feel is hopefully like an actual gym."

Some students agreed.

"It’s a lot more spread out so it’s easier to move around," Cory Cattaruzza, a senior business student said. "It’s a big change from what I’ve been used to the last three years."

Even new students have been impressed by the facility and new additions, like the screen TV and the six new cardiovascular machines.

"I wasn’t expecting it to be so advanced for a temporary facility," said Katie Beglin, a freshman English major.

The Recreation Center is maintaining its normal hours during the Fall quarter’s renovations.

Students and faculty said the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is being more negatively affected with a percentage budget cut. In order to cut out classes or students, professors in the college, who are already on furlough, are teaching classes for even less money.

The dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Philip Bailey said that some aspects of the department have been sacrificed due to the budget cuts and will continue to go downhill without the CBF increase.

"The College Based Fees would be one of the only things keeping our department up with the latest equipment," he said. "It will be very difficult continue at the same level that we have been if the fees are not increased."

The department saw an estimated 12-15 percent decrease in the budget, Bailey said. He estimated that the base budget last year for the department was 26 million and that the department has saved 3.5 million due to the budget cuts.

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—Ted Vergis
Cal Poly graduate.

Council
continued from page 3

suggested, nodding their heads when Week of Welcome was negatively associated with the unruly partying and noise.

Councilman John Ashbaugh said that the increase in the number of on-campus residents has relieved the situation, but computer engineering junior Scott Tacker disagreed.

"I think the biggest issue they're looking at is that there are 6,500 students on campus. And since they can't drink there, they're the unruly crowd," he said.

His solution would be for zones around San Luis Obispo, designated as student living areas and those for residents.

"I understand people's issues, but there should be zones. Areas off Madonna are different than those closer to campus," he said.

Computer science senior Henry Phan agreed with Tucker about having different zones, and added that the implementation of new ordinances and law enforcement wouldn't help the situation.

"They're trying to legislate their way out of a problem, but it's not going to stop it," he said. "They're attacking the symptoms but not the problem itself."

Eager to defend the program, WOW leaders in the chamber who testified said their experience as students and faculty members had taught them the community isn't going anywhere and Cal Poly isn't going anywhere," she said.

"The San Luis Obispo community has changed. The atmosphere is different. The community isn't going anywhere and Cal Poly isn't going anywhere," she said.

The WOW program is not at fault for the students' rowdiness, he said, but the program coming on a Tuesday this year didn't help the situation.

"It was awful because it just gave students another night to party."

A program where students meet their neighbors would help alleviate the problems, he said.

Getting to the larger issue, Cal Poly graduate Ted Vergis was one of many who spoke about the city's student-residents relationship.

"I'm a little disheartened at the lengths the community has gone to create a fissure between the students and the community," he said.

Landscape architecture sophomore Andy Novak echoed that sentiment, reminding listeners that "this is a college town. Half the residents here are college students. The problem here tonight is the clash between student and residents."

Kelly Griggs represented the student body during the four-and-a-half-hour meeting as both Cal Poly's ASI president and the chair of the Student-Community Liaison Committee.

ASI does not currently have a position on the proposals.

"Mutual understanding and respect between the community and students is crucial," she said.

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Chicago's ambassadors are making a full court press in support of 2016 Olympic bid

Philip Hersh and Kathy Bergen

Two of Chicago's heavy hitters arrived Wednesday, and Michelle Obama wasted no time in captivating some of the International Olympic Committee members who will decide a 2016 Summer Olympic host-city race considered too close to call.

As she passed through the lobby of the Copenhagen Marriott, where the IOC members are staying, she gave two thumbs-up and a hug to one of the first members she encountered, Nicole Hoevertsz of Aruba.

"Not only that," Hoevertsz said later, but the first lady congratulated her on having been named Tuesday to the secretariat of Aruba's council of ministers.

It is sort of preparation and attention to detail as much as the case Michelle Obama makes for her city that the Chicago 2016 bid committee hopes will make her case Michelle Obama makes for the Olympic (or synchronised swimming) stadium, making them not because she is a TV host but because of what she does with that world and a very powerful woman, who will decide a 2016 Summer Olympic host-city race considered too close to call.

"The cities are all very active," IOC member Nat Indrapana of Thailand said. "They keep passing me information and checking in with us.

"While the lobbyists were appropriately working the lobby of the Copenhagen Marriott, the checking-in was taking on a different dimension four floors above in a room with a panoramic photograph of Chicago's downtown lakefront covering an entire wall, Michelle Obama had begun her campaign of Tokyo noteworthiness.

"It's going to be decided by a couple votes. It will be close what happens in the second round," said Richard Pound of Canada, "but there is a scenario that gets one three cities pretty easily.

Pound smiled and said, coyly, "You know," when asked which one he felt was out of the running. British bookmakers all favor Chicago, but late money is coming in for Rio, lowering its odds. While the lobbyists were working the lobby of the Copenhagen Marriott, the checking-in was taking on a different dimension four floors above in a room with a panoramic photograph of Chicago's downtown lakefront covering an entire wall, Michelle Obama had begun her campaign of Tokyo noteworthiness.

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"I think Rio, Chicago and Madrid are all hot," said IOC member Richard Carron of Puerto Rico.

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"Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel, Wednesday, September 30, 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Winfrey joined Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle, as they make a final push to host the 2016 Olympic Games in Chicago.

Word on the street

"Where do you go grocery shopping?"

Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Tricoub

"I go to Ralphs because it seems to be the cheapest and a lot closer than KUNS."

Brandi Cummings, environmental management

"Food 4 Less because their prices are reasonable for college students."

-Peter Katz, food science senior

"Usually I buy groceries at Trader Joe's because they tend to be healthier."

Ross Klein, architectural engineering junior

"Campus Market because it supports school and gives back in a way."

-Trevor Johnston, international business sophomore

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Dallas terror sting signals new approach for FBI

Ed Timms

After terrorists slammed airliners into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, the law enforcement community had one overriding priority — preventing another attack.

Making criminal arrests or detaining noncitizens on immigration violations was seen as an expedient means to keep the nation secure, according to facts put forth in a December 2001 congressional report, "National Security: Federal and Local Efforts to Interdict Undocumented Immigrants at the Border." It said, among other things, "the average returnee is a minor offender." 

But the majority of those taken into custody were never prosecuted, or they were charged with relatively minor offenses. "We're not going to take the chance that we are sacrificing security for prosecution of the more serious offenses," said Jeffers Addicott, director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

About two years ago, Addicott said, "a decision was made that we were sacrificing security for minor offenses, that we were not going to take the chance that we 'keep and bear arms' is a full-fledged constitutional right, not one that can be invoked by individuals against the government at all levels, or a restriction only on the federal government. Last year the justices in a 5-4 ruling said for the first time that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to have a handgun at home for self-defense. In another precautionary move, some campers were moved to higher ground at Oceans Dunes state park Wednesday.

State

Willis, CA (MCT) — Country, state and federal law enforcement personnel voted more than 53,000 "very healthy" marijuana plants and made 30 arrests during three days of raids on northern Mendocino County last week.

The raids were the culmination of a month-long investigation by Mendocino County sheriff's investigators, Sheriff Tom Allman said during a Monday press conference.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA (MCT) — Moreno Bay police have closed Embrazadeno and Coloten streets along the city's waterfront as a precaution in response to the now-canceled advisory issued Wednesday.

The rise in sea level was expected to reach the San Luis Obispo County coastline shortly after 9 p.m. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials expected the sea to rise about 24 inches at Port San Luis.

The advisory was issued for the entire California coastline and north-shore Oregon. The advisory was expected to remain in place until early-morning hours Wednesday.

In an unprecedented move, some campers were moved to higher ground at Oceans Dunes state park Wednesday.

Briefs

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The Supreme Court's decision Wednesday to hear a Second Amendment challenge to Chicago's ban on handgun ownership could open the door to legal attacks on gun-control measures in cities and states across the nation.

At issue is whether the right to "keep and bear arms" is a full-fledged constitutional right, one that can be invoked by individuals against the government at all levels, or a restriction only on the federal government.

The court last year in a 5-4 ruling said for the first time that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to have a handgun at home for self-defense.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — A Kansas conservation group has sued the Environmental Protection Agency over a plan to kill prairie dogs by using pesticides that are also dangerous to other wildlife.

Audubon of Kansas, along with another group, Defendants of Wildlife, have alleged that the EPA ignored the concerns of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the use of the pesticides. They want to bar the agency from registering the products, Rozol and Kaput-D, in 10 states.

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WHAT IS FANFEST?

a FREE interactive experience for Cal Poly students featuring live music, inflatables, large flat screen TVs showing all other college football games, face painting, food, games, free stuff, & more.

WHEN IS FANFEST?

3:00PM - 6:00PM before each home football game.

WHERE IS FANFEST?

Chase Lawn, College Ave., adjacent to the student entrance to Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

OCTOBER 3RD (YOUTH DAY)
6:05PM KICK-OFF
Cal Poly vs. South Dakota State
Tribal Seeds (tribalseeds.net)
Mike Pinto (mikepinto.net)

OCTOBER 17TH (HOMECOMING WEEKEND)
6:05PM KICK-OFF
Cal Poly vs. Southern Utah
Matt Costa (mattcosta.com)
Nothing Ever Stays (myspace.com/nothingeverstays)

OCTOBER 24TH (PARENTS WEEKEND)
6:05PM KICK-OFF
Cal Poly vs. Dixie State
Young Dubliners (youngdubliners.com)
The Janks (myspace.com/thejanks)

NOVEMBER 14TH (ARMED FORCES DAY)
6:05PM KICK-OFF
Cal Poly vs. South Dakota
The B Foundation (thebfoundation.net)
Chase McBride (chasemcbride.com)

VISIT GOPOLY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAL POLY FANFEST BY VISITING THE UPCOMING PROMOTIONS PAGE!
Deal to save Saturn collapses after buyer loses Renault-Nissan contract

Tim Higgins
MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE

General Motors announced Wednesday the company planned to shut down Saturn after Roger Penske's plans to buy the brand fell through. Pictured above the 2009 Saturn Vue 2-Mode Hybrid, pic was presented at the 2009 North American International Auto Show. It was launched in an attempt to revitalize the Saturn and be consistent with the current trend of fuel efficient vehicles.

GM and Penske had been negotiating toward a final agreement since June 5. The terms of the original agreement called for GM to continue providing Saturn with vehicles for two years.

At the time, Roger Penske, chairman of Penske Automotive, said they had "been in discussions during this diligence period with a number of manufacturers on a worldwide basis. We would expect to have a lineup going forward, which would be manufactured by a worldwide partner."

In early 2009, GM said it planned to wind down Saturn if a buyer could not be found. GM's Henderson noted that Penske's statement "explained that their decision was not based on interactions with GM or Saturn retailers; rather it was because of the inability to source new product beyond what it had asked GM to build on contract."

Henderson added that GM will be winding down the Saturn brand and dealership network "in accordance with the wind-down agreements that Saturn dealers recently signed with GM."

Once Saturn is done, Saturn owners will be able to get their vehicles serviced at other GM dealerships.

Olympic Bid

continued from page 4

"Being the favorite is like musical chairs.
Every two minutes, it's another one," said IOC member Apolo Anton Ohno of the United States.

"As for the Russian bid, it's another story," he said. "There is no perfect candidate, but there is a need for a strong candidate to be sure theGames will go on."

The consensus is that Russian President Vladimir Putin's presence in 2007, when he spoke during Sochi's final presentation for the 2014 Winter Games and promised the government's full fiscal backing, was crucial in the outcome.

"He made the difference," said veteran IOC member Tadeusz Panczyk. "If he had not come, those Games would not be in Sochi."

Putin had arrived two days before the vote, giving him time to lobby IOC members individually. Presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett said Wednesday that President Obama would "absolutely" try to meet IOC members individually during his stay in Copenhagen, scheduled for a few hours Friday. The issue, according to Pound, is mainly deciding which city presents the least risk.

"There is no perfect candidate," he said. "You try not to make a mistake."

No wonder the Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo wanted to get some rest. "All four cities are very good," he said. "It is going to be a very hard choice."
HOME MATCHES
NOVEMBER 7TH
JANUARY 24TH
FEBRUARY 5TH
FEBRUARY 6TH

Soccer Home Games
OCTOBER 4TH
OCTOBER 25TH
NOVEMBER 4TH
UC Davis
UC Riverside
UC Santa Barbara

Cross Country Away Meets
OCTOBER 2ND
OCTOBER 31ST
NOVEMBER 23RD
Bill Dellinger Invitational @ Eugene, Oregon
Conference Championships @ UC Riverside
NCAA Championships @ Terre Haute, Indiana

Welcome back sports fans!
Ken and Tina Smith
Wish the best of luck to Cal Poly Wrestling, Soccer, and Cross Country in all of their upcoming matches, games and meets!
Nobody ever plans on getting arrested. Drink responsibly.
Katie Koschalk

When liberal studies senior Allison Crawford was first asked to join the Cal Poly chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), she accepted because she thought it would enhance her future job opportunities. But after she spent a while in the NSCS, a club whose mission is to promote change through community service and involvement on their college campuses, she realized it was a hundred percent more than just putting it on a resume, Crawford, now co-president, said. “You meet so many people and gain a lot of experience.”

After receiving national recognition this past summer, the Cal Poly chapter of NSCS is gearing up for what could be an even more noteworthy year due to high member participation. The Cal Poly chapter has more than 600 members, who are all required to be eligible includes having a 3.4 GPA or above and being in the top 20 percent of your class in freshman and sophomore years of college.

Crawford said, “When you are active officers this year, and a solid base of active members, Michael Bingham, a junior biomedical engineering student and current president of the Cal Poly chapter said that this past year has been the club’s strongest since it joined as a freshman in 2008.”

“When I first joined, there were not nearly as many active members. It is a lot more organized now than when I first started,” Bingham said.

The high member participation has allowed the club to organize many community-service-oriented events on campus and in the San Luis Obispo community, Crawford said.

Kaci Knighton, a sophomore recreation, parks, and tourism administration student, was invited to join NSCS at the end of her freshman year in fall 2008.

“When I first got the letter, my mom thought it was a scam,” she said. “I joined anyway because I thought it would look good on a resume and be a good way to get involved in the community.”

Although she was not active in the club last year because of time restrictions, she plans to participate in meetings and events this year because she wants to become more involved in the organization, she said.

Two of the most significant events that the club organized were food drives which raised about $3,000 for the Prado Day Center, a local homeless shelter in San Luis Obispo.

“They didn’t even know we were doing it and the looks on their faces just showed how thankful they were,” Crawford said.

Another main event was “A Fair to Remember,” a balloon dance at the Villages of San Luis Obispo, a senior housing community.

“When I was dancing with an elderly woman and she started telling me about her six kids and how her husband passed away,” Bingham recalled. “They like it when they can talk to you and tell you their story.”

Other events organized last year included PAC, a daily tutoring program at C.L. Smith Elementary school in San Luis Obispo, “March to College,” which included giving younger students tours of the Cal Poly campus, and other smaller events with local schools and retirement homes, such as study sessions and arts and crafts.

The club plans to do more of these events again this year in addition to new activities such as a beach clean-up and student recruitment workshops about college at local schools.

Due to the Cal Poly chapter of NSCS’s involvement on campus and in the community, they were one of the 14 chapters of 235 chapters nationwide to receive the Gold Award.

“It’s a very big accomplishment to receive it because it takes a lot of time and organization,” Bingham said. “It’s what separates us from others and put us on the top.”

In order to receive the Gold Award, the second-highest award for an NSCS chapter, the chapter had to meet specific requirements provided by the national NSCS board, including holding an induction ceremony, creating a student mentoring program, participating in “Integrity Week,” in which they explain the importance of personal integrity, creating an on-campus membership recruitment campaign, and working with another campus club.

Since the Cal Poly chapter’s induction on campus in 2000, the club has never received the award because of a lack of active members. This year, however, the chapter will attempt to receive platinum status.

In order to receive the NSCS chapter’s top honor, the chapter must have gold status and meet further requirements, including holding an informational assembly about college at a local public school. Only five of 235 chapters have received platinum status, Crawford said.

The new adviser of the Cal Poly chapter, Sharon Dobson, plans to bring the club to platinum status by encouraging members to participate in more service activities and by giving them more leadership opportunities, she said.

“There is an intrinsic need in all of us to be recognized,” Dobson said. “For some that might be being on a sports team or going to a party, and that’s fine. But being part of a society gives students the opportunity to differentiate themselves.”

The NSCS will have a booth at open house and will also be holding a meeting Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. in the Erhart Agricultural Building, room 11 for more information.
Quantity versus quality:
Weighing the pros and cons of SLO grocery stores

You're hungry, you have little spare time and you need to buy groceries but with so many different stores how do you decide where to shop? Albertsons, Food for Less, New Frontiers — they all sell you food but the choice you make will affect how much you pay for that food. So why is it that some of us choose to pay more for our food than others? This column will attempt to answer this question, which seems simple but actually is a little complicated.

Supermarkets charge different prices because they have varying qualities of food. Quality is not a must, it is a want — it is something you choose to pay for because you have a preference for it. For example, some people shop at more expensive grocery stores such as New Frontiers or Whole Foods, while others shop at cheaper places like Food for Less and the 99¢ Store. Those in between get a little taste of both by shopping at places like Albertsons and Ralphs.

For cream of the crop foods, the place to go in San Luis Obispo is New Frontiers. It is known for carrying "higher quality," more exclusive products for those with special religious or dietary requirements, and the service is always good. For the average consumer, Albertsons and Ralphs are two generic grocery stores that many of us find ourselves shopping at. The prices are somewhat reasonable, the meats and produce look tasty, and if you're lucky, you just might find that rare ingredient needed to complete your dish. Most of us choose to shop at these generic supermarkets because that's what we were brought up on. We don't consider leaving the generic supermarket world and venturing into the discount world of food.

For the discount stores, we come to Food For Less, a discount grocery store, carrying similar foods to most generic stores. Shopping at a discount store offers you great deals that get you more for your money. The quality of the food might not be perfect but that doesn't stop most of us from eating up the fantastic deals. Even though you may find a little bruise here or there on the produce or a box of cereal may have a faded logo it doesn't mean the food is bad.

Some downsides of shopping at a place like Food For Less is the deli selection is not as good and you have to bag your own groceries.

Ask yourself this question; if a piece of cheese has mold on it, do you throw it out? You're most likely going to cut that piece off and enjoy the rest of the cheese. Shouldn't we do the same for an apple with a nick or a potato that doesn't look perfect? Growing up shopping at places like Ralphs and Albertsons made me afraid to shop at discount grocery stores. Now, as an upperclassman, I have had to spend my money wisely and I am slowly getting into the groove of discount markets.

The food tastes the same, you pay less for it and you save money in this economic recession. No be proud of where you shop and who cares what other people think. As we were all told as kids, don't judge a book by its cover. The same goes for food — don't judge an apple by its skin.

Bethany Ahelson is a food science senior and Mustang Daily food columnist.
In the health care debate, Senate Democrats forgot about their constituents

Edward R. Murrow, regarded as one of the greatest journalists in history, once said, “A nation of sheep will betray a government of wolves.” Government, at times self-serving and corrupt, needs supervision and a well-informed, active public to keep it in order. Passivity allows the government to be swayed by special interest and lobbyists, whose agendas can be contrary to what the American public wants.

According to a CBS/NY Times poll released Sept. 25, indicated that 65 percent of Americans polled support the public option. And the special interest commercials, intelligent advocacy and opposition to the public option, and the general hype and fear-mongering from the right over the return of the red scare, it’s clear that the Senate Finance Committee voted 13-8 against Senator Jay Rockefeller’s public option amendment on Tuesday.

Obviously, the Republicans used the public option amendment—and let’s not kid ourselves, they voted purely on ideological and political bases. But, surprisingly, Democrats Baucus, Lincoln, Nelson, Carper and Conrad joined with Republicans to vote against Rockefeller’s public option amendment.

Why would these Democrats break rank to vote with Republicans, whose major concerns break both feet sunk in the disgusting murk of lies?

In the health care debate, the Senate Finance Committee, said that the public option is not dead yet. He believes that the fact that he got 6 votes for his amendment is a sign that the public option is moving in the right direction toward being passed on the Senate floor.

And I don’t think that he’s simply being optimistic. The more support that public option has on record the stronger it is, because it forces conservative Democrats who haven’t made a significant decision either way to make a preliminary choice before they vote.

Recent developments are a huge step, and unless the Democrats agree to move forward with the public option, there is no reason for the Senate to continue moving forward with the public option.

Edward R. Murrow, regarded as one of the greatest journalists in history, once said, “A nation of sheep will betray a government of wolves.” Government, at times self-serving and corrupt, needs supervision and a well-informed, active public to keep it in order. Passivity allows the government to be swayed by special interest and lobbyists, whose agendas can be contrary to what the American public wants.
A free press is the only path to democracy

Transparency is threatened in nations that can’t afford it

Joel Brinkley

If you want to know whether a nation is truly democratic, one measure will give you an answer with near-certitude. How does the state treat the press?

Nothing so directly challenges a corrupt or authoritarian leader than an aggressive news media. No, wherever the United States and its Western allies have wielded influence over the formation of a new government in the last half century — from Japan to Iraq — freedom of the press has been a core value the United States has tried to impress on the formation of each new state. The recent results are mostly discouraging.

I first worked in Iraq in the months after the 2003 invasion, and it was thrilling to see a dozen or more independent Iraqi newspapers for sale on the streets, a new one every week or so. With financed help from the United States, several television stations began broadcasting relatively independent news. After decades of brutal suppression, freedom of the press and expression flowered — at least until the bellicose surge Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill initiated in May 2007.

At least 170 journalists were killed during the war’s first five years. Today many of the surviving reporters are scared. The government is censoring, singling out and harassing reporters. In July, The Economist reported police arrested a journalist for taking pictures of a typical, massive Baghdad traffic jam, saying the photos reflected badly on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s campaign to demonstrate that the quality of life was improving.

Last month about 100 Iraqi journalists staged a raucous protest of growing restrictions on their work, shouting: “No, no to muzzling; yes, yes to freedom!”

The government is now censoring the Internet and certain books. On the pretext of protecting citizens from pornography and harmful messages. But as every journalist knows, that is the leading edge of a slippery slope. It happens. Without Borders places Iraq near the bottom of its press freedom index, and its ranking continues to fall.

The United States introduced the notion of a free press to Afghanistan in 2002, but during the election in August security forces assaulted and arrested numerous domestic and foreign journalists reporting on violence during the voting. How could President Hamid Karzai steal the election if the news media had been free to show mayhem and chicanery at the polls? Now we can clearly see that Karzai is not a democrat, and the news media is a victim of that. Then he is not the only villain. Taliban militants have kidnapped dozens of domestic and foreign reporters in recent years and killed four of them.

The United States, NATO and the United Nations practically created the modern state of Kosovo, which proclaimed its independence but year. Like most Central Asian states, newspapers and television stations are generally attached to political parties. Still, some reporters are showing encouraging early signs of independence. But when RFE, the state’s lone independent, public-television station, broadcast a news story, this spring that discussed issues such as drug addiction, homosexuality, human rights, and press freedom — a novel broadcast for Kosovo — the reporter received death threats, and others in the media launched a unique campaign. Perhaps we should give Kosovo a little more time.

Before that, the United Nations occupied Cambodia in 1993 and 1994 and staged elections with the aim of establishing a new democracy after decades of genocide and war. The United States contributed one-third of the $3 billion spent on that effort. Under U.N. patronage, new newspapers, radio and TV stations began publishing and airing an array of aggressive news reports.

Since that time, however, freedom of the press has been on slow decline. Reporters Without Borders ranked Cambodia 71st out of 173 countries in 2002. By 2009, the ranking had slid to 126th out of 173 nations — in the company of Kazakhstan, a dictatorship; and Jordan, a monarchy.

Over the summer, the government seized several newspapers for defamation because they had published articles that offended senior officials. One newspaper was forced to close. In July the government sued the Cambodia Daily, an excellent English-language newspaper, for merely quoting someone who criticized the government. Last week, the court found the paper’s editor guilty.

Critics of former President Bush have long argued that, no matter how inspiring those images of Iraqi voters with purple fingers may have been, elections alone cannot create a democracy. The fate of the news media in several new, Western-imposed democracies is a sad but honest demonstration of that.
Phillies clinch NL East title for third season in a row

Andy Martino

PHILADELPHIA — Brad Lidge’s season, defined so far by bewildering disappointment, now contains a moment of unqualified joy.

The Phillies’ closer, near the end of a year in which he has suffered 11 blown saves, entered Wednesday night’s game in the ninth inning.

He threw one pitch, a fastball to Lance Berkman. The Houston slugger bounced the ball to first baseman Ryan Howard, who ran to the bag for an out.

With that, an event that had long seemed inevitable arrived later than expected. But it arrived nonetheless, suffusing the anxiety caused by a shrinking division lead in the last week.

The Phils defeated the Astros, 10-3, minutes after clinching their third straight National League East title for third place.

It’s not an alarming sampling or result,” said Ken Valdiserri, president of Gridiron Greats, an organization that provides medical and financial assistance to former NFL players. “You have to ask how those guys who responded to the survey respond to it in their daily lives, or soon after they played? You have to take it with a grain of salt.

Ditka said the league is averting the issue by waiting another few years for its own doctor to conduct a study of 120 retired players. The conclusions, he says, will be the same.

Some ex-players are not as convinced, but still alarmed by the NFL study. "It's not an alarming sampling or result,” said Ken Valdiserri, president of Gridiron Greats, an organization that provides medical and financial assistance to former NFL players. “You have to ask how those guys who responded to the survey respond to it in their daily lives, or soon after they played? You have to take it with a grain of salt.

"Memory disorders affect everyone in the state, is not playing soccer this fall because she has suffered multiple concussions — the most recent coming in a scrimmage before this season. "You can't mess with this stuff," Moorestown girls’ soccer coach Bill Mulvihill said. "As much as I love to see her on the field, I am worried about her health as a person. She would help us absolutely."

In college, quarterbacks are especially vulnerable. Florida’s Tim Tebow left Saturday’s game against Kentucky with a concussion after taking a vicious hit. Rutgers quarterback and former Cardinal O’Hara star Tom Savage missed the last game against Maryland with a head injury.

Penn State quarterback Daryll Clark has sustained three concussions in his football playing career, the latest coming last Octo­ber in a game at Ohio State. After the Nittany Lions had a bye the following Saturday, Clark played in the team’s next game against Iowa.

Clark acknowledged in the pre-season that he needed to avoid taking hard hits at the quarterback position. "I've got to live to fight another day," he said. "I have to really watch it. Sometimes I have to slide. Sometimes you have to step out of bounds. You have to consider that to be durable through­out the season."

When thinking about the NFL study, Ditka wonders about the dozens of living conclusions he has seen — the dementia that has overtaken so many former NFL players. And the more studies that are done, the more debate there is over the lack of conclusions.

"That to me is just stupid," Ditka said. "You're just running around doing nothing."
Mustangs face off against unbeaten South Dakota State

G. Spanos Stadium on Saturday. The Jackrabbits (3-0) take their undefeated record west, looking to build on their best start as a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) program. Cal Poly (1-2) holds hopes of evening its record, facing its first FCS opponent since a 38-19 opening day win over Sacramento State.

Saturday night highlights the sixth game of the all-time series between these teams with Cal Poly holding a 3-2 lead.

Last year, Cal Poly fought their way to 10 sacks and 304 yards rushing in a lopsided 42-28 victory. The Mustangs’ smash mouth rushing game has been effective in their first three games, including two Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) opponents, rambunctious for 676 yards and three touchdowns. Cal Poly’s running backs have chucked up at least 130 yards on the ground in the last two games.

The Jackrabbits’ offense has had similar success, nearly walking through defenses this season. South Dakota State boasts two receivers with more than 15 receptions and 190 yards. Running back Kyle Minett rushed for more than 1000 yards last year and has broken 100 all-purpose yards in every game this year.

Quarterback Ryan Crawford has thrown for 616 yards and has completed 69.7 percent of his passes to go along with 365 yards — nearly half of Crawford’s total.

Smith has struggled against his early opponents this year. The junior completed one pass for 12 yards against Ohio and didn’t complete his first pass against San Jose State until the second quarter.

Dominique Johnson, a UCLA junior transfer, leads the wide outs with 11 catches for 166 yards. No other player on the roster has more than two catches.

Defensively, Marty Mohamad leads the team with 24 tackles. The Mustangs hold opponents to 22 points a game. The Jackrabbits enter Saturday leading the FCS in three defensive categories, including rush defense, allowing 33.8 yards per game. South Dakota State also has held opponents to 7 points in three games. The Mustangs hold opponents to 22 points a game.

Coming off two consecutive losses, Cal Poly will be eager to defeat its familiar foe in arguably the toughest test of the Mustangs’ young season.

Cal Poly’s second home game will kick off at 6:05 Saturday night.