Report looks at hidden health costs of energy production

Katie Koehl

Positive body images promoted at Wellness Fair on Dexter Lawn.

U.S. to ease marijuana prosecution.

The Mustang Daily's Tuesday Morning Quarterback sounds off about the woeful Redskins.

IN ARTS, 6

IN NEWS, 3

IN SPORTS, 12

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

Books to go electronic when Kindles hit the library

Katie Koehl

A series of New York Times Best Sellers will be some of the first digitized on demand when the Robert E. Kennedy Library unveils five new electronic devices for reading books on Nov. 2, in an effort to provide students with the best study tools.

"This fall, we want students to get the chance to check them out and decide if they are useful as a research tool and tell us what they would like to see on the Kindles. If it is very successful, then we will be ordering more in the winter," said Dale Kohler, the director of library information technology.

The library ordered the Kindles at stock price for $489 each and purchased 50 New York Times best sellers in electronic 'book' form, to stock each Kindle.

The library initially decided not to put textbooks or other reading material on the Kindles because they were too expensive for the trial period, costing up to $500 in e-book (electronic book) form compared to a New York Times best seller, which is about $10 in e-book form.

Additionally, while there are over 350,000 books, newspapers, magazines and blogs available in e-book form, the library found some titles that Cal Poly users are not yet offered in e-book form.

The possibility of having numerous Kindles stacked with Cal Poly courseware will depend on whether students think they would benefit from having them available. If the library decides to put textbooks on Kindles, the once that are selected will be based on availability and student requests.

"In the long run, it's not so much about saving money," Kohler said. "The cost of the physical device and the e-books are not much different from regular books. It's all about finding the best way to service students."

Students will be able to check a Kindle out for one week at a time with a Poly card from the Poly Connect desk in the library. Students can renew the checkout of the Kindle firmware on the Kindles because they were too expensive for the trial period, costing up to $500 in e-book (electronic book) form compared to a New York Times best seller, which is about $10 in e-book form.

The report looks at the hidden costs of energy, in some cases because of a lack of information but also because the study needed as they expand, it says.

Caitlyn Bresley-Campos, a civil engineer junior, thinks that having textbooks available on the Kindles would be the most beneficial way to use the devices.

"Instead of going to the library and having to check out six textbooks and carry them around in your backpack, you can have all your books in one place," Bresley-Campos said. "There have been so many times where I wish I had all my textbooks with me when I was studying in the U.U. library or wherever.

While students' backpacks are sure to lighten in trading textbooks for a Kindle, over 8,000 reviews on Amazon.com suggest that people's opinions vary regarding the ease of reading books on an electronic screen.

"Even if you just read a regular book (like the New York Times best sellers) with the Kindle, you can get a feel of what it is like to look at a book electronically and students can decide for themselves if it would be beneficial to have these devices as study tools," Kohler said.

In deciding if the Kindles will be effective as a study aide, the pros and cons of the devices must be considered.

Kaitlyn Beesley-Campos, a civil engineer junior, thinks that having textbooks available on the Kindles would be the most beneficial way to use the devices.

See Kindle, page 2

Hidden costs of energy

Making electricity and driving motor vehicles costs Americans billions above the market price in health damages from air pollution, according to a federal advisory group, estimated annual costs.

Generating electricity

Coal

Natural gas

About 3.2 cents per kilowatt-hour

About 0.16 cents per kilowatt-hour

Generating electricity

About 3.2 cents per kilowatt-hour

About 0.16 cents per kilowatt-hour

Transportation

About 1.2 cents-1.7 cents per mile traveled

About 11 cents per thousand cubic ft.
Feed your future

Tune in and learn why we're one of the best places to start your career.

Begin at www.pwc.tv

Health costs

continued from page 1

equipment.
The panel looked at transportation by motor vehicles, which make up 75 percent of transportation energy use, but it didn't monetize the pollution damages from air, rail or water transportation. It estimated the pollution damages from motor-vehicle transportation at $36 billion in 2009.
The dollar amounts were mainly early deaths due to pollution, with the value of each life put at $6 million, consistent with other studies. More than 90 percent of the costs were the statistical cost of early deaths. Other costs in studies the panel examined included chronic bronchitis and asthma, Cropper said.
Total early deaths were about 18,000 to 19,000 per year, said another member of the panel, Daniel Greenbaum, the president of the Health Effects Institute in Boston, a nonprofit organization that searches the effects of air pollution on health.
The report notes that there can be large uncertainties in its estimates. The panel of scientinsts, engineers, economists, and law and policy experts based its findings on presentations by experts, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and federal reports and databases.

Kindle

continued from page 1

at once.
"I think there are no cons to it if they have books that students need," Sing said.
Besides offering thousands of books, Kindles are also able to transfer MP3's from a computer via a USB cable and includes a basic Web browser and built-in dictionary.
In addition, the Kindle is not large in size with a 9.7-inch screen, a one-third of an inch thickness and weighs about 19 ounces.
While some might think the compactness of the device is convenient, others might see the size as a drawback when it comes to scrolling through and reading the text.
Another potential downside is that Kindles do not provide the same ease when it comes to highlighting, making notes in the margins and referring to page numbers as with a regular book.
Material engineering junior Tyler Philiber would not trade in his regular books to use a Kindle.
"If you have your own textbook you can do what you want with it," Philiber said. "It's easier to flip through pages, put a sticky note here or bookmark a page there.
Additionally, the Kindle trumps the feeling of an old-fashioned book. Kohler said.
"I think for a lot of people, they have trouble giving up the actual feel of holding a book in their hands and being able to flip the pages," Kohler said.
Computer engineering senior Victoria Campana agreed that a Kindle does not provide the same feel as a regular book.
"It would help if people couldn't get the book they needed, but personally, I'd rather hold a book and be able to turn the pages," Campana said.
Campana also expresses a concern about the electronic screen causing strain on her eyes.
Amazon.com has addressed this problem, however, claiming that Kindles do not cause any strain on the eyes because of a unique display format.
Evidently, there are many pros and cons to Kindles that could influence a student's opinion. If the student response is favorable this fall, many students could be exchanging their 30-pound, text-book-laden backpacks for a 10-pound one with Kindle in tow.
Obama offers Sudan a carrot and a stick

Steven Thomma and Shashank Bengali
MCCLATCHY-NEWSPAPERS

President Barack Obama announced a shift in strategy toward Sudan on Monday, saying he'll offer incentives to the government if it will end a humanitarian crisis in its Darfur region.

His willingness to work with the government of President Omar al-Bashir, whom the International Criminal Court has charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, signaled a break from the hard-line approach that the Bush administration and some of Obama's own advisors favored.

Obama still held out the possibility of renewing sanctions against Sudan that have been in place since 1997, saying he'd sign that order later this week if he thought it was necessary. First, however, he signaled, he wants to try adding a carrot to go with the stick.

"Sudan is now poised to fall further into chaos if swift action is not taken," the president said in a written statement. "Our conscience and our interest in peace and security call upon the United States and the international community to act with a sense of urgency and purpose."

He said two immediate steps must be taken to avoid further punishment:

1. "It will not be a priority to use federal resources to prosecute patients with serious illnesses or their caregivers who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana," Holder said.

At the same time, Holder stressed that "we will not tolerate drug traffickers who hide behind claims of compliance with state law to mask activities that are clearly illegal."

The newly clarified policy amplifies earlier Obama administration statements and puts more muscle behind them. The three-page memo sent to selected U.S. attorneys guides priority-setting for the White House-appointed prosecutors.

"The proof will be in the pudding," Dale Gieringer, the state coordinator of California NORML — the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws — said of the new policy directive, but "there has already been a substantial change from the "practical policy" followed under the Bush administration."

As a presidential candidate, Barack Obama declared that he wouldn't interfere with individual state decisions to permit prescription marijuana use, and Holder previously voiced similar sentiments. Within weeks of Obama's inauguration, though, federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents raided several pot dispensaries in Los Angeles.

Medical marijuana raids have occurred in recent months in San Diego, San Francisco and California's rural Lake County.

This year's raids resembled earlier Bush administration DEA raids, raising alarms about whether drug enforcement policies really had changed. An unsuccessful 2005 Supreme Court challenge by Oakland, Calif., resident Angel Raich left federal authorities with the power to prosecute medical-marijuana use even in states that permitted it.

"The FDA has never approved marijuana as safe and effective for any medicinal use," the Bush administration's solicitor general, Paul Clement, advised the court in 2005. McGregor Scott, a former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of California, said in an interview that the new guidance represented no change from the "practical policy" followed under the Bush administration.

"Without exception, the cases we accepted and prosecuted ... involved violations of both state and federal law," Scott said, adding that "(we) focused on the most egregious offenders who were making millions of dollars selling marijuana."

In California, where voters adopted a medical marijuana program in 1996, recent shows that 24,258 user identification cards have been issued over the past five years. Gieringer, though, estimated that the true number of medical marijuana users in the state is closer to 300,000.

In Washington state, voters approved a medical marijuana initiative in 1998 that permits the possession or cultivation of a personal 60-day supply. It's a different system from that of California, where public dispensaries have proliferated.

"There are not the retail storefronts in Washington," noted Martin Martinez, the executive director of the Seattle-based Cascadia NORML, adding that the Obama administration appears "a little more supportive" than the Bush administration did.

The new policy memo is part of the priority-setting that happens in every new Justice Department. During the Bush administration, for instance, federal prosecutors were encouraged to pursue child pornography and immigration cases.

Now, individuals "with cancer or other serious illnesses who use marijuana as part of a recommended treatment regimen" will not be deemed worthy of prosecution, the policy memo says. Neither are "those caregivers (who) in clear and present need will be targeted."
**WORD ON THE STREET**

"Are you stressed for midterms?"

- Jennifer English, communication studies senior
  - "Yes, a little but I usually manage my time well."

- Kendall Smith, mechanical engineering sophomore
  - "No, because I just got a 95 percent on my physics midterm; I'm pretty stoked."

- Matt Bjerk, landscape architecture senior
  - "No, because I only had one and it was easy. I'm a senior, I don't have many more tests."

- Vincent Sordo, computer science senior
  - "Yes, because I already have a lot of work in studio."

- Matt Highstreet, mechanical engineering senior
  - "No, because I've stayed on top of my reading and coursework."

- Emily Ho, architecture junior
  - "Yes, because I already have a lot of work in studio."

**Marijuana**

unambiguous compliance with existing state law provide such individuals with marijuana."

"At least this is on paper," Geringer said, "so perhaps it will make a difference in how prosecutors operate." However, federal raids and prosecutions should continue when other potentially law-breaking circumstances exist, Holder stressed. The unlawful possession of firearms, "excessive amounts of cash," possession of other controlled substances and questionable financial gains still prompt prosecution. The policy appears consistent with some high-profile past incidents, including a case last year in which two Modesto, Calif., men were convicted of running a major pot dispensary that earned more than $4.5 million.

**Sudan**

— Sudan, page 5
State
SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (MCT) — Solar-panel-covered structures will sprout on the San Luis Obispo High School parking lot and at seven other campuses of San Luis Coastal Unified School District officials can get the plans approved.

The proposal calls for putting in carport-like structures with solar panels on top.

Students, faculty and parents would park underneath, essentially using the airspace above cars as an energy producer. Some of the trees now in the parking lot may have to be removed.

The cost to taxpayers is expected to be nothing, and the project would eventually lead to a savings of up to $6 million to $8 million in energy costs over the next 20 years, according to Brad Parker, the district's facilities director.

***

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — California is back in the race when the show is set to air.

Sunday afternoon Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill that took away the biggest obstacle to the state winning a share of $4.5 billion in federal Race to the Top funds for education.

Senate Bill 19, authored by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, eliminates a statewide ban against requiring student test scores to teacher evaluations.

Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study, evaluating the effectiveness of investigational, medicated patches and study patches at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may be provided.

To learn more about this local study, please contact:

Sudan
JUBA, Sudan (MCT) — The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has begun airlifting soldiers from Bentiu, the state capital of the oil rich Unity state.

Seven militants and nine soldiers had been killed in a battle for the Bentiu residence of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA forces, Lt. General Paulo Marp, last week. Forces guarding the capital, Juba, from Bentiu were expected to have arrived in Juba by the weekend through the UN air operation, which began on Saturday.

Last week, forces guarding the Bentiu residence of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA forces, Lt. General Paulo Marp, clashed with another unit at Juba over the weekend through the UN air operation, which began on Saturday.

As the world has focused on the crisis in western Darfur, the north-south truce has unravelled, and regional analysts say that both sides are rearming ahead of 2011, when southern Sudan, which has most of the country's oil fields, is expected to vote on seceding in a referendum.

Southern Sudanese officials greeted the new policy warily.

"If the new approach includes pressure on the NCP"— al-Bashir's National Congress Party — "we will welcome it," said John Andru­ga Daku, the head of the southern Sudan political office in neighbor­ing Kenya. "But if it continues the way Gravon has been, it will be a disaster for Sudan."

Broadside: ANKLE SPRAIN?

Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study, evaluating the effectiveness of investigational, medicated patches for treating the pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle.

To be eligible for this study, you must:

• Be 18 years of age or older, AND
• Be experiencing pain from an ankle sprain that occurred within the past 48 hours, AND
• Not have taken any pain medication or used compression to treat your ankle sprain.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and study patches at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may also be provided.

To learn more about this local study, please contact:
Wellness Fair promotes positive body images

Sean Hanaran
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cal Poly's Women's Programs and Services will host day two of the "Love Your Body" event today at 11 a.m. with a Wellness Fair on Dexter Lawn.

"Love Your Body" promotes self-love and acceptance while challenging young people to redefine society's definition of beauty.

Guest speaker Julian Varela discussed the effects of negative media stereotypes on health, nutrition and self-confidence Monday night in Chumash Auditorium. Following his presentation, audience members participated in a series of discussion groups and activities.

Today's event will offer opportunities to participate in activities that empower men and women by deifying the false and negative associations of beauty by reinforcing honest, positive and healthy body image. Garbage bins and magazine ads will be at today's event.

This marks the fifth year Cal Poly has put on the "Love Your Body" event.

"It's never been this big," said Christina Kaviani, program assistant for Women's Programs and Services. "We wanted to highlight the event this year by encouraging student housing communities and Greek Life to attend."

The sometimes competitive effort to fit in and look good causes several issues for men and women of all ages, especially for freshmen and sophomores on a college campus. If you can show me one person who has never had issues with body image and self-esteem, that would be a miracle," Kaviani said.

Participating groups include the Nutrition Club, Women's Leadership Council, Pulse, Equilibrium Fitness for Women and SAER.

Proceeds from food, drink, T-shirt and art sales will go to the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo.

This image alludes to the negative body images that girls are exposed to at a young age. "Love Your Body" is an event that works to change how men and women perceive body images.
Sometimes it’s hard not to look

There is something to be said about checking out the opposite sex. There is, tall, brown hair, gorgeous blue eyes, dimples, broad chest, tight muscles, strong enough to throw you across his shoulder and carry you into the bedroom, but not so large that he’d crush you if he were on top. Whaops, wait that’s not the man I’ve been dating for the past year and a half.

What is it about those handsome men that make it so damn difficult to focus on the main guy? For example, you could be in a relationship for over a year, and still be staring when that beef from kickboxing class comes walking in the room. It doesn’t help that you’ve seen his chiseled pecks while he was demonstrating the job punch.

But the real mystery here is why you are also finding yourself staring at members of the same sex, not just of the opposite sex. There are many reasons why people from our sex-centered generation have watchers. It’s as simple as that; some people just can’t help but stare. The People Watcher:

Some people are just people watchers. It’s as simple as that; some people just can’t help but stare. “I am a people watcher, it’s just what I do. If I could put myself in someone’s shoes, just for pure entertainment. When it comes down to it, some men and women will watch others for stimulation necessarily. "I think about how I could use what she does to make myself look better," Dale said.

Some people are just simply amused or entertained by observing other people. “Sometimes I will look at a woman just because how ridiculous the clothes she is wearing looks or how ridiculous shoes she is wearing,” said Matt Davies (also a fake name), an electrical engineering senior. When it comes down to it, some men and women will watch others just for pure entertainment.

To Pick Up Pointers:

Both men and women agree that they look at the same sex, but not for stimulation necessarily. “I think about how I could use what she does to make myself look better,” Dale said. If a girl walks in and she has shorts that hit at a certain spot that don’t flatter her less than skinny thighs, I automatically do a mental FYI to myself. And if I see a man walk in that is wearing his hair a certain way that makes me just want to wring it up, I make sure to leave a little hint for my boyfriend next to his comb.

And women aren’t alone in this viewing for tips extragaganza, men as well look at other men for tips on how to dress, act, speak, etc. When asked, Davies said he does a double take on men if “(he likes the T-shirt or sweater they are wearing).”

We don’t just check out members of the opposite sex, we also check out the same sex, only with much different goals in mind.

The Threat Factor:

One of the most common reasons why men and women alike say they are checking out the same sex is to see how much of a threat they are. Aerospace engineering junior Kyle Whitley said that he checks out other men, “not to check out for looks, but for personality and presence to see if they are a threat.”

This is a true occurrence for most people on a daily basis, especially testosterone-driven men. But I cannot think of a day that has past when I haven’t walked past at least one girl that I thought would be a serious threat. It isn’t just how they sexually appeal to them necessarily, although if I can imagine her naked I am sure he does too, it is more a threat on my confidence; if she’s wearing the perfect dress that fit her perfectly trim and tight body leaving me feeling wobbly, 20 pounds over weight and hideously unconfident.

Simple Appreciation:

We are humans, and by defini
Looking
continued from page 7

ers and just appreciate them for their perfect sense of style, crazy creativity or even for their out­
rageous amount of confidence. Some are just looking for "something unique and different to the
eye," as Whiteley put it.

We can't help but appreciate something that is beautiful, nor

can we force our minds not to
picture them in whatever scene our
mind wants to.

When it comes down to it, the
art of checking out other people,
no matter what the sex, has be­
come a refined skill. Whether
the goal is just to people watch,

pick up on tips, check out the
competition or just for simple
appreciation, the reality is none
are short of sex appeal, and in all

honesty it's just too fun.

Caitlin R. Bickel is a liberal
studies junior and Mustang Daily
sex and dating columnist.

ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"
slowly losing popularity

Verne Gay
SENIOR

What's wrong with "Dancing
With the Stars"? Anything? The
"DWTS"-in-trouble question has
invaded the water supply. But an­
swers are elusive, illusive or ridicu­
los.

What could be wrong with a
show seen by about 16.5 million
people? Answer: Nothing! Except
when you consider that's about 4
million fewer than a year ago.

So, we've given this some
thought, come up with some an­
swers, and one or two of them
might even be right.

But first, let's start from one
basic premise: Nothing is obvi­
ously wrong. "DWTS" is what it
is — a dance competition show
with very good production val­
ues. No change this season
in that regard. Therefore,
what's happening is subtle.
Let's go to the list:

Casting. If "stars" m
American pop cultural
life are ranked on
scale of 1 to 10, with
Brad Pitt/Matt Da­
mom at 10, and
Barry Williams
at 1, this group is
somewhere in the
3-4 range.

Tom DeLay. A
huge mistake. He
embarrassed both
himself and the
show. Plus, divi­
sive figures are
a difficult sell
on an enter­
tainment pro­
gram. Zero com­
edy element.

"DWTS" has
folded on comic
relief over the
years — Penn
Jillette or Chris
Lechman. Nada
this season.

Pros are bigger than stars. Der­
ek Hough, Mark Ballas and Cher­
yl Burke are bigger and bet­
ter known than any of the con­
testants.

Dancer Tony Dovolani, right, partners with Kathy Ireland, model and
designer, on this season's "Dancing with the Stars."

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OCTOBER 23-24, 2009 ALL IN PISMO BEACH
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THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.

FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, OCT. 24TH
VS. DIXIE STATE, 6:00PM
PARENTS WEEKEND
ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM
FREE Mustang Football T-shirts for the first 1,000 Cal Poly Students
courtesy of J. Carroll Lifewear

MEN'S SOCCER
SATURDAY, OCT. 24TH
VS NORTHRIDGE, 11:00AM
ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM
FREE Cal Poly Soccer T-shirts for the first 250 Cal Poly Students
courtesy of J. Carroll Lifewear

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Sustainability goals sometimes get lost amid other important ventures

Sustainability at Cal Poly

Cal Poly's current campus climate is focused heavily on issues other than sustainability, like CEE (College Based Fees). The recent academic freedom uproar regarding the McCain-Palin discussion and the difficulty of graduating in a timely manner given the demanding curriculum and course load. A major focal point was that at the forefront of students minds several years ago has slipped to a lesser degree of importance. The issue of sustainability is something that is in need of some awareness by students at college campuses. Many are looking to develop solutions for curbing the effects of climate change, reducing waste, conserving energy, and water resources. In addition, we must devise a methodology for a prosperous future that leaves a positive footprint behind our actions.

Our Campus Climate

Several years ago, sustainability was a major buzz word that swept across college campuses, including Cal Poly. As a campus, we were keen to mark our place in the happenings that schools around the nation were embarking on. In 2005, student Kenton Baker signed the Talloires Declaration, a commitment led by presidents at higher education institutions to develop, create, support and maintain sustainability at their respective campuses. In 2005, Cal Poly architecture students conceptualized and built the Solar Decathlon house powered by the sun and solar energy, which now stands as a project showcase that demonstrates how to build a sustainable building. In 2006, a group of engaged students formed a student group known as the Empower Poly Coalition. This coalition was intended to forge stronger alliances for sustainability on campus and is now comprised of 27 member clubs. These are just a few of the many things that have occurred over the past several years.

This leads to the premise for this article. Why, aside from doing something sustainability as a campus now? And the answer is — not a whole lot.

Engaging Students

At Cal Poly, we must once again place emphasis on developing methods for creating a brighter future for students, spanning all six colleges. The sustainability movement is something that promises potential ideas, methods and projects to be developed from every student.

True Sustainability

It is a paradigm shift in the way we perceive energy. It is in need of activism on the part of students, faculty and staff on campus. There is a need for developing a support system of sustainability on campus. One of the previously mentioned projects is a program called TGF (The Green Initiative Fund). Once active, the program would allow funding for student-led sustainability projects on campus. Other major efforts include building a stronger coalition across campus, and within the community, uniting student clubs and organizations to gain support through an interconnected web of resources. Cal Poly's Sustainable Future

It is imperative that sustainability does not become a lost cause in the minds of students, faculty and staff on campus. The sustainability movement must report the same ventures driving dollars on campus. Cal Poly has the ability to be a premiere school for sustainability, with such programs as the organic farm and campus composting. We must hold the mirror of sustainability high, while wholeheartedly embracing it as an asset to the campuses education, cultural capital. Eights, you with this? At Mustangs, we have the remarkable ability to stand for the values in which we believe. So go out and be a campus change catalyst. The future simply cannot wait.

Tyler Hartich is a city and regional planning student, president of the Empower Poly Coalition and Mustang Daily columnist.

Welfare harms free enterprise economy

The government is supposed to protect our freedoms: "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as the Declaration of Independence states. But it seems more and more of our politicians are confusing the "pursuit of happiness" with happiness. Whether in aid for the poor in the form of food stamps or welfare or even things for everybody like social security, the politicians seem to want to be there to "help." Ross Perot refers to this as the "welfare" state where the government tries to help with a seemingly endless amount of things: food, shelter, education, housing, and even cars. But do we need this help? A better question might be to ask if it's actually helping. I contend it isn't. I'd much rather have these programs. I think we should do things like help keep the poor and help people save for their retirement. I just don't think the government should be doing that.

I know the American people are charitable and kind. We don't need welfare to take care of our poor. There are thousands upon thousands of local charities that provide for the need of the poor and do things better than the government does. Why is it then that if you're a private charity you have to make ends meet. If you're not providing a decent service, then people won't donate their time and money into the charity and it won't continue to exist. Welfare, on the other hand, takes money for taxpayers whether they want to give money to it or not and appropriates it as the government sees fit.

I realize that welfare currently provides a valuable service and it probably would be devastating to abolish it outright. So what if we were to phase out welfare over the past several years. I have confidence that private charities would step up to the plate to help the people currently being helped by welfare. I know that if welfare was going to end and that my money that currently goes to help the poor through the government wasn't going to anymore, that I'd personally be willing to put more money on my own to charity.

Let's compare a government program to a governmental agency of somewhat similar functions. Imagine if a major natural disaster hit your town and you had the choice of either the American Red Cross or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coming to help. Which would you choose? My choice would be the Red Cross. I don't know about you, but the majority of what I've heard about FEMA hasn't been good news while the Red Cross on the other hand is usually held in high regards.

I've personally had some experience with the Red Cross in the past two years, as my family and I have had to evacuate our house twice in that time period because of wildfires. I never heard about FEMA doing anything for our community but the Red Cross was on top of things from the start of the wildfires until the end.

The federal expenditures for the 2008 fiscal year were $3.684 billion. I can't seem to locate an official number for FEMA for the same time period, but Wikipedia lists it at $8.5 billion. Maybe you that the Red Cross does more than FEMA? And can it do it for $2 billion less? Oh and this might come by a surprise to you but contributions for the 2008 fiscal year were only 24% of the Red Cross' revenue. The majority of their revenue comes from products and services unlike FEMA's budget, which comes straight from you, whether you agree or not. Wouldn't you rather see your money that currently goes to FEMA go to the Red Cross? Or here's an idea, maybe you wish that money went to a different organization. Shouldn't that be up to you?

When the government sets up a program like FEMA, to "help" people in times of emergencies, it sounds like a noble and worthwhile cause, but should the government be there to help us with our personal needs? In areas where local charities can help people, the government needs to take a back seat in trying to provide those services. The government programs usually cost way more than a charity could provide the same service (if not better service) for and there's usually bureaucracy's gate with them.

We should ease the public off a lot of our government's "welfare state" programs and let the free market decide which charities and programs are worthwhile and which should be much more efficient that way and we would still be taking care of the needy.

Aaron Berk is a computer engineering junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Pinocchio realizes that life would be much more fun without a conscience.
Niners

continued from page 12

Spending time with Singletary in his upstate retreat at 49ers' headquarters would probably be a job to the team's fan who thinks he speaks exclusively in loud sound bites. In his hour of groups, Singletary can indeed bring his motivational heat. But one-on- one, he is quiet and almost passive. He knows what he has done right, knows what he has done wrong.

However, using his own analogy, Singletary very much is the dotting parent regarding his team. And the 49ers, at this point, are still very much teenagers on the brink of deciding how to spend their weekends. Are they going to act like fully focused grown-ups? Or easily distracted kids?

Singletary seems to think about that question, every minute of every working day. If you were going to grade him a grade card, Singletary probably deserves a solid "B" for his efforts so far. As promised, he has everybody in the organization on the same page.

There are no longer any nagging side issues (what's up with Alex Smith's arm health?), or weird time-wasting caused grown-ups? Or easily distract teenagers on the brink of decision. As promised, he has everybody in the organization on the same page. And the 49ers, at this point, are still very much teenagers on the brink of deciding how to spend their weekends. Are they going to act like fully focused grown-ups? Or easily distracted kids?

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No balloons, no parties

Mark Pundy
San Jose Mercury News

In a few days, Mike Singletary will mark his one-year anniversary as the 49ers' head coach. There will be no balloons or parties.

You might recall that line. It was Singletary's most recent instamatic slogan. He uttered it last week when rookie wide receiver Michael Crabtree finally signed after his long holdout. Singletary informed Crabtree that he would be reporting to work without fanfare. No balloons. No parties.

The same will go for Singletary on Tuesday. It was on the morning of Oct. 20, 2008, that he walked into 49ers headquarters in Santa Clara with no idea he would be offered the interim head-coaching job after his friend, Mike Nolan, had been dismissed. Singletary spoke with Nolan, then accepted.

And you must admit, the 12 months since that moment have been quite eventful.

Singletary has compiled an 8-6-1 won-lost record, tying him for the fourth-best start by a 49ers head coach. There have been ups and downs (insert pants-dropping joke here), screaming spells, inspirational talks, intermittently impressive victories and lousy losses.

So the logical question to ask Singletary, as he sat the other day in his office, was this: What does he know today about being a head coach in the NFL, that he didn't know that morning a year ago?

Singletary thought for a few seconds.

"What I didn't know about this job," he said, "is the responsibility toward the media. That's about it."

Wait. He was totally ready for the job otherwise?

"I wouldn't say that I was ready," Singletary said. "I'm still learning some things. I'm still ... I guess the best way to put it is, I'm still growing in this position. But I feel like I've been here before. I really do.

"Been here before? In the deja vu sense? No, said Singletary. It's more that, as a football player at every level, he was a captain, a leader.

"And I think that's what being a head coach is," he said. "It's more than football. It's kind of like raising your kids. Up until the time they're teenagers, you got it all figured out. You can basically say what they're going to do, tell them what they're going to do. But once they get to be teenagers, it's different. Now you really find out how good a parent you are. You get to find out, you're constantly asking, 'Is it the kid? Or is it me? Is it my parenting? Or is it the way they're wired up?"

see Niners, page 11

Ramses Barden: former receiver gives back to his alma mater

Ramses Barden holds school records for career receiving yards, career receptions and single season receiving yards.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Ramses Barden will never forget the loyalty and support he received from Cal Poly. He wants to keep the Cal Poly tradition moving strongly forward.

Because of his experience at Cal Poly, Barden announced Monday he is going to donate a minimum of $7,500 back to the Mustang football program. He will donate $1,000 for every Cal Poly football victory and $500 for every touchdown he scores this season for the New York Giants.

Barden also is asking everyone else to join him in supporting Mustang football by matching his contribution to the program. Visit www.gopolyc.com for more information.

"Cal Poly is a special place that I am proud to be forever linked with," Barden said. "I had a wonderful experience in San Luis Obispo and would not trade my time for any of the so-called 'bigger schools'."

"Please join me in supporting our school, our football program and our community by giving what you can," Barden added. "GO MUSTANGS!"

Barden became Cal Poly's fourth draft choice in the last five years when the Giants selected him in the third round of the 2009 NFL Draft.

He was the 85th overall choice, becoming the second-highest draft selection in Cal Poly history.

In 2008, Barden (6-4, 227, Alhambra, Calif./Flintstone Prep HS) was named to the American Football Coaches Association's Football Championship Subdivision All-America Team, the Walter Camp Football Foundation FCS All-America Team and the Associated Press FCS All-America First Team, all for the second year in a row.

He finished fourth in balloting for the 22nd Walter Peyton Award, pre-