Deans weigh in on CBF delay

Will Taylor and Katie Koschalk

The chancellor’s announcement that College Base Fees (CBF) would be put on hold has caused Cal Poly administrators to re think 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 Fallis, 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-Lav er, 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 that 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-fit-all fix, when we have 23 unique campuses, seems inconsistent with CSU progress," he said.

"[Chancellor Reed] is concerned with potentially creating a two-tiered system in the CSU system," Valencia-Laver 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 GEs," 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 the availability of classes in major courses and GEs, when we are trying to provide the greater educational offerings," Koob said.

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There have been cuts already because of the budget deficit.
The College Based Fees would be the only thing keeping our department up with the latest equipment.

Philip Bailey
Dean of Science and Math

and furloughs. The main things that are being affected in the college of math and sciences are access to classes, purchasing and updating equipment, and supporting more and faculty research projects.

As of this year, the department has not spent any money on equipment and money allocated toward summer research projects was also cut. As of next year, student research projects might be completely stopped, Bailey said.

While some aspects of the department will be greatly affected, the amount of class time for students is expected to stay the same, Bailey said.

"Some students won’t be in classes that have the 10 percent decline in course time for students if the cuts are not increased," Bailey said.

The department was able to maintain the same level of academics, but it will be a struggle, Bailey said.

"Disappointed is the best way to put it," he said. "Students voted on it and now it is being taken away. I even talked to students and told them that the fees would be increased."

The university is reviewing the original presentation programs and rearranging next year's schedule so there is less time between move-in weekend and the start of classes.
I'm a little disheartened at the lengths the community has gone to create a fissure between the students and the community.

—Ted Vergis

Cal Poly graduate

The Thorny firefighters-promotion case back in Supreme Court

David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court plunged back into the legal fight over firefighters' test scores and accusations of racial discrimination on Wednesday, this time to decide whether those who claim they were victims of discrimination must file a lawsuit.

In June, the justices ruled for white firefighters who were denied promotions even though they earned top scores on an exam. Justice Sonia Sotomayor was sharply critical during her Senate hearing because, as a judge, she had ruled against the white firefighters.

Now, the court will hear an appeal from blacks who said Chicago's test for firefighters discriminated against them. However, the issue is one of timing and procedure. Most civil-rights plaintiffs file a discrimination suit shortly after the test was given, or later after it was used, but for hiring new firefighters.

The justices also agreed to clarify part of the anti-terrorism law and to decide whether human-rights activists in this country can provide "expert advice" and "training" with al-Qaida in Afghanistan. The Chicago firefighters case concerns the same civil-rights issues that gained so much attention during the summer. It is illegal for employees to use a test that has a "disparate impact" on minorities, unless it can be justified as a business necessity.

Four years ago, a federal judge in Chicago ruled the city had discriminated against black candidates because its test given in the mid-1990s had an unfair and "disparate impact" on minorities. White test takers were five times more likely than blacks to qualify for a firefighting job, the judge found.

But last year, the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned this ruling and threw out the suit because the black applicants waited more than a year to challenge the test results. "That was a fatal mistake," wrote Judge Richard Posner. The federal civil rights law says suits must be filed within 300 days of an unlawful employment practice.

The Thorny firefighters-promotion case back in Supreme Court
Chicago's ambassadors are making a full court press in support of 2016 Olympic bid

Philip Hersh and Kathy Bergen

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.

"Where do you go grocery shopping?"

Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Tricomi

"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

State
Willis, CA (MCT) — County, state and federal law enforcement personnel seized more than 53,000 "very healthy" marijuana plants and made 38 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) — Morrow Bay police have closed Embarcadero and Colome street along the city's waterfront as a precaution in response to the ris.

The rise in sea level was expected to reach the San Luis Obispo County coastline shortly after 9 a.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- down Oregon. The advisory was to remain in place into 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 handguns 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-blown constitutional right, 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.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — A Kansas conservation group has sued the Environmental Protection Agency over a plan to kill hundreds of thousands of bats in the nation's capital.

A federal judge on Wednesday to hear a Second Amendment challenge to Chicago's ban on handguns could open the door to legal attacks on gun-control measures in cities and states across the nation.

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

About two years ago, Addicott said, "the decision was made that we're going to let these things develop a little bit longer so we can get the most serious offense. And we've seen the fruits of that.

Federal agents arrested Hosam Maher Husein Smadi, 19, before his attempt to bomb an office building in Dallas. The 19-year-old Jordanian citizen is an

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WASHINGTON (MCT) — Iran and six other nations will hold their first talks in 14 months Thursday in Geneva, but despite the participation of senior US diplomat, chances for a quick breakthrough appear bleak, especially after last week’s revelation of a previously covert Iranian nuclear facility.

In its first face-to-face negotiations with Iranian officials, the Obama administration will press Tehran to allow unfettered access to the facility buried under a mountain near the holy city of Qom and to take other steps to allay concerns over its nuclear work, a senior US official said.

GENEVA, Switzerland (MCT) —-Georgian President Mihail Saakashvili had no justification under international law when he ordered a military incursion into the breakaway South Ossetia region last year that included remote barrages on civilian areas, according to a European Union-commissioned report released Wednesday.

Rosia, however, made false claims that the Georgian military killed 20,000 civilians in its initial assault to set up a later invasion that allowed South Ossetian militias to torture and execute Georgian prisoners during an ethnic cleansing campaign, according to facts put forward in the report.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — — hundreds of angry Iraqis burned the US ambassador's residence Wednesday after learning that US command had ordered the ambassador's evacuation.

The attack followed the April 9, 2008, bombing that killed three US embassy employees and a Swiss security guard.

MOSCOW (MCT) —-Moldovan President Voronin on Wednesday to hear a Second Amendment challenge to Chicago's ban on handgun...
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WHERE IS FANFEST?

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Deal to save Saturn collapses after buyer loses Renault-Nissan contract

Tim Higgins

Flyer News

General Motors announced Wednesday that its plan to sell Saturn to a British buyer had fallen apart.

“Some people have been pretty critical of us in the past two rounds of voting,” Fritz Henderson, GM’s chief executive officer, said.

The failure could cost as many as 13,000 jobs at dealerships nationwide and GM.

GM and Penske had been negotiating toward a final agreement since June. 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 he had “been in discussions with Saturn’s 350 dealers and thousands of their employees, who believed they had escaped the guilt and torment of the arrival of Penske’s rival, not to mention the divisiveness of that.”

In a statement, Penske cited the deal’s failure because of concern related “to future supply of vehicles beyond the period it had negotiated with GM.”

Blomfield Hills, Mich.-based Penske said it had negotiated a deal to get products manufactured by another company but that agreement had fallen apart.

“The agreement was rejected by that manufacturer’s board of directors,” Penske said in a statement.

“Without that agreement, the company has determined that the risks and uncertainties related to the availability of future products prohibit the company from moving forward with this transaction.”

All four cities are very good,” said Carl Galeana, who was one of Saturn’s original dealers and owns the metro Detroit Saturn of Lakeview and Saturn of Warner dealerships.

“This is just another chapter of that.”

In a statement, Penske cited the deal’s failure because of concern related “to future supply of vehicles beyond the period it had negotiated with GM.”

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 products 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.”

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Once Saturn is done, Saturn owners will be able to get their vehicles serviced at other GM dealerships.
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JANUARY 24TH
FEBRUARY 5TH
FEBRUARY 6TH
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SOCCER
HOME GAMES
OCTOBER 4TH
OCTOBER 28TH
NOVEMBER 4TH
UC Davis
UC Riverside
UC Santa Barbara

CROSS COUNTRY
AWAY MEETS
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When liberal studies senior Allison Crawford was first invited 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-oriented events on campus and in the San Luis Obispo community, Crawford said, "I found that 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 were all invited to join the club their freshman or sophomore year of college. About 20 members are active members, meaning they attend the weekly meetings and regularly participate in the events.

"Once I became an active member, I found that it was a hundred percent more than just putting it on a resume," Crawford 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.

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

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

Crawford said, "When you are officers this year and a solid base of active members, Michael Bingham, a junior biomedical engineering student and co-president of the Cal Poly chapter, said that this past year has been the club's strongest since he 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. "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 other and put us on the top."

In order to receive the Gold Award, the second highest award for a 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 2008, 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 NCSC's top honor, the chapter must have gold status and meet further requirements, including holding an informative 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, Vanessa 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 Agriculture Building, room 11 for more information.

For more information, check out www.vbfsla.org.
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 that may make you feel like you are one of the elite for shopping there. Shopping at a higher quality supermarket does come with a price. It is very expensive and you do not always get what you pay for. You often pay more money because food packaging looks nicer or because all produce are uniform in size.

Some advantages of shopping at a nicer market are that they often carry harder-to-find 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 regular supermarkets because that's what we were brought up on. We don't consider leaving the generic supermarket world and venture into the discount world of food.

Moving on to our main attraction, we come to Food For Less, a discounted 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; it 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 sticker that doesn't look perfect? Growing up shopping at places like Ralph 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 discounted markets.

The food tastes the same, you pay less for it and you save money in this economic recession. So 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 Abelson 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 haggle 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. Yet, 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, the Senate Finance Committee voted 13-8 against Senator Jay Rockefeller's public option amendment on Tuesday.

Obviously, the Republicans mixed 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 Condon joined with Republicans to vote against Rockefeller's public option amendment.

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

Contrary to the poll I mentioned above, 65 percent of Americans polled support the public option to compete with private insurers, so the five Democrats' decisions to vote against public option health care appears to be political suicide. Right? Well, yes, if their constituents are the American people.

And I must say, while I watched Senators Conrad, Lincoln, Baucus, Carper and Nelson vote nay along with those who have sold their souls to fight hard against the public option, my proud Democrat, government-lover self felt profoundly sad for this country.

These Democrats only voted with the Republicans because they believe health care reform might not pass the Senate, and they don't want to be on the unlucky side of the debate when the grass drops. They're making sure that their political future is secure if the public option fails, despite the fact that the majority of Americans want the public option and 65,000 human beings are going to die from lack of insurance, according to a study by Harvard Medical School.

Tuesday was a dark day for the principle that government is for the people.
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 media. So, 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 recent results are mostly discouraging.

I first worked in Iraq 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 financial help from the United States, several television stations began broadcasting relatively independent news. After decades of brutal repression, freedom of the press and expression flowered — though, of course, bombings and journalists made life dangerous and harrowing; for journalists and everyone else. 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, singing and harassing reporters. In July, The Economist reported police arrested a freelance reporter 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 hate messages. But as every journalist knows, that is the leading edge of a slippery slope. It ensures that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s campaign to demonstrate that the quality of life was improving.

The United States, NATO and the United Nations practically created the modern state of Kosovo, which proclaimed its independence last 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 RTK, the state’s lone independent, public-television station, broadcast a news show 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 civic 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 this effort. Under U.N. patronage, new newspapers, radio and TV stations began publishing and airing an array of aggressive news reports.

Kosovo — the reporter received

The government sued several newspapers for defamation because they had published articles that offended senior officials. One newspaper was forced to fold. In July the government used the Cambodian Daily, an excellent English-language newspaper, for merely quoting someone who opposed 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.

The United States introduced the notion of a free press to Afghanistan in 2002, but during the election in August state security forces as interpreted a raucous protest of growing restrictions on their work, shouting: “No, no to muzzling, yes, yes to freedom!”

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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0827

Across
1 Mosaic ad
20 Alphabet tic
21 Keyboard key
22 Boot feature
24 Singer Conime
25 Bring into being
27 Trims

45 Faux pas
58 Aviation-related
60 Beach, Fla
61 Musician
63 Stereo component
65 Paradise lost
66 Have a hankering
68 Muscle
69 Many August babies
70 Guinea pigs, maybe
71 Most merciless
72 Wide open
73 Move row
74 Fourth row
75 Second row
76 Fifth row
78 Lobby in a D.C.
79 New York Institute of (art school)
80 _ Beach, Fl.
81 Musicians
82 Swimming
83 Out on the water
84 First row
85 Boost
86 Bigger than big
87 M.C.
88 M.P.H.

Down
1 Most
2 Ancient Spartan magistrate
3 Wide open
4 Fifth row
5 Result of poor ventilation
6 Booze
7 Japanese butler
8 Mickey Mouse puppy pal
9 Shopping magazine
10 Cheesecake
11 Passionately
12 Support for the arts
13 Art without the previous lessons, say
21 "Don't go in there! It's _"
23 Moxie
24 Populace
25 Lobby in a D.C.
26 A.D.
27 Moe Howard
29 _ M L
30 _ 9
31 Nancy
32 GeneRoddenberry
33 Metallic shade.
34 Meticulous, in Sheffield
35 Knock out
36 Disappoinments
37 Upset
38 "You're the ___"
39 Disappointments
40 Architect
41 Verdict
42 Verified, in a way
43 Third or sixth row
44 Most merciless
46 Stereo component
49 Those against
50 Ninth row
51 Second row
52 Ninth row
53 Second row
54 Bigger than big
56 Online gasp
57 "You're the ___"
60 Third or third row
61 Sixth row
62 Muscle
63 A.D.
64 Fourth row
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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 bottom of the ninth. 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 clenching their third straight National League East title. As Lidge threw his warmup pitches, the second-place Atlanta Braves lost to Florida, scalping the division for Philadelphia.

An intense, expectant energy filled the stadium all evening. As the Phils sprinted from the dugout before the first inning, the collective cheering was so loud it was as hearty as it has been since opening night, when manager Charlie Manuel hosted the championship flag.

Wednesday night was arguably the most significant game played here since. A tangible achievement was available to the Phils, and most in the sellout crowd waved white towels and screamed in support of starter Pedro Martinez as he beetled towards the fourth.

The 37-year-old pitcher had last appeared in a game on Sept. 19 in Atlanta, when he left in the fourth inning with neck stiffness. His status holds significant implications for the Phils’ playoff rotation. Martinez appeared likely to start a potential fourth playoff game, with lefthander J.A. Happ playing a key role in the bullpen.

Now, although the team needs healthy pitchers pitching in relief, they might find it difficult to justify banishing Happ from the rotation — particularly after the mookie’s win Tuesday night.

For most of his brief Phillies career, Martinez has presented an uncanny likeness of his Boston Red Sox-era, Hall of Fame self. Wednesday night, he more resembled the New York Mets castoff whose career appeared finished a year ago.

After leaving hitter Michael Bourn grounded out in the first, the Astros loaded the bases with three singles. Martinez struck out Carlos Lee and lost an eight-pitch encounter with Hunter Pence, who walked to make it 1-0 Houston. But Kazuo Matsui flew to right, keeping the deficit reasonable.

Jiminn Rollins doubled and scored in the bottom of the inning to draw even, but Martinez allowed a leadoff home run to J.R. Towles in the second. The Houston catcher’s first homer of the season came on an 83-m.p.h. fastball in the middle of the strike zone. Martinez escaped the inning with his 5th pitch, when Lance Berkman slashed a line drive to second baseman Chase Utley.

He began with the Carlos Lee double, but Martinez pitched around it and kept the score 2-1. Just a week earlier, in 1996 during those moments, the Florida Marlins took a 3-0 lead over the second-place Braves in Atlanta in the third inning of their game and that seemed fortunate for the Phils when Toweles homered again to lead off the fourth, making it 3-1 Houston.

The Phils punished Houston starter Brian Moehler in the bottom of the inning. Howard hit a run-scoring single, and another run scored when Kauli Ianbasch reached on a fielder’s choice and throwing error by the Marlins’ Jason Varitek and Pedro Feliz added RBIs to make it 5-3 Phillips.

As Florida’s lead increased to 5-0 over Atlanta, the Phillips padded their own advantage in dy­ namic fashion. Rollins and Shane Victorino hit consecutive triples to lead off the fifth, and Ianbasch added a sacrifice fly. Carlos Ruiz doubled in the eighth Phillips run in the sixth.

And perhaps appropriate for a celebratory night, Ianbasch showed early-season form by knocking a second-deck homer to right field in the seventh with Ryan Howard aboard, making it 11-3.

Some say that’s the problem. "In an ideal world, any kid who plays a contact sport would have had a baseline test at some point so we could compare," Bradley said. "But obviously, that adds to costs and with recessions, health­ care reform and all the other stuff going on, it’s hard to bring up right now."

Considering the results of the study, a parent might second guesses letting his or her child play foot­ ball, Valdiserri said. But the prob­ lems are not limited to just one sport.

Mooresentown’s Bridget Bianco, one of the top girls’ lacrosse goal­ iers in the state, is not playing soccer this fall because she has suf­ fered multiple concussions — the most recent coming in a scrim­ mage before this season.

“You can’t mess with this stuff,” Mooresentown 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 abso­ lutely.”

In college, quarterbacks are es­ pecially vulnerable. Florida’s Tim Tebow left Saturday’s game against Kentucky with a concussion af­ ter 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 con­ cussions in his football playing career, the latest one coming last Oc­ tober 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 preseason that he needed to avoid taking hard hits at the quarterback position.

“I’ve got to live to fight an­ other down,” he said. “I have to really watch it. Sometimes I have to slide. Sometimes I have to step out of bounds. You have to con­ sider that to be durable through­ out 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 luck of conclusions.

“Thank God it is just stupid,” Ditka said. “You’re just running around doing nothing.”

Turn your Psigk Picks in by Friday at 5 pm to win
Mustangs face off against unbeaten South Dakota State

Two top-20 FCS teams battle on the gridiron as the No. 17 Mustangs host the No. 19 Jackrabbits of South Dakota State at Alex G. Spanos Stadium on Saturday. The Jackrabbits (3-0) take their undefeated record west, looking to build on their best start as an Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division 1-AA) opponent, rambunctious 676 yards and three touchdowns. Cal Poly’s running backs have chalked up at least 130 yards on the ground in last two games.

Quarterback Ryan Crawford has thrown for 616 yards and has completed 69.7 percent of his passes to go along with 11 catches for 166 yards. No other player on the roster has more than two catches.

Defensively, Marty Mohamed leads the team with 24 tackles. The Mustangs’ defense has tallied five interceptions this season. The Mustangs’ defense has held hopes of evening its record, facing its first FCS opponent since a 38-19 opening day win over Sacramento State. Saturday might 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 14 sacks and 394 yards rushing in a lopsided 42-28 victory.

The Mustangs’ defense has had similar success, nearly walking through defenses this season. South Dakota State boasts two receivers with more than 15 receptions and 190 yards, Rummaging 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 while Mustang quarterback Tony Smith has completed 41.8 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 Mohamed leads the team with 24 tackles. 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.