Construction begins: Ground breaks on Simpson Strong-Tie building Friday

University Housing still in debt despite increase in revenue

Saudi Arabia won't work with Cal Poly

Historic “Laramie” event to take place tonight in Chumash Auditorium.

Cal Poly students express views on Obama’s peace prize.

Cal Poly’s defense contains Montana until second half.

**University Housing still in debt despite increase in revenue**

**Saudi Arabia won’t work with Cal Poly**

**Construction begins: Ground breaks on Simpson Strong-Tie building Friday**

University Housing received approximately $36 million in revenue this year from on-campus residents and other smaller services, an approximate $10 million increase from last year. This boost in earnings is a result of the phase II opening of Poly Canyon Village Apartments, which opened up 1,150 more beds to students. With the final phase opening, Poly Canyon alone is expected to bring in approximately $14 million. But even with this additional money, University Housing retains much debt and many fees to pay.

Receiving no additional aid from the university or the state, Executive Director Preston Allen said it's up to University Housing to make what money it receives from students and other smaller services work.

"Housing kind of has its own book," Allen said. "Whether it sinks or stays is housing's responsibility (so) the money (we) have needs to cover everything into.

With about 6,500 students living on-campus right now, Poly Canyon Village, Cervo Vista Apartments and the residence halls are at full capacity. The on-campus housing fees reflect a 4 percent increase from last year for each living facility. Allen said the jump is based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which University Housing uses as a benchmark when deciding living fees. Calculated by the Commonwealth Institute (a subdivision of nonprofit organization, Commonwealth, that provides investment information and promotes informed financial management), the HEPI is a price index meant to aid schools in creating future budgets. This year, the index, which is free to all colleges and universities in the United States, recommended a 3.5 percent jump based on eight categories, such as staff salaries, operating costs and utilities.

"Whatever I can do to keep costs low, I want to do it," Allen said. "Part of my purpose is to offer affordable housing to students."

But even with the 4 percent increase and the additional money coming in from Poly Canyon Village, University Housing still has a large debt to pay. This year, alone it is required to pay about $15.8 million, which will go toward paying off the more than $390 million debt from building Poly Canyon and Cervo Vista.

Each student pays a quarterly or yearly fee according to where they live. Students in Poly Canyon Village Apartments pay $6,365, Cervo Vista Apartment occupants pay $6,218 and students living in the residence halls pay $5,383 a year. The price difference is based on the relative newness of each living area.

Two other obligations that University Housing has to meet are payments to the Chancellor's Office and into a California State University (CSU) pool. The Chancellor's Office payment is for general work done on all 23 CSU campuses and to support the Chancellor's Office of Operations. The CSU pool is a yearly contribution from every campus' university housing section to aid other CSU on-campus housing facilities. The amount owed is based off a percentage of how much each on-campus housing facility is bringing in, and can change every year. The goal of the pool is to help a campus' university housing pay off costs when it can't do so alone, proving that with one campus' help, other campuses can benefit as well.

The contract in question would have developed a unique program in engineering education between Cal Poly's College of Engineering and JUC, for an information exchange of sorts. About 15 months ago, Cal Poly officials signed their end of the contract and sent it to Saudi Arabian officials informed Cal Poly's College of Engineering and JUC, for an information exchange of sorts. About 15 months ago, Cal Poly officials signed their end of the contract and sent it to Saudi Arabian officials, who did not send their part back. The contract did not come to fruition.

Dean Noori was unavailable to comment on the end to the collaborative effort.

Dean of Research and Graduate Programs Dr. Susan Opava said Saudi Arabian officials informed Cal Poly in June 2009 that the deal would not be going through. Opava said Cal Poly officials believed a draft of the goals of the program was ready, but after Cal Poly officials and Saudi Arabian university officials went back and forth over changes in language, the outcome was not successful.

"We thought we had a draft... acceptable to them," Opava said, though the Royal Commission sank Strong-Tie, page 2
Housing

continued from page 1

City Housing needs help, the other 22
campus housing facilities are filled.

"It reflects the enormity of the
housing community on the CSU
campus," Allen said.

Even then, University Housing still
has a list of facility projects that need
to get done. With Poly Canyon still
being so new, the majority of these
projects are aimed at maintaining
the residence halls and Cermo Vista.
For the 2009-10 year, University
Housing estimates spending $715,000
on projects, including a restroom
renovation in Yosemite and a volleyball
court renovation in Sierra Madre.
Business freshman Jamie Dehn said she is
upset with the condition of Sierra Madre
for all the money University Housing
puts into it.

"Our bathrooms are always really
dirty," she said. "Everything is always
very well kept (and) works really
well.

Even though there is an almost
$1,000 difference between Poly Can­
yon Village and the residence halls,
agricultural science sophomore James
Neumann said it's worth it to pay a
little more.

"You pay more, but you also have
your own room, your own privacy,
better accommodations, and you don't
have to share your own bathroom," he
said. "I lived in Cermo Vista last year for
the same reason."

Despite these expenses and other
dues for the on-campus housing pool,
staff salaries and basic operating costs,
University Housing had enough
money from operating costs to install
Direct TV and add the NFL package
to the televisions at Emmit's Ba­
gals in Poly Canyon. While Neu­
mann said he doesn't believe it's a
good use of student money, Dehn
said she doesn't mind as long as it
doesn't increase student housing costs.

"I personally don't watch NFL," she
said. "But I know there's a ton
of people who are into football so
I think it's fine."

After all fees, project payments,
the Poly Canyon mortgage, operat­
ing expenses and salaries are paid. Allen estimates to have an $8,000
surplus. This $8,000 is then im­
mEDIATELY split into seven reserves, which are used to build additional
housing facilities, maintain resi­
dence halls, pay for damage done
during a natural disaster and up­
grade and add new technology to
student facilities, among others. The amount that is allocated to
each reserve is dictated by a hous­
ing reserve policy put in place by
the Student Housing Task Force in
1994.

Overall, Dehn said she is happy
with the way University Housing
is handling her money and doesn't
mind the extra cost to live in the
residence halls because she wanted
to get the dorm experience.

"I think one of the most im­
portant things about college is
learning how to live with people," she
said. "You learn how to share
your space when you live in the
dorms (so) I think it's totally
worth it.

University Housing prevents
community advisors from talk­
ing to the Mustang Daily without
permission, so they were unable to
comment.

What other college newspaper lets you
watch videos?
www.mustangdaily.net
Hosting multimedia and AP video
www.tshirtguv.net
805.541.5111

Strong-Tie
continued from page 1

building before and during the
process. Kimberly Orth and Joseph
Klimczyk are doing their senior
project on the construction pro­
cess behind the new lab. "It's pret­
ty important to know what goes
on in the industry besides just an
(architectural engineering)," Orth
said. "You have to understand the
scheduling and timing beyond the

I think (working in a hands­
on environment) is crucial for
someone working in the
industry

—Dominic Cacciatore
construction management senior

engineering and in the office.

Orth also mentioned that ma­
terial testing is something that
students don't get to do often
enough. There is a concrete test­
ing lab, but Orth said that they are
"pretty limited on what (they) can
test in the lab.

The framing of the building
Orth and Klimczyk are studying
is the first of its kind for a pub­
lic, institutional building, Hauck
said. The frame is a "heavy timber
brace frame" composed of 6-by-6
timbers and larger. Under national
and state building codes, public
buildings (including all state uni­
versity buildings) must adhere to
higher safety standards regarding
hazards like fires and earthquakes.
Before, timber was excluded for
these safety issues, while tradition­
ally, other buildings on campus
are composed mostly of steel and
concrete because of their strength
and fire resistance. A new code was
put in place about a year and a half
ago that allowed the building to be
built with timber, which can handle
seismic loads and is fire resistant,
Hauck said.

The goal of the timber frame is
to use more environmentally-
conscious materials. "What we're
trying to do with this building as
well is the use of a sustainable, re­
cyclable material, which is timber," Hauck said.

The building, which has been in
the planning stages for four to
five years, is finally ready to break
ground, Hauck said. The contract
was given to San Luis Obispo
construction management com­
pany Newton Construction for
$1,673,000, less than the Cal Poly
estimate. "The trend over the last
year is that all projects have been
coming in lower on their esti­
mates," Perry Judd, project man­
ger under the Facilities Manage­
ment Department said.

The project will cut off half
of the timelapse between the
Construction Innovations Center
and the Engineering West building
and will close the road in between
the Center and the Graphic Arts
building, although the sidewalk
will remain open, Judd said.

It is a benchmark in the con­
struction industry, Alan Hanson,
Simpson Strom Construction com­
pany Newton Construction rep­resentative said. Simpson donat­
ed $500,000 to have their name on
the lab. They have worked closely
with Cal Poly for years and have
hired 15 to 20 graduates, Hanson
said.

"We want to further the rela­
tionship that we've had for a long
time," Hanson said. "They have been
great for us, because Cal Poly is consid­
ered by many people the premier
engineering school West of the
Mississippi.

The building is scheduled to be
finished for the beginning of fall
quarter 2010.
Thinking about Afghanistan

Results of a recent Gallup poll showing that Americans are about evenly divided on sending more troops to Afghanistan.

**Thinking about Afghanistan**

- **Favor**
  - 48%
- **Oppose**
  - 49%
- **Other**
  - 3%

... and most think these are legitimate reasons to have troops in Afghanistan...

- **Weaken terrorists' ability to attack**
  - 62%
  - **Keep Taliban out of power**
  - 58%
  - **Build democracy in Afghanistan**
  - 51%

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**GALLUP POLL**

- **Senate**
  - 1 out of 3 17-year-olds.
  - **House**
  - 1 out of 2 15-year-olds.

Results of a recent Gallup poll showing that Americans are about evenly divided on sending more troops to Afghanistan.

**McClatchy Tribune**

- **Senate**
  - 1 out of 3 17-year-olds.
  - **House**
  - 1 out of 2 15-year-olds.

Results of a recent Gallup poll showing that Americans are about evenly divided on sending more troops to Afghanistan.

- **Senate**
  - 1 out of 3 17-year-olds.
  - **House**
  - 1 out of 2 15-year-olds.

Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

**MUSTANG DAILY NEWS**

- **Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?**...
Opponents to Proposition 8 march down Market Street to City Hall for gay and lesbian rights.

Obama vowed unprecedented support for the full gay rights agenda. "We have never had a stronger ally in the White House -- never," Solmonese said.

But he added that many gays and lesbians are eager to see quicker results from a president who has long been on their side.

Obama insisted that some progress has been made on the gay agenda, noting last Thursday's vote in the House of Representatives to expand federal " Hate" crimes law to include additional penalties for crimes based on "sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability." The federal government now calls for tougher penalties in crimes motivated by a victim's race, color, religion or national origin.

"This bill is set to pass, and I will sign it into law," Obama said.

On the question of gays serving openly in the military, he said that he's working to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy adopted in 1993 that allows gays to serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation secret.

I will end "don't ask, don't tell." That's my commitment to you," Obama said, to loud applause.

Last year, more than 600 people were forced out of the armed services under the policy.

"We are moving ahead on 'don't ask don't tell,'" Obama said. "We should not be punishing patriotic Americans who've stepped forward to serve America ... especially at a time when we're fighting two wars."

He said he's working with the Pentagon and congressional leaders to enact legislation repealing the policy, apparently referring to a bill introduced by Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., that so far has 176 cosponsors.

Obama also put the White House squarely behind efforts to protect gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. "Nobody in America should be fired because they're gay. We're going to put a stop to it," he said.

For gay and lesbian couples, he said he's already ordered the federal government to grant as many of the benefits offered married couples as possible under current law. And he said he's prodding Congress to do more.

"I've called on Congress to repeal the Defense of Marriage act and pass the domestic partners benefits bill," he said.

Despite his vows, Obama did not spell out how much political capital he would or could use to push the gay rights agenda at a time he's reworking the war strategy in Afghanistan, pushing for a health care overhaul and struggling to avoid a climate bill in the Senate.

"I understand the president has a crowded agenda, but I have been serving under this law for 16 years," said Air Force Lt. Col. Victor Fuchhh, before the speech. "It's an Iraq war hero who is set to be discharged under the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, and he went into the evening looking for a more solid commitment from the president."
Terrorist attack in Pakistan shows how vulnerable it is in aftermath

Saeed Shah

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The devastating terrorist assault on Pakistan's military headquarters, which ended early Sunday after nearly 24 hours, exposed the threat of extremist groups operating in the heart of the country and the vulnerability of its most sensitive installations.

U.S. officials have been documenting the host of extremist groups operating in Afghanistan, which is essential for the Obama administration to achieve even limited progress there.

The attack also could deepen some Pakistani officials' conviction the American war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban is a catalyst for Islamic extremism in the region and to keep hedging against a potential U.S. withdrawal by continuing to support some militant groups while fighting those it deems a threat to Pakistan.

The raid and ensuing hostage crisis resulted in 11 army personnel and civilians dying inside the military complex in Rawalpindi, while nine terrorists were killed and their ringleader was captured, injured but alive. A rescue operation early Sunday brought out 39 hostages, but left three others dead.

The onslaught came just before the army began a planned U.S.-backed offensive against the Pakistani Taliban in the country's wild Waziristan region on the border with Afghanistan, the hub of extremism in Pakistan.

Evidence suggested the assailants came from Pakistan's core Punjab province, rather than ethnically diverse Taliban, India — whose Kabul, Afghanistan, embassy was hit Oct. 8 by a car bomb for the second time in 16 months — supports the U.S.-backed Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai. India backed the ethnic minorities who fought the Taliban before the 2001 U.S. invasion.

The region right now is as volatile as I have ever seen it. The tension is not waning; it is on the rise," said another senior U.S. intelligence official. "The Indo-Pakistan issue looks like a dark cloud on a horizon that might look clear blue, but it is actually a tidal wave that is rushing in."

Finally, failure in Afghanistan would deal a massive blow to U.S. international standing to the benefits of Iran, Russia and China, and undermine the NATO alliance, the U.S. officials said.

The intelligence assessments and the U.S. officials' views are in stark contrast to briefings and statements made last week by administration officials who downplayed the threat al-Qaeda that could pose if the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan.
Poly to participate in historic “Laramie” event tonight

Kara Dimitriou
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Cal Poly, and more than 100 other schools nationwide, will participate in a historic event tonight to commemorate the life of a young college student, Matthew Shepard, the victim of a hate crime.

“The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later” is a staged reading examining the attitudes of the residents of Laramie, Wyoming, Shepard’s hometown. It also examines the progress made since the original “Laramie Project.”

“Being as this event will be a part of history, it’s a chance to see something that more than 100 schools will be watching at the same time,” Steve Lerman, director of Cal Poly Arts said.

In 1998, Shepard was a student at the University of Wyoming at Laramie. On Oct. 12, 1998, two students kidnapped him, tied him to a fence, beat him and left him to die because he was gay. He died

see Theater, page 7

In June 2008, members of Tectonic Theater Project returned to Laramie, Wyoming to explore how the town had changed in the ten years since Matthew Shepard’s murder.

What they found defied their expectations.

The result is a new play about how we construct our own history.

This is the continuing story of an American Town.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER
AN EPILOGUE

WRITTEN BY NOELLE KAPLAN, LINDA ENGDAHLWEIS, DEE FESTUCCI, BARRY PROV AND STEPHEN BEIBER

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Theater

continued from page 6

as a result of the hate and discrimination against him. He has since become an icon for equality and minority acceptance.

In the original production, Laramie residents were interviewed and their reactions to the horrific event were recorded by the Tectonic Theater Project—a award-winning company that performs all over the world—which produced the play on Shepard’s behalf. It was later adapted as an HBO movie and nominated for four Emmys in 2002.

In 2008, the Tectonic Theater Project went back to Laramie to re-interview the town concerning Shepard’s murder. The purpose was to see what progress has been made, if any, within those 10 years.

Each performance will take place tonight on the 12th anniversary of Shepard’s death.

At Cal Poly, there will be a staged reading with ten actors sharing information from the town after those 10 years. Furthermore, the recording from the New York production will be played, showing Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard’s mother, and followed by a question-and-answer session.

Jeffrey Arevedo, a Cal Poly electrical engineering and theater graduate, is directing the event. He first heard of Shepard’s death in the sixth grade and still remembers talking about it in class. It’s important to have this performance and to see how far we’ve come in the last 10 years, he said.

“This is so unique and it’s great to be a part of something of this magnitude,” Arevedo said. “Hopefully this will generate discussion and give people a better understanding of what’s going on.”

“The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later” is a free event, and donations will be accepted for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Cal Poly Arts and SLO AB5 Support Network. The performance will be held at Chumash Auditorium at 8 p.m. tonight.

Actors from the City Lights Theater Company in San Jose prepare for their production of “The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later.” The production will be performed by more than 100 schools and theater companies tonight on the 12th anniversary of Matthew Shepard’s death.
Califone’s latest inspires soon-to-be-released film

I’ve got to tell you right now, I was more than just a little tempted to do this week’s article on the new They Might Be Giants children’s album, “Here Comes Science.” I wanted to do it really badly, but it was too sad for me. It’s hard to admit in a full article with a really big picture of my face right next to it that I was amused by music about the sun, rainbows and the scientific method, all of which are meant to get children excited about going to school. It really is hard to publicly admit that I liked the album.

So much so that I’d write an article about it thinking that you might be so intrigued that you would actually go out of your way to listen to a kids’ album. It was a sad couple of minutes, but, in the end, as I decided against it, I felt a grown up, like I had the ability to practice restraint and demonstrate to my peers refined taste and matured views of the world and art. So now, I’m in my room, wearing a tweed sports coat, smoking a pipe and developing my understated command of the human condition and its relationship to rhythm and tonal beauty by listening to Califone’s newest album, “All My Friends Are Funeral Singers.”

The album is itself a very fine example of the Califone tradition with its restrained and sensibly mixed acoustic folk and experimental electronic breaks. It’s the kind of thing you can genuinely enjoy and still feel unnecessarily pretentious about. Also, it’s a useful album to put on for a lady late at night when you want to prove that you have emotionally evolved beyond all the other people at the party you just came from.

In fact, I give you my personal guarantee that you will, at the very least, get a cuddle out of her before the sun comes up. And, oh yeah, she’ll swoon hard when songs like “Funeral Singers” and “Brummel” start to play. They are the kind of things that make the heart swell and the body writhe in hyper-sensitive ways, especially for us 20-something hipsters with easily provoked libidos.

My favorite thing about this album is the way it seamlessly switches from desperate loneliness to sincere nostalgia to fun-freak-folks down-downs. It’s a truly eclectic album without erratic transitions. It is masterfully arranged and composed so that each song has its place within the album as a whole, creating this honestly beautiful and amazing collection of songs.

“All My Friends Are Funeral Singers” also serves as the conceptual soundtrack to a soon-to-be-released film of the same name. The film will be released sometime next year, starring the members of Califone and Angelo Bettin (“Girl Interrupted”), and will be accompanied by live performances by Califone during next year’s tour. Written and directed by Califone front-man Tim Rutini, the “AM FAS” movie looks like a hipstered-out musical version of “The Others” (that movie where Nicole Kidman is a ghost and is stuck in the house, but doesn’t know she’s a ghost and therefore inadvertently terrifies children) and will most likely be good.

Califone’s newest album, “All My Friends Are Funeral Singers,” was released Oct. 6 by Dead Oceans Records.

New game shows “Batman” the respect he deserves

Karen Howell
THE READER (MISSISSIPPI STATE U.)

Have you ever wanted to dance with the devil in the pale moonlight?

Whether you recognize this question from 1989’s “Batman” or not, you can enjoy Rocksteady’s newest addition to the world of comic book hero video games, “Batman: Arkham Asylum.”

This latest incarnation of Batman — released on the PS3 and Xbox360 last month and just recently on the PC — is a must play. Its sales worldwide have already earned it a Guinness World Record for “Most Critically Acclaimed Superhero Game Ever.”

The game opens up with the Bats inside;遁ing through the streets of Gotham, Batman has once again caught the Joker and is delivering him to Arkham Asylum. The tone of the game is dark and sinister, even creepy at times, placing the player oneself entirely on Arkham Island and features an original story written by author and five-time Emmy award winner Paul Dini, who has also worked on “Lois” and “Batman: The Animated Series.”

Many of the characters from the comic make an appearance, and even more are alluded to. While I applaud the use of Mark Hamil to voice the Joker, I don’t really like what they did to Harley Quinn. I remember her character being more of an acrobat than an SKA Amazon playing nurse. However, they did a great job with Poison Ivy and Killer Croc, and I think they actually improved Scarecrow.

Right out of the gate, you are Batman. You don’t have to level up or acquire weapons, although you do get more skills and gadgets as the game progresses. But unlike many other superhero games, you start out strong.

The game does not offer a tutorial, but then again I didn’t see a real need for one. The basic controls are really quite simple: Y counts, B stuns and X kicks as. The combat system is similar to games like “Devil May Cry” — you can chain your attacks and go from kicking one thug in the throat to delivering an elbow into the chest of the thug who thought he would sneak up behind you. Your enemies also get smarter throughout the game, and some will be armed with various weapons.

One of the more interesting features, in my opinion, was the ability to truly put the fear of the bat into your enemies. The Joker has outfitted his men with technology that gives him their biological information and location, presumably to let him know who is out to hunt him down or ratted. The player can use it to its advantage. For instance, swoop down from the rafters and take one thug out without being seen or heard. Use the bat-camo to return to the shadow and wait for the other guys to find the body. You can see the heart rates jump up as the thugs start to freak out. Plus the Joker’s comments over the intercom system stir them up even more; for example, in one scene, Joker told them where to look for bodies and mocked their incompetence.

There is a perfect balance between stealth and action here. Explore your inner ninja, czar through the air ducts, hide in the shadows and strike down your enemies when the time is right. Actually, it might be more appropriate to say “predator” instead of stealth because Batman is not only out to hunt his enemies, he is the hunter.

Or maybe your ideal Batman stamps the miscreants into submission. If so, you can jump right into the action and take the whole gang on barehanded. You also get to upgrade your equipment in whatever way you think complements your playing style best. Many of Batman’s gizmos and gadgets will be at your disposal.

But Batman is not all about pummeling enemies; there are mysteries to unravel and puzzles to solve. They can range from something as tame as taking care of the henchmen without being detected to something harder, like figuring out the Kid- dler’s Challenges.

After many attempts, someone finally made a good Batman video game. The graphics are beautiful, the voice acting is well done, the story is in line with the Batman universe and the game play is superb.

The big, bad Bat has certainly come a long way since his 8-bit appearance in 1988’s “Batman: The Caped Crusader.”

The audit of Cal Poly Foundation’s financial statements for FY 2008-09 is complete.

Copies may be obtained or reviewed at Building 117, Heron Hall, Room 215.
Unfortunately, there are many health insurance misconceptions. There are actually many options for health insurance in California that can meet different needs. The health insurance companies are also coming out with new plans and incentives to try to make coverage more affordable, including for college students and recent graduates. Also, many people make the mistake of viewing their health insurance payments as just another bill at the end of the month or year. Plans should be read very carefully and understood what you are covered for. Update your plan annually, and doing so will ensure that the individual or family has the right plan to best fit changing needs.

—Emily
Response to “Uncovered: Many students don’t plan ahead for health coverage”

Monday, October 12, 2009

letters to the editor

Mr. Tsoi’s arguments and ideas are contrary to practical reality, and are obviously based on reasoning founded in a religious indoctrination. This is especially true with respect to his opinion on the practical reality of evolution. Evolution has been debated thoroughly by academics and laymen alike for 150 years. Biologists agree that evolution is the most well-supported idea in modern biology, and that most other ideas in science are supported and tie into the theory of evolution. Our country fails to provide enough education in science and mathematics currently, and I fear for what would happen if our country was controlled for a long period of time by people who share his irrational skepticism of evidence-based, practical reality.

—Anonymous
Response to “No education, just indoctrination”

Barack Obama has inspired. He has elevated. He has brought hope to people around the world. He has reimagined dialogues that seemed long dead, or hidden on back burners. For that, on Friday, he was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. Obama’s work for peace is still upon Critics, even some supporters, suggest it’s too early to hand this young president the world’s most prestigious award. After all, it’s a frighteningly exclusive club; it doesn’t, for instance, include Gandhi. But Obama does share something with many who have accepted this award before him including Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr. and Lech Walesa. The ability to lift eyes upward, to prompt dreams of a better future.
The prize is only sometimes given out for accomplishments. As commonly, it is awarded to give strength to a position, to provide gravitas for a noble individual or group in the path of peace against a corrupt system.

Obama was chosen as a way to welcome the United States back into the global community after years of unilateral policy. This award is deserved by the man, but his nation. And it’s focused as much on what we can do and what we might have Obama as president to seem we have to do, as on what he’s already accomplished in the short time he’s been in office.

He humbly acknowledged that failure can be a part of the process. Already, his administration has reopened discussions with Iran, addressed nuclear disarmament and confronted the Western-Islamic divide, the source of so much that is wrong with the world today.

So maybe Obama, to date, hasn’t earned a Peace Prize for scaled deals. But he brings hope. And, sometimes, hope is worth rewarding.

—Editors
Response to “Uncovered: Many students don’t plan ahead for health coverage”

letters to the editor

“Who, Obama? So fast? Too fast — he hasn’t had the time to do anything yet.”

That’s a question the president’s admirers must have shared the puzzled reaction of Poland’s Lech Walesa, the 1983 Nobel Peace Laureate, upon learning of President Barack Obama’s selection as this year’s laureate.

Europe loves Obama because he’s not George W. Bush, whose war-on-terror policies are reviled, but is really a prizeworthy distinction? It shouldn’t be.

His selection is an honor for this country, yet the word premia springs to mind. Obama has made some eloquent speeches, most recently reaffirming a commitment to diplomatic engage ment before the U.N. General Assembly. And he has done some good things, too, like ordering the evacuation of Americans in the face of Guantnamo and outlawing waterboarding.

That’s a good start, but no more than that. The Nobel Peace Prize should represent more than a pat on the back of good intentions.

There is as yet no grand political achievement that compares to finding a solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland (John Hume and David Trimble, 1998). He has not reached the level of Nelson Mandela, who shared the prize with F.W. de Klerk in 1993 for bringing reconciliation to South Africa. He is not a world-wide symbol of the capacity of the human spirit (Elie Wiesel, 1986).

The Nobel committee cited as his key accomplishment bringing “a new climate in international politics.” It is to Obama’s credit that he has inspired such great expectations around the world, and perhaps the award is a way to encourage him to keep at it. But the prize would mean more if it could point to concrete achievements.

Obama’s comments on Friday seemed to reflect his own surprise, describing his selection “a call to action for all nations to work toward peace” and “an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations.” He seems to understand what the world expects of him. Now he has to deliver on those great expectations. As he is fond of saying, “It’s not going to be easy.”

—Guy Shani
Biological sciences senior

letters to the editor

“Who, Obama? So fast? Too fast — he hasn’t had the time to do anything yet.”

That’s a question the president’s admirers must have shared the puzzled reaction of Poland’s Lech Walesa, the 1983 Nobel Peace Laureate, upon learning of President Barack Obama’s selection as this year’s laureate.

Europe loves Obama because he’s not George W. Bush, whose war-on-terror policies are reviled, but is really a prizeworthy distinction? It shouldn’t be.

His selection is an honor for this country, yet the word premia springs to mind. Obama has made some eloquent speeches, most recently reaffirming a commitment to diplomatic engagement before the U.N. General Assembly. And he has done some good things, too, like ordering the evacuation of Americans in the face of Guantnamo and outlawing waterboarding.

That’s a good start, but no more than that. The Nobel Peace Prize should represent more than a pat on the back of good intentions.

There is as yet no grand political achievement that compares to finding a solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland (John Hume and David Trimble, 1998). He has not reached the level of Nelson Mandela, who shared the prize with F.W. de Klerk in 1993 for bringing reconciliation to South Africa. He is not a world-wide symbol of the capacity of the human spirit (Elie Wiesel, 1986).

The Nobel committee cited as his key accomplishment bringing "a new climate in international politics." It is to Obama’s credit that he has inspired such great expectations around the world, and perhaps the award is a way to encourage him to keep at it. But the prize would mean more if it could point to concrete achievements.

Obama’s comments on Friday seemed to reflect his own surprise, describing his selection "a call to action for all nations to work toward peace" and "an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations." He seems to understand what the world expects of him. Now he has to deliver on those great expectations. As he is fond of saying, "It’s not going to be easy."

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Biological sciences senior

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It's all sweeps in Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Angels and the Los Angeles Dodgers both swept their way into the second round of playoffs this weekend.

David Lennon

BOSTON — Their ancient ri­
vals now are history. But the Yankees, should they advance to the American League Championship Series, might
end up wishing for those grudge matches with the Red Sox once they get there.

That's because the Angels not only are a dangerous group but look like a team who can make a deep run.

With a 2-0 lead over Boston in the Division Series, the Angels really had nothing to lose Sunday at Fen­
way Park.

But rather than buckle beneath 3-0 and 5-1 deficits, the Angels saved their best for last, rallying for three runs in the ninth inning against Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon for a series­
clinching 7-6 victory.

Papelbon had two outs, none on before five straight Angels reached base. In three consecutive at-bats, the Angels were one strike from defeat.

"We never surrendered," said Bobby Abreu, who batted 1-2 and pitched off the Green Monster for an RBI double that moved the Angels within 6-5. "We never gave up. We've had many times. And it's huge doing it against Papelbon. We hit it in Game 4. We celebrated. That's what happened."

Vladimir Guerrero supplied the key hit, an opposite-field one that decided the game, after an intentional walk to Tori Hunter that loaded the bases, but it was the Angels' resilience that got them to that point.

With two outs, Aybar said, Chone Figgins worked a full-count walk and Abreu doubled home a run, putting runners on second and third. That's when the Sox chose to put Hunter on and take their chances with Guerrero, who had not driven in a run in nine previous playoff games against Boston.

Dan Clasper

ST. LOUIS — September's fade officially turned to October black Saturday night at Busch Stadium.

Once armed with league's best record, the Cardinals fell in series qui­
ety, 5-4, as the Los Angeles Dodgers concluded a three-game sweep of the Division Series that offered the NL Central champs some early suspense.

"It's tough to walk the bases load­
ed," Red Sox manager Terry Fran­
cona said. "But Pap threw strikes and he had a lot of success against Guer­
riero. I guess, to put it in a nutshell, we thought we'd put up a better chance to win. It didn't work."

Guerrero was 2-6 with 12 strikeouts and four walks Thursday night. "I had a lot of success against Papelbon. We hit it in Game 4. We celebrated. That's what happened."

"More than anything," Aybar said, "I wasn't really able to stop the bleeding. Your team fights to put you in that situation, to call upon you, and you let them down."

Papelbon had not allowed a run in the first 17 postseason appearances of his career spanning 26 innings, before he was called on Sunday for the four­
out save with the Red Sox clinging to a 5-2 lead. Juan Rivera cut it to 5-4 with a two-run single on Papelbon's first pitch, those runs were charged to Wagner, and after Mike Lowell's two-out RBI single in the bottom of the eighth gave Boston a two-run lead, the Angels chipped away at Papelbon in the ninth.

The Angels beat the Red Sox in a playoff best-of-seven twice in the last three years, and it was also their first post­
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First-half goal stands up as Mustangs defeat CS Fullerton

Morgan Miller's third goal of the season in the 39th minute of play was all the Mustangs would need in defeating Cal State Fullerton 1-0 in a Big West Conference women's soccer game on Sunday at Alex G. Spanos Stadium. With the win the Mustangs improve to 9-5-0 overall and 3-1 in conference play while the Titans fall to 5-7-3 and 2-2 in the Big West conference.

Morgan Miller's goal in the 39th minute, when Anthon Thulin beat a Cal State Fullerton defender about 30 yards out and fed the ball to Miller who caught the Titan goalie off line and fired the ball into the right-center of the net from 12 yards out. For Miller it was her third goal of the season.

The Titans had two solid scoring chances in the first half with the first coming in the 27th minute off a corner kick. The ball was whittled and CSF's Jackie Hovda fired a pointblank shot at Coral Hoover who made the save.

In the 32nd minute Stacey Fox tried to get the Titans on the board with a header that was gathered in by Hoover.

Despite its recent success and four first-half turnovers, the Mustang defense gave up over 400 yards of total offense to Montana State Saturday. Senior linebacker Marty Mohamed tallied a game-high 10 tackles in a 23-19 loss.

Everybody's busting their ass, everyone has the mindset to do so well.

Kyle Mohamed
Cal Poly Linebacker

Bianca Burritt in the 86th minute played a header in front of the goal but was headed away by Fullerton's 10 while in the 85th minute she fired a ball from 20 yards out off the top of the bar. Overall the Mustangs had 13 shots with seven on goal while CSF managed nine shots four on goal.

Hoover earned her ninth win of the season in goal for the Mustangs and her sixth shutout when she tallied four saves for the Mustangs against CSF with six saves.

The Mustangs return to the field on Sunday and will host the Titans at 2 p.m. on the teams' home UC Davis at 7 p.m.