After busy summer, no breaks for Griggs

Kate McIntyre  SCOTTING DAILY

Cal Poly ASI President Kelly Griggs spent the summer dealing with a variety of issues affecting students, one of the most important being the Cal Poly fee increase.

In August, she signed a declaration supporting California State University's motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two San Francisco State University students. The students are protesting the 20 percent increase in state university fees imposed by the Board of Trustees in July. Without the increase, Griggs said Cal Poly would have to reduce in operating budget by $18 million instead of the current $10 million, threatening class availability and putting faculty and staff jobs on the line.

"While I support the publicity the lawsuit has gathered to draw attention on the state's lack of responsibility when it has come to funding higher education, a victorious lawsuit would mean nearly an additional $8 million cut to our campus," Griggs said.

She also worked with President Baker to express support for the increase of College Based Fees to the chancellor. The student body overwhelmingly voted for the CBF increase in a referendum last March.

Affordability was just one aspect of Griggs' election campaign; she also touted sustainability, campus climate and diversity, student access to services and statewide representation. She has since added improving Cal Poly's relationship with the community to the list, due to the friction between residents and students, evident at last week's city council meeting.

"At the time my platform was developed, those were the issues that I had developed that I felt were key to student concerns of the time," Griggs said. "At this time, many of those issues have not shifted, but there are many that have come to the forefront."

Griggs will meet with Cuesta's student government president, Josh Shepherd to discuss the direction of the Student Community Liaison Committee.

Materials engineering senior Craig Boyer appreciates ASI's involvement in the Rec Center expansion, but sees Griggs, page 2

Cal Poly clubs trying to get in

Katie Koschalk  MUSTANG DAILY

About a dozen new clubs are expected to join the 286 current clubs on campus after ASI worked to streamline the chartering process.

The yearly increase of campus clubs is attributed to both increased student interest in clubs and the enhanced application process, said Michelle Broun, the public relations coordinator for ASI.

"We are seeing a trend of students becoming more involved in campus clubs and we are seeing larger campus support each year," Broun said.

Jessica Twaddle, the club services assistant for ASI, attributes to student body involvement in the club application process; she also feels that this trend is directly related to students wanting to feel like they are a part of something.

"I think that students might be searching for others who have similar hobbies as them and being part of a club provides an outlet for these interests," Twaddle said.

With the list of Cal Poly clubs expanding each year, an outlet for an increasingly wide range of different hobbies are available to students.

Clubs featuring sports or Greek associations such as the Cal Poly Men's Soccer Club and the Sigma Kappa club, respectively, offer students an outlet for more traditional hobbies. Other clubs, however, focus on more obscure hobbies such as the Scala Club, the Salu Club and the White Hat Club.

Dominic Carmago, a computer science senior, decided he wanted to start the White Hat Club last fall.

White hat is a reference to computer hackers that look for security faults in order to fix them.

"I noticed there were only like three classes, only one that is an (undergraduate) class, I think, offered at Cal Poly about computer security," Carmago said. "I started it because I wanted to provide a place where we could learn more and spread what we know about computer security."

Computer network security includes measures taken to protect computer networks and files from viruses, hackers and system failures, Carmago said.

Carmago and three friends became involved in the club application process as first-time club officers and were happy to find that the process was generally straightforward.

"You don't know what to expect going in, but I found the process surp

Can Whitman's business success translate to politics?

Ken McLaughlin and Pete Carey  MUSTANG DAILY

An amiable, ethical businesswoman almost single-handedly built one of Silicon Valley's most storied Internet companies, making her a billionaire and thousands of average folks successful business person. She retired from San Jose-based eBAY and decides that this dysfunctional state needs her business acumen in the governor's office.

But in recent days, the Republican can hopeful and her team have been forced to play defense amid revelations that the 53-year-old former CEO supported liberal Democratic U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer's re-election in 2004 and didn't register to vote until she was 46. She offered no excuses for her poor voting record, but later explained: "I was focused on raising a family, on my husband's career, and we moved many, many times."

With Whitman's glow tarnished, the scrutiny will only increase, political analysts say. And the likeliest target is her 16-year tenure at eBAY, the online auction house she turned into a global brand.

"For voters to buy her argument, they're going to have to believe that her record in the private sector was exemplary," said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California. "A candidate's biography is a three-legged stool: personal, professional and political experience. So if you take one leg away from the stool, voters will pay more attention to the other two legs."

In recent weeks, the San Jose Mercury News interviewed numerous current and former eBay employees, buyers and sellers, investors and stock analysts, asking them to judge her performance and predict how it might translate to running the state. The consensus: Whitman was a hands-on and savvy CEO whose reign was somewhat blemished by poor decisions and a series of ethically dubious stock deals. The first seven years of her leadership were generally brilliant, the last few years relatively lackluster.

While her corporate track record suggests that Whitman would bring a new brand of leadership to state government, it also makes clear she has never faced anything quite like the political dysfunction that grips the Golden State.

"The numbers are hard for even her severest critics to argue with. When she was hired as eBay's president and chief executive in February 1998, the company had about 30 workers, 500,000 users in the U.S. and revenues...

see Whitman, page 2
continued from page 1

... police patrols watching for drunk kids walking home is something ASI should fight against.

—Craig Boyer

News editor: Tim Miller
mustangdailynewsgmail.com

Whitman continued from page 1

of $4.7 million. When she turned over the reins of the company to John Donahoe in March 2008, eBay had mushroomed worldwide, regis-
tered brands included by millions and employed more than 15,000 people. Revenues in her last full year as CEO were $7.7 billion.

Whitman was lured to the start-
up from a middle-management job at Habitat for Humanity, among other things she was in charge of market-
ing Mr. Potato Head. At the time, eBay was operating out of a modest
San Jose industrial building.

The black and white Web site, originally called AuctionWeb, had been designed by Pierre Omidyar, a 28-year-old software engineer, over a holiday weekend. One part of the site featured a tongue-and-check tribute to the A
cent.

But Whitman was quick to see the scruffy site's potential to connect buyers and sellers, like or what it could become so it's

“Meg Whitman has a strategic thinker,” said Stephanie Tile-

“His longings are as clear as the
text. I  1008-980-0033
www.australearn.org • www.asialearn.org
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The annual eBay Live! con-
ter, a gathering of buyers and sellers—

While not all students think ASI makes a difference in their lives, some recognize that student government does offer opportu-

It is our responsibility, as mem-
bers of ASI student government to
inform the student body of the issues,
changes and student concerns that we
are working on,” she said. “ASI influ-
euces each student’s daily life, so, as a result, it makes a difference, it is just apparent that we need to hold our-

“The market was in its infancy—

“Years and years ago, students
would come up to the desk and ask
how to start a club and the employer
wouldn’t know the answer. They’d have to say, ‘Let me go ask,’ and that
isn’t very reassuring,” Booom said.

Camargo said that ASI services were a good resource in the club

“Starting out as a new club, you
don’t know what your club should be
like or what it could become so it’s
hard to write out all those details. All
the official administrative business was
the most difficult part,” Camargo said.

All new club charter must be sub-
mitted to the Epicenter in the Uni-

Make the most out of your
college experience.

Griggs continued from page 1

would like to see it work on other
areas of student life.

“I don’t think it does a good
enough job in seeking to protect
the students, for example, police
dorm patrols watching for drunk
kids walking home is something ASI
should fight against,” he said.

If he wasn’t graduating in December, Booom said he
might consider joining student govern-
ment if he had the time and felt he
would “adequately benefit the student population.”

While not all students think ASI makes a difference in their lives, some recognize that student government does offer opportu-
nities on campus.

Communications studies ju-

or David Feder said he thinks
ASI is valuable because it finan-
cially supports clubs that couldn’t
otherwise host events, like his Fr-

WHO WOULD LIKE TO

Newt’s position? Camargo said.

“Contingent upon the student
process both

©

through the process both
ed online and offering various options

Next year, the investment firm

The 28-year-old software engineer,

The market was in its infancy—

To taking e-mail public in 2001.

while Wall Street analysts harped
on eBay’s improved number, “the

But Whitman was quick to see the
crunchy site’s potential to connect

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS MEMBERS OF ASI STUDENT GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE STUDENT BODY OF THE ISSUES, CHANGES AND STUDENT CONCERNS THAT WE ARE WORKING ON," SHE SAID. "ASI INFLUENCES EACH STUDENT’S DAILY LIFE, SO, AS A RESULT, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE, IT IS JUST APPARENT THAT WE NEED TO HOLD OURSELVES AS MEMBERS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE FOR LETTING THE STUDENT POPULATION KNOW WHAT THOSE DIFFERENCES ARE."
Military to respect Obama’s plans for Afghanistan, Gates says

Nancy A. Youssef
MCALLEN, TEXAS

WASHINGTON — Amid tension between the military and President Barack Obama over military action in Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates told a gathering of Army officers Monday that the Pentagon would follow any strategy that Obama orders.

“Speaking for the Department of Defense, once the commander in chief makes his decisions, we will sit down and execute those decisions faithfully and to the best of our ability,” Gates told the Association of the U.S. Army in Washington.

That the military would follow presidential orders is usually a given, but there’s been palpable friction during the past few weeks as the administration has engaged in a prolonged strategy debate. Those serving the country engaged in a prolonged strategy debate. Those serving the country and public arguments at home about what to do in Afghanistan.

Updated figures showing death toll of NATO troops in Afghanistan: eight U.S. and Afghan troop deaths.

Hamid Karzai, demands that it reconsider whether it wants to spend more money backing that government and helping create a 134,000-strong army to serve Karzai. Gates used the annual military conference to defend the president.

“I believe that the decisions that the president will make for the next stage of the Afghan campaign will be among the most important of his presidency. So it is important that we take our time to do all we can to get this right,” Gates said.

Also Monday, Gen. George Casey, the Army’s chief of staff, said at a meeting with reporters that sending more troops could make it harder to give soldiers two years off for every year they serve in combat by 2012, as the Army has planned. Currently, a soldier is supposed to get one year off for every year of combat he or she serves.

There are 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. So far this year, 239 have been killed. At least 16 troops have been killed this month, including eight killed Sunday in an ambush in Nuristan province.

Afghanistan death toll rises

This year has been the deadliest for NATO and U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Deaths by year

Deaths since 2001:

- U.S.: 668
- U.K.: 219
- Canada: 131
- France: 35
- Germany: 33
- Spain: 25
- Denmark: 25
- Netherlands: 21
- Italy: 21
- Poland: 13
- Australia: 11

Source: Casualties.org

Top countries:

- U.S.: 294
- U.K.: 77
- Canada: 21
- France: 16
- Germany: 15
- Spain: 11
- Denmark: 11
- Netherlands: 11
- Italy: 11
- Poland: 11
- Australia: 11

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SAN BERNARDINO, CA (MCT) — The Sheep Fire held at 7,500 acres and remained 20 percent contained this morning, but tiretighters hope cooler temperatures and calmer winds will help them make more progress toward containing the blaze.

"We made a lot of headway yesterday," said tiretighter Underhill. "Nearly 1,300 firefighters are battling the fire today. They are using six helicopters, 11 air tankers, along with other equipment, Underhill said.

SAN JOSE, CA (MCT) — Apple announced Monday it is resigned from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because it objects to the chamber's recent efforts to limit greenhouse gases.

"We are part of the powerful business federation that there was sufficient evidence to hold Smadi for further proceedings. The lone witness was FBI Special Agent Dallas - the Jordanian teenager accused of trying to blow up a Dallas skyscraper created a seven-minute video that he believed would be delivered to bin Laden. The agent said he helped Smadi was in a hotel room with an undercover FBI employee when he made the video, which he believed would be delivered to bin Laden. The agent did not discuss the contents of the video but said the FBI had recorded the encounter.

Smadi's attorney, Peter Fleury, a senior litigator at the Federal Public Defender's Office in Fort Worth, asked Petrowski about the three undercover FBI employees who communicated with Smadi until Sept. 24, when he parked an SUV that he had rented, and wished to board a flight to Pakistan that there was sufficient evidence to hold Smadi for further proceedings. The lone witness was FBI Special Agent Thomas D. Petrowski, who runs the counterterrorism branch in the Dallas office of the FBI.

WORD ON THE STREET

“What do you think of the changes to the Rec Center?”

Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Titcomb

“I like the old (gym stepup) way better but it's all under construction. It's kind of weird being in a big open space it took a little bit to get used to.”

-Shane Smith, civil engineering sophomore

“I actually like it just fine. It gets a little hot but it's open more and has new machines.”

-Aly Cole, animal science junior

“It's a little weird but I enjoy the music in the gym.

“When you're playing basketball you can rock out.”

-Brandon Weipert, kinesiology senior

“It's better than I expected there are a few more machines I haven't gone much but it seems less crowded.”

-Amanda Sarley, graphic communications senior
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, pictured above, August 12, 2009, dominated questioning during her first day in the position.

Sotomayor, a lifelong New Yorker, peppered the lawyers with questions in a pair of cases, joining with her fellow New Yorkers Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. None of the three is reluctant to speak up during the oral arguments, and together, they left the other justices sitting in silence for much of the time.

In the first hour alone, Sotomayor asked 36 questions, and Scalia followed with 30. Ginsburg questioned a lawyer. The Miranda rule also bars the police from trying again a suspect who has been questioned once he had said he would not talk without a lawyer present.

A lawyer for the convicted child abuser insisted he should not have been questioned once he had said he would not talk without a lawyer.

"So there is no termination point? Really?" asked Sotomayor, sounding as skeptical as Scalia.

There were no sharp exchanges during the second. And the questions in the court are not always a good indicator of what will be decided. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who usually holds the deciding vote in the biggest cases, asked only four questions during the first argument and none during the second.

The possibility of a Scalia-Sotomayor rivalry has been the topic of much speculation since her appointment. Scalia has been the court's most outspoken conservative for more than 25 years and Sotomayor has shown herself to be strong and versatile as a judge on the U.S. appeals court in Manhattan.

Outside the courtroom, she has already managed to upstage Scalia. A lifelong Yankees fan, she was invited to throw out the first ball in a recent game at Yankee Stadium before the new term got under way. Scalia, another lifelong Yankees fan, is awaiting his invitation.

MUSTANG DAILY'S NFL Pigskin Picks

Circled the winner of each game

Browns @ Bills

Steelers @ Lions

Cowboys @ Chiefs

Buccaneers @ Eagles

Raiders @ Giants

Vikings @ Rams

Falcons @ 49ers

Patriots @ Broncos

Colts @ Titans

Score —

MUSTANG DAILY'S THE BREAK GAME

One entry per person. Must submit by this Friday at 5 PM to the Mustang Daily newsroom (2A-230)

The best record wins a $25 gift certificate!
Plight of migrant workers on display in library

Nikol Schiller
MUSTANG DAILY

In response to the racist symbols displayed by the Cal Poly crops house last October, the Agribusiness and Social Sciences departments are putting on a series of diversity awareness campaigns, the first of which is a photo exhibit titled "The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers" on display on the second floor of the Robert E. Kennedy Library.

The exhibit was created by Los Angeles freelance photojournalist Rick Nahmias and documents the struggle of migrant farm workers and their families throughout California.

Last October, students living on-campus subsidized housing for crop science students hosted a party that displayed a noose, a controversial sign.

The exhibit was one of many diversity events and programs instituted in response to the incident.

Next to Julian's on the library's second floor, 40 black and white photos cover four walls illustrating Nahmias' 4,000-mile photographic journey to migrant farm communities across the state. Next to each framed photo a caption in both English and Spanish details the struggles these communities face. A caption next to a picture of a worker's dirt-stained, worn hands holding seven coins explains that these workers are given tokens of Ranchero Santa Fe.

Animal science sophomore Alyssa Fantini was also surprised at the location of these marginalized communities. "It's eye-opening. It's crazy that it's so close," she said.

Nahmias said she hoped the project would show students that these workers "are literally in their own backyards."

When setting out to begin his project in the spring of 2002, he immersed himself in the communities, getting to know locals and having them take him around the farms so that he could take photos of their living conditions as migrant workers. Being around these poorer communities was an intense culture shock for Nahmias. "I felt like I was reconnecting with something that was really real and really important but really outside my comfort zone," he said.

Nahmias brought his experiences and his photos to Cal Poly through a workshop and 31 other students worked on bridging the gap between the farm laboring community and the white-collared community.

"If you plant that little seed of compassion, anything's possible," Nahmias said.

Bringing Nahmias and his project to Cal Poly was a joint effort by social sciences assistant professor Dr. Stacey Rucas and agribusiness department chair Dr. Wayne Howard along with social sciences senior Dana Clark, Alyssa Fantini, Wendy Kanner and Society for Peace. Together they organized not only bringing the library's photo exhibit but also fundraising for The Fund for Vineyard and Farm Workers, a migrant worker's endowment raised by Brian and Johnine Talley of Talley Vineyards, a Central Coast winery. At the exhibit's opening gala event on Oct. 2, $375 was raised in donations to support the Talley's fund.

The College of Liberal Arts, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the social sciences department and the agribusiness department sponsored the diversity awareness campaign.

The exhibit will remain on display until Nov. 30.
Does your dating résumé make the cut?

Is it really just the one-night-stand goal that college-aged adults aim for or is it "The Notebook"-esque assurance that we are really looking for when we agree to go on that blind date, or see yes to that dinner and a movie invitation from our lab partner? The majority of college students probably say that we really only date for fun, but then why are our peers all around us getting engaged or talking about the future, or thinking about what they’re going to do when they graduate?

Just the other day a girl in one of my classes announced that she had just gotten engaged to a soldier whom she had known for only four months. So, I asked myself this question: do we really date just for fun, or are we subconsciously dating for the bigger picture?

Women have been stereotyped as only dating to marry, but there are just as many girls out there sleeping around as there are men. Whatever the case, I would say that we have definitely adopted a lifestyle that is all about the opposite sex.

More often than not, we carry a mental checklist of the attributes we expect any prospective mate to possess. When he or she doesn’t meet this checklist or maybe they only meet one or two of the bullets, it’s then that we decide to just ‘have fun’ or get as much out of them as possible. It’s as if in the dating world all you are is a résumé. There are times when I’ve been talking with friends and I nonchalantly imply that a certain boy might be a good match for one of them and they ask, ‘Oh, what’s his major?’ Or they respond: ‘No, he’s not tall enough.’

see Dating, page 8

Spielberg’s lesser known work earns new recognition

Carrie Rickey

This week acclaimed director Steven Spielberg, maker of "Jurassic Park" and "Schindler's List," will return to Philadelphia, his boyhood playground, to collect another award for a crowded mantle. This prize is not for his achievement as a movie storyteller. The Liberty Medal to be given him Thursday by former President Bill Clinton at the National Constitution Center honors the director's less known, but no less sweeping, work as a story collector.

In 1994, Spielberg dedicated profits from "Schindler's List" to create the Shoah Foundation, which has taken video testimony in 56 nations and 32 languages from survivors of the Nazi and Rwandan campaigns of genocide. Spielberg's initiative ensured that the six million European and one million African casualties of bigotry would not be statistics, but inspirations to defenders of liberty.

"To look in the eyes of a Holocaust survivor or a survivor of ... Rwanda makes it immediate, personal and, above all, undeniable," said Spielberg. He is expected to deliver his remarks in Philadelphia. Spielberg, who is 56, was honored at the National Constitution Center.

Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg will be honored this week for his philanthropic work benefiting survivors of both Nazi and Rwandan genocide.
Director Martin Scorsese (center) is congratulated by Steven Spielberg for his Best Director Oscar, at Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas look on, at the 77th Academy Awards, Sunday, February 25, 2007.

Spielberg, 62, said in an e-mail interview last week.

"These are the stories of terror that fill our hearts, with amazement that anyone could have survived, and with pride that the survivors are willing to share their experiences with the whole world," he wrote.

Spielberg's movies and the oral histories collected by the foundation "credit our sympathy for people who are under some sort of real pressure," said Richard Schickel, who directed a documentary about the filmmaker and philanthropist.

"Spielberg is the first visual artist to join the ranks of the presidents, divinities, and revolutionaries who have received the honor before him," said Linda E. Johnson, chief executive officer of the Constitution Center. Winners of the medal, the American equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize, have included South African President Nelson Mandela, Polish dissident Lech Walesa, and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

The most successful director in history — his movies have made more than $8.5 billion (not adjusted for inflation) — Spielberg invented the modern blockbuster with "Jaws" (1975) and reinvented the war movie with "Saving Private Ryan" (1998).

"Roger Ebert has called him "the completist filmmaker. He can go wide ("Raiders of the Lost Ark," 1981), he can go deep ("Schindler's List"); he can do both at once ("The Color Purple," "Mission Impossible")."

Still, nothing in Spielberg's resume indicated that he could go wide and deep as a benefactor. "Schindler's List," say his friends and associates, was in every way a conversion experience.

"It's not like a great movie serving as a prologue of its critical, academic, and box-office acclaim," said Tom Pollock, head of production at Universal Pictures, which financed the film. "But it clearly changed Steven as a person. Both during and forever after making this movie, he clearly became proud of his Jewish heritage and spent a very large amount of his time and his fortune in this area."
Outrageous bank fees should be outlawed

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Editor in chief: Emile Egger
Managing Editor: Alex Kack
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www.mustangdaily.net

OPINION/EVENTS

Having to pay a $35 bank fee for being overdrafted by a small amount, say $10 or less, has always seemed outrageous. Now, with the recession squeezing consumer wallets, the outcry about abusive bank practices has finally reached Washington and lawmakers are discussing the need to restrict overdraft fees by law. It’s about time.

Perhaps with a view toward head­
ing off legislation, at least three banks have responded by voluntarily lower­
ning or eliminating these unfair charg­
es and instituting other consumer­
friendly policies. Good, but not good enough.

The first to act were Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase, which announced last week that they would alter customer policies, phasing out excessive fees. Beginning Oct. 19, Bank of America will stop charging any fees for cus­
tomers who are in the red to the tune of by less than $10 in a single day. It will also limit the number of overdraft fees to four a day, though the overdraft will for remain $35.

New investigation reveals
dairy's disgraceful dark side

Dan Paden

When people find out that I’m an animal rights activist and a vegan, they invariably have questions. "Are your shoes leather?" they often ask. (Answer: "No."
"Not leather, not even "vegan.") "But it won’t make any difference.
"
I hope that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals’ new under­cover investigation will put this last question to rest once and for all. Milk and cheese might seem harmless, but the animals behind the scenes are often shocking cruelty to animals.

From birth to death, animals on today’s factory farms are treated like nothing more than machines. Cows are an exception. Farmed cows are artificially inseminated year after year to force their bodies to produce milk. Their calves are taken from them shortly after birth — some­
times literally dragged away by a chain with a nozzle attached to the udder to prevent them from ever nursing or mating. Cows can be deaf, blind or otherwise vision­impaired, treated pinkeye. Cows rescued from the factory had pneumonia, ringworm and parasites. Abuses were common. As PETA’s video shows, some of them burst and pus even as cows were be­
ing milked.

And in “L.A. Times” inspected” the Pennsylvania farm as recently as June 2009 and merely noted that “a few areas — including milking parlor walls — in need of cleaning; it approved the facility’s overall condition.

As a result of PETA’s investiga­
tion, the farmer and his son were criminally charged. In ob­
vious pain through a flurry of manure and filth. She was hauled off to slaughter two days later.

One cow’s gangrenous, infected teat ruptured as she was milked by a	

PETAL launched an undercover in­
vestigation of one such farm, a Penn­
sylvania facility that supplies milk to	

To fight cancer and for the benefit of these abused animals, PETA is also calling on Bank of America to implement and enforce a 12-point animal welfare plan that would eliminate some of the worst abuses to cows raised for their milk.

Not only do they allocate our money to other campuses, they use them for public works projects and prisons. I voted against the fees be­
cause I saw them for what they really are, an illegal tax on students. But the Cal Poly administration ran a cam­paign to convince students to give up the our rights. The fees should not be allowed and President Baker should resign in disgrace.

— Chris Response to “Chancellor’s office offers ultimatum”

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit text to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major and e-mail address. Publishing a letter is subject to the discretion of the editors.

write a letter

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munity. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

news

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connects

Wednesday, October 6, 2009

Letters to the Editor

Jennifer Titcomb

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Niners

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with a message about the team’s identity and what it is trying to accomplish.

Something clicked. The 49ers found their groove in the second half when — get this — even the offense helped out with the scoring. Hill hit Vernon Davis for a 13-yard score, the third touchdown connection in two games for that duo.

Hill also connected with Josh Morgan on a 24-yard pass to give the 49ers a 26-0 lead with 14:14 to play.

It was the first touchdown this season by a 49ers wide receiver.

"It was?" Morgan said.

The 49ers insist that the offense will eventually have more to offer. For now, the rest of the team is carrying the load. The 49ers are 3-0 in the division for the first time since 2002.

"Let's keep it going. That's what we get paid for," Morgan said. "We're trying to be a great team, a Super Bowl team, a championship team. I think we're working toward that."

Quarterback

continued from page 12

ground, holding Adrian Peterson to 2.2 yards per carry. But none of it mattered.

They couldn't stop the geriatric wonder, that all-time waffler, Brett Favre.

Favre looked like he did in winning the title all those years ago, running and jumping like a schoolgirl in an anime movie after every touchdown or big play.

If the Vikings don't go at least 14-2 this year and win the Superbowl, Brad Childress ought to be taken out back and put down. This team is more talented than the undefeated Patriots team of a few years ago.

They have it all, superstars on offense, a dominating defense with a front four that could only seemingly be that big through performance enhancers... oh wait. But I digress.

Green Bay was supposed to be the big challenger to the Vikings for NFC North supremacy. I don't see anyone competing with Minnesota when they play their best — and unfortunately, most teams won't even beat them when they're playing average at best.
No Gore, no problem; Niners roll past Rams

Daniel Brown
San Jose Mercury News
SAN FRANCISCO — When teammate Ray McDonald grabbed a fumble and ran it in for a touchdown, 49ers linebacker Manny Lawson said he was thrilled and energized.

Oh, and a little jealous.

"My celebration would have been better than his," Lawson said.

Maybe next week. On Sunday, there were only so many celebrations to be crammed into a 35-0 victory over the St. Louis Rams.

The 49ers hit for the touchdown cycle, reaching the end zone on offense, defense and special teams. It marked the first time the 49ers had pulled off that feat since doing it against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 10, 1997.

More important, the 49ers’ victory capped a trifecta against NFC West teams, with the 49ers regaining wins over the Cardinals, Seahawks and Rams to start 3-0 in the division (3-1 overall).

"Our first goal is to win the division, but that’s not our only goal," coach Mike Singletary said. "As we go forward, we want to be one of the best teams in the NFL.

The 49ers don’t care about the West teams, with the 49ers registering wins over the Cardinals, Seahawks and Rams to start 3-0 in the division (3-1 overall)."

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"I definitely feel that we are a force to be reckoned with," rookie running back Glen Coffee said.

Coffee, filling in for injured Frank Gore, rushed 24 times for 74 yards. He was part of an offense that, as usual, played things close to the vest.

"The 49ers don’t care about the yardage totals, as long as the highlights come from somewhere."

Against the Rams, they came from everywhere. They scored three non-offensive touchdowns in a game for the first time since Dec. 11, 1966.

Rookie linebacker Scott McKillop recovered a botched punt return in the end zone to provide the 49ers’ first score, with 5:27 to go in the first half.

Linebacker Patrick Willis later added a 23-yard interception return for a score, and McDonald added his 11-yard fumble return for a touchdown.

"It’s a total team win, without a doubt," quarterback Shaun Hill said. "Every unit is pitching in, even though offensively we didn’t do as good as we would have liked to have done. The team came away with a 35-0 win, and that’s all that matters."

The 49ers won by their widest margin since they beat Arizona by 36 points on Dec. 7, 2003. This was their first shutout since beating New Orleans 38-0 in the 2001 season finale, a streak of 119 games.

It helped that they were playing a hapless Rams team that has scored only 24 points through in 0-4 start.

Quarterback Kyle Boller, the former Cal standout filling in for Marc Bulger, had just 108 passing yards and a 48.6 quarterback rating Sunday.

The defense was all over him, especially Willis, who had five tackles, 2.5 sacks and his second career interception return for a touchdown.

"Today was a day where you just say, ‘Wow,’" Willis said. "It was not just me, but it was our defense all together."

One of St. Louis’ many miscues opened the door for the scoring, and the 49ers came barreling through. It started when Andy Lee’s punt glanced off the leg of the Rams’ Quincy Butler, who got in the way while trying to block for return man Danny Amendola.

The ball bounced off Butler’s ankle and spirited 14 yards backward and into the end zone. Butler briefly considered kicking it out of the end zone for a safety, “but by then it was gone,” he said. “Guys were already on me.”

McKillop dived headlong into the avalanche of players and secured the ball. He kept hanging on tightly as he carried the ball to the sideline as a souvenir.

"It will be a good keepsake when I get older," the rookie said.

The score gave the 49ers a 7-0 halftime lead, a margin that failed to satisfy Singletary. He let loose during halftime with one of his trademark locker-room speeches.

"I reminded them that this is our house," Singletary said. "We want to set the tempo. We feel like we’re taking the fight to us."

Hill addressed the team, too, seeing Niners, page 11

The Cleveland Browns stuck. I think it’s safe to say after the first quarter of the season they are the worst teams in the NFL this year.

Things have gotten so bad that first-year head coach Eric Mangini’s job has been reported to be on the hot seat already.

Does anyone remember when Brady Quinn was touted as a possible breakthrough player during the offseason? The supposed “savior” of Cleveland football was benched in the second half of the third game this season.

Derek Anderson is clearly not the answer. Say what you will about his average performance against the Bengals on Sunday, but you don’t bench the guy you hope to be your franchise after two bad games.

Most people don’t remember Peyton Manning’s rookie year in which he threw 28 interceptions and the team went 3-13. Sometimes you just have to accept that you’re rebuilding this year, just like most Browns fans are beginning to accept that they may not win a game this year.

FavreBowl I shows Minnesota as NFC frontrunner.

You know it had when the coach challenges a play hoping it’s just a safety and your team will only trail by 16 points with seven minutes remaining.

Despite a late-game comeback attempt, Minnesota took Green Bay’s best shot and still won by a touchdown. The Packers outgained the Vikings through the air and on the ground.

Rookie Glen Coffee rushed for 74 yards over 23 carries while filling in for starting running back Frank Gore Sunday at Candlestick Park.

See Niners, page 11

For now, they were happy simply to put the 49ers’ 3-0 divisional lead in the rearview mirror. But what happens when Kyle Orton is down by two scores in the second half? He’ll likely be forced to throw to receivers beyond ten yards and trust me, that’s not a pretty sight.

Don’t be surprised to see the Broncos and their fans plummet to earth when they host the Patriots this weekend.

Are the Browns this year’s Lions?