**Students join faculty to protest universities financial problems**

**Will Taylor**

“Will You Do to Save Cal Poly?” asked the green and gold signs waving in the warm fall breeze at the Save Cal Poly Rally yesterday morning. Put on by the Cal Poly branch of the California Faculty Association (CFA), the rally was in response to fiscal problems in the California State University (CSU) system, furloughs and the College-Based Fee (CBF) delays at Cal Poly. The event, designed to educate and instigate action by students and faculty, attracted a majority of faculty and staff members but only about 40 students. Only about three-quarters of the roughly eighty chairs set out for the rally were filled.

The looming threat of large-scale layoffs, or “non-renewal” of contracts for faculty and staff, at Cal Poly continue to grow as provisions have taken furloughs and further CBF decisions continue to be delayed. On the other hand, students are worried how this is going to effect their education.

The speakers at the rally spoke of the need to communicate with legislators, CSU administrators and parents to initiate greater involvement from all parties.

“If we want to change this we have to ban together and let our voices be heard in Sacramento,” Joan Kennedy, President of the local CSU Employees’ Union and a library assistant, said. “If we don’t fix what’s happening in Sacramento to right now we’re facing massive cuts.”

**Freshmen will get shorter WOW next year**

**Community Standards Data**

Residents documented for community standards violations

120
Sept. 13-24, 2008

88
Sept. 10-21, 2009

Residents who had their housing license revoked due to community standards violations

12
Sept. 13-24, 2008

2
Sept. 10-21, 2009

Due to recent concerns that this past Week of Welcome (WOW) program was associated with an increase in alcohol consumption, citations and arrests, Vice President of Student Affairs Cornell Morton, who has been at Cal Poly for seven years, said the week before school this year was the worst in terms of alcohol use that he has seen. Morton is part of a committee recently formed to propose changes to WOW and the other orientation programs, some of which include a yearlong message campaign about the effects of alcohol abuse, notifying parents of underage drinking, keeping most returning students from moving on-campus during WOW and shortening WOW to three and a half days.

Morton wants to clarify that WOW is not responsible for the incidents that occurred during the week before school. In fact, WOW educates participants about alcohol abuse, encourages responsible community involvement and promotes drug-free activities, he said.

“WOW is not a haven for alcohol abuse,” Director of Student Life & Leadership Ken Barclay agreed, saying that WOW has a community service component, awareness programs and team building that mean it relies on dairy sales and endowments. The reduction was planned because of budget restrictions that according to the press release alumni and dairy industry supporters have offered to help the university manage the herd. The form of support that is being offered is still unclear.

“We’re very grateful that some of the nation’s most savvy dairy producers have offered to work with Cal Poly to help us devise a good business strategy,” said Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Resources David Webster in a press release.

“There’s no question that everyone in the dairy industry is struggling through a tough economy. Dairy prices have plummeted, and our friends in the industry understand the challenge we face at Cal Poly to maintain our herd size that is financially rational.”

Cal Poly’s dairy science department is currently the largest university dairy program in California and has 150 milking cows as well as young stock and cows that can no longer produce milk. The program does not use any state money. Instead it relies on dairy sales and endowments.

While the reduction of the herd has been put on hold the dairy science program is still planning on cutting the number of cows. Bruce Golden, head of the department said in a press release that he hopes the reduction is temporary.

“If market conditions improve faster than we think we can turn the plan around and re-grow the herd,” he said in the release.

The release said the college is planning to reduce the number of young stock as well as the overall herd until the program can be more financially sustainable.

Tim Miller contributed to this report.
brieﬂy addressed the audience and expressed her frustration at Cal Poly’s situation in the CSU by saying that the term “state-supported” in regards to Cal Poly should now be placed in quotations. We’ve been denied our desire to keep our education at the same level, Griggs said.

“I feel the need to protect the status of our education at Cal Poly.”

Keeping Cal Poly at its currently esteemed status (voted No. 1 by US News and World Report as best public master’s university for the seventeenth year in a row) was a main focus. Speakers noted that Cal Poly is in better shape than the majority of other CSU schools but will begin to hurt at time goes on if actions aren’t taken.

One of the options the CFA was pushing was the passage of Assembly Bill 656, which would put a tax on oil and gas extracted from California. This tax, which the majority of oil-producing states have some version of, would bring $1 billion to the school system California. Tentatively, $680 million would be allotted to the CSU system and would replace Cal Poly Chancellor Carol Schaffer from there. The speakers urged students to sign cards supporting this bill.

Many of the speakers expressed disappointment at the student turnout.

“The only regret I have is that this lawn is not ﬁlled,” Cal Poly President Warren Baker said. “This is such an important issue.”

Baker said that he was impressed with the faculty’s ability to adapt in the difﬁcult situation. He stressed the importance of not reducing the intellectual capacity of the Cal Poly institution. In the face of non-renewal of faculty and staff contracts, furloughs and furlough delays this could prove to be quite the challenge.

The Academic Senate is responsible for keeping the Cal Poly curriculum up to its standards and has no plans to eliminate any programs, Rachael Fernflores, Academic Senate chair and professor of philosophy, said. “What we’re trying to do is preserve the integrity of the curriculum,” she said. Fernflores warned the audience not to be downtrodden by the odds against them and to be resourceful in the face of adversity.

Although the speakers were addressing the issue, there was a lack of clear ideas or solutions on how to attack the budget shortfall.

Some students saw this as a problem. “To me it seemed like a case of scapegoating,” Anselmo Ola, an environmental engineering senior, said. “I didn’t really hear any real solutions,” he said. Although they presented their solutions to the problem were not tangible but just to think of a way to fund Cal Poly (95 percent) and meet people they felt comfortable hanging with and helping them complete the roadblocks and dorm conditions expectations of making choices that are mature, responsible and respectful (97 percent).

The program was successful in helping students learn community standards and offering drug-free activities that set the standard for the year. It also helped establish a support structure, Schaffer said. “The ability to meet with students and help students during the ﬁrst days to build community roommates to roommates, ﬂoor to ﬂoor and building to building, what I saw by Sunday afternoon was impressive,” she said.

The decrease in community standard violations from 2008 to 2009 indicated a 25 percent decrease; there was also an 83 percent decrease in housing license revocations.

In addition, this year returning students were allowed to move into on-campus housing a week before the start of school, but Morton said that University Housing is considering allowing only certain students like orientation leaders, athletes, student volunteers and employees more in that early next year.

WOW already addresses alcohol abuse and consequences, but Andrea Kawi-Lenting, interim director of Student Life & Leadership, said the program is making changes for next fall, including shortening the program from the usual ﬁve days to three and a half days next fall.

“We’re trying to deﬁne what it can be... You will see signiﬁcant changes, but it won’t be full-proof,” she said.

Psychology sophomore Geneva Licht said WOW shouldn’t be associated with alcohol consumption. It’s normal for freshmen to want to go out when they get to college; people off campus are facilitating the issue of alcohol consumption with a “Why not? We’re welcome attitude. The program tries to counteract the issue by keeping students late at night, but it can’t do much more, she said.

“I think the WOW program does all it can,” she said.

Kinesiology junior Chad Crocken added that starting WOW too early come back early because they know it’s a big party time, but there isn’t a feasible way to prevent that.

“It’s a large contribution, but it’s not of anybody’s hands, including WOW,” he said.

Kawi-Lenting said that WOW already offers freshmen opportunities to have drug-free fun with activities on campus and in the local community from early in the morning to late at night, but he said it wasn’t babysitting participants, she said.

“I don’t think it’s WOW’s responsibility to keep people oﬀ the streets, but it is to give them options,” Kawi-Lenting said.

Another way of looking at it is that some students will still choose to drink alcohol, no matter how much you encourage them to not drink, but knows that students will choose to drink anyway.

“One thing that WOW does not like is the idea of shortening WOW to three and a half days. Some of the main purposes of WOW are to meet new people, establish friendships and connections, become familiar with the campus and a community and become aware of issues students face everyday as a college community. All of these things are critical to student success, he said.

“Shortening WOW in order to limit opportunities for freshmen to drink/party/get into trouble is a great idea at ﬁrst glance,” he said. “But before you do this, look at other schools. These kinds of problems happen everywhere, whether it is during the weeks before school starts or during the ﬁrst weeks of classes. Before we decide to shorten WOW, we need to ask ourselves how much good WOW does, and look at how shortening WOW could inﬂuence that.”

The committee includes representatives from Student Affairs, University Housing, Student Life and Leadership, Campus Dining, University Police Department, San Luis Obispo Police Department and the Health Center. They are meeting weekly with hopes of presenting a plan to President Warren Baker and Provost Robert Kooch early November. 
Health care bills would end gender differences in rates, but keep age discrepancies

David Lightman
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The older you are, the more you usually pay for health coverage, and that’s a difference likely to persist under the sweeping health care legislation that Congress is now considering.

The House of Representatives would permit insurers to charge older Americans twice what younger people pay. The bill that passed the Senate Finance Committee would allow premiums four times as high.

Yet the major House and Senate measures would end what many consider another long-standing, discriminatory practice: basing rates on gender, which is now allowed in most states.

Some wonder, are middle-aged and older consumers victims of age discrimination?

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., also a committee member, added: “It’s a question you’ll have senior citizens asking all over the country.”

On the issue of gender variations, the National Women’s Law Center sees substantial differences in rates.

In a 2008 survey, the center found that in 47 states and the District of Columbia where insurers used gender ratings the premiums charged 40-year-old women were between 4 percent and 48 percent more than men of the same age.

Women tend to pay more for health coverage because insurers find they use more health care services than men — and because any woman of childbearing age could become pregnant.

Lawmakers explained that charging older people more, though, also could be justified with data. “As you get older, you start to consume more health care,” explained House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller, D-Calif. “Age rating is a common practice in insurance underwriting.”

See Healthcare, page 5

Almost 40 years later, unit honored for bloody Vietnam battle

Barbara Barrett
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Pfc. Paul Evans was rocking and rolling on his M-16 on a long-ago afternoon in Vietnam, spraying fire toward an unseen enemy hidden deep within the jungle. He was a terrified 18-year-old who knew, as other men fell around him, that he was about to die.

Then out of nowhere, American tanks thundered out of the jungle, Evans later recalled. Alpha Troop had arrived.

The men of Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, rushed in to rescue Evans and the rest of his infantry company, which had been pinned down for most of the day after wandering into a cluster of North Vietnamese bunkers.

For two hours, Alpha’s tanks suppressed fire enough to weaken the enemy. Then, as night fell and the Americans feared being surrounded in the dark, everyone fled through the blackening foliage.

Many of the soldiers tucked away their memories for years, only now describing the day’s horror. Kenny Eng of Belleville, Ill., drove one of the tanks that barreled through the jungle to Charlie Company’s aid, closest to the enemy. He recalled a rocket-propelled grenade flying just over his head, like a flamethrower.

See Vietnam, page 5

Map of Vietnam locates the site of the March 1970 rescue by Alpha Troop of 100 U.S. soldiers who had been ambushed by North Vietnamese troops.

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State

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — The California Redevelopment Association filed suit in Sacramento Superior Court today to block the state Finance Department from carrying out a $25 billion shift of tax increment funds from local redevelopment agencies over a two-year period.

California’s adopted budget for 2009-10askell 1.7 billion in funds from the state’s redevelopment agencies to help finance schools and calls for shifting another $350 million in the next fiscal year. The suit challenges the constitutionality of the budget language and cites state plans to use the money for non-redevelopment purposes.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (MCT) — Before Disneyland-bound tourists book their flights, officials with Los Angeles World Airports hope offers of fare rebates, shuttle rides and area freeways and, perhaps, early admissions to the theme park will be enough incentive for them to choose Ontario International Airport.

In a plan that may not be implemented until next summer and aims to shift travel to the inland airport is a condition to LAX — the Los Angeles city agency that owns and operates Ontario and Los Angeles International Airports — has proposed linking Ontario to Disneyland, both physically and through promotions with the theme park.

National

CHICAGO (MCT) — University of Illinois Chancellor Richard Herman resigned Tuesday in the latest fallout from an admissions scandal that has rattled the Urbana-Champaign campus and sparked its leadership.

Herman’s resignation is effective Monday, Oct. 26, according to University of Illinois spokesman Tom Hardy.

Herman, 67, was the principal enforcer of a shadow admissions system that allowed subpar but well-connected students to get into the state’s premier public school. His resignation follows that of University of Illinois President B. Joseph White, and six university trustees also have been replaced in the wake of the scandal.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to consider whether a federal judge can order the release of Guantanamo Bay detainees into the United States, setting up a key conflict over judicial authority amid the war on terrorism.

In a closely watched case involving 17 Chinese Uighurs imprisoned starting in 2002, the high court once more will consider how far traditional U.S. constitutional protections extend to the Guantanamo detainees.

International

KABUL, Afghanistan (MCT) — Under intense international pressure, Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday accepted a final election tally that voided hundreds of thousands of fraudulent votes for him and agreed to a runoff vote Nov. 7, with the second-place finisher, former Foreign Minister Abdulrahman Abdullah.

“We believe the decision is legitimate, legal and according to the Constitution of Afghanistan,” Karzai said at a news conference at the Presidential Palace. “In 14 days’ time, we are waiting to see our people … go out their votes.”

PARIS (MCT) — The Sudanese government and several Darfur rebel groups cautiously welcomed the release of the new US policy on Sudan made today. US officials said that the new policy aims to achieve three main objectives including a halt to human rights abuses in Darfur, North-South peace deal and cooperation on counterterrorism.

“This is an important step toward bringing peace to Darfur” said the Sudanese president’s press officer. President Bashir Gaazi Salah Al-Deen told official news agency (SUNA) that the lack to any reference to military intervention is “important” and that it constituted “new shift in Obama administration.”

Briefs

“Do you think it’s an invasion of privacy for the school to notify parents if their underage drinking among students?”

“Yes, because we’re 18 and adults and the school doesn’t need to report on us like elementary school kids.”

Mohan Singhal, industrial engineering senior

“If they are over 18 I would say yes because by law they are allowed to make their own decisions. But if they’re under 18 parents should be notified.”

Jessica Schoen, recreation, parks and tourism administration senior

“Yes, I think if they are over 18 they should be treated as adults.”

-Julianne Yechums, nutrition senior

“No, I don’t think so. Some people’s parents are still in control financially so it’s not a big deal.”

-Patrick Montejano, business freshman

“Yes, I think it is if you are over 18 of course because you have a lot of freedom from parents.”

-Jimmy Ohki, agricultural business senior

“Yes, because you are over 18 and by all other means you are an adult.”

-Amanda Hendrickson, agricultural senior

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Tony Bizjak

Here’s your road rules question of the day:

Is it legal to ride a skateboard on the streets of this great state?

Not now. But it will be starting Jan. 1.

That is among several transportation laws signed in a flurry last week by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

A San Diego legislator wrote to clear it the way for companies now building safe, elliptical bikes, which you ride standing up, as if running.

Possibly the most significant new transportation law affects just four test counties, including Sacramento.

Drivers convicted for a first-time drunken driving offense will be required to have a breathalyzer installed in their car for five months. If the machine detects alcohol when they blow, the car and kill any bird they think may interest to Sacramentans:

other transportation law’s of special interest to Alifornians:

— Sen. Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks, introduced a bill last month, Karen Ignagni, AHIP president, and Scott Serota, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association president, warned that a 4-to-1 ratio "would increase premiums for Americans in nearly every age cohort."

— Some would-be laws didn’t get past the governor:

A Bakersfield legislator wanted to require the state to put up roadside memorials for families that request it in the name of a loved one.

Proposition 28 said it can help grieving families, reduce the number of makeshift roadside memorials, and remind drivers of the dangers of the road.

The governor said no: The signs could become makeshift memorials themselves.

"I am sympathetic to the desires of those who have lost loved ones however, I am concerned — multiple signs on highways could lead to increased driver inattention and distraction," he wrote in his veto.

Fed up have said it’s OK to shoot. The state said no, not certain birds, and threatened arrest. The Coco bill clears it up. (If you’re a duck, duck...)

— Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, D-Davis, pushed through a bill backed by Rosemary Shahan of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety. It requires a reluctant DMV to fully participate in a national car-theft, information-sharing database.

— Assemblyman Dave Jones, D-Sacramento, got stiffer penalties placed on "rogue" charter bus companies, like the one involved in a crash last year that killed 11 en route to Coloma Casino Resort.

— The state’s temporary freeway "move over law" will now become permanent. When approaching an ambulance or tow truck with its lights flashing, you must move a lane away or slow as much as is prudent.

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A San Diego legislator wrote to clear it the way for companies now building safe, elliptical bikes, which you ride standing up, as if running.

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Drivers convicted for a first-time drunken driving offense will be required to have a breathalyzer installed in their car for five months. If the machine detects alcohol when they blow, the car...
Most college students have probably heard of Ayn Rand—many of them in high school. One of the favorites to assign, particularly during freshman year, is "Anthem," which talks about a fantasy world in which all personal choice has been taken away. It is a short and interesting read, but it only begins to highlight her accomplishments as a writer.

In case you read "Anthem" in high school and became prejudiced against her for being required reading, let me tell you that I know where you are coming from. I didn't expect to like any of her books after being forced to read one in high school. However, one day, a friend recommended her book "We the Living," and, since I didn't really have anything else to read, I borrowed her tattered copy and gave it a chance. I am so happy I did. This is one of the most thought-provoking and interesting story lines I've read. It is full of philosophical ideas as well as an engaging plot that makes complex theories seem relatable and relevant.

"We the Living" is Rand's first novel (published in 1936) and takes an introspective look at communist Russia in the 1920s. Rand has a unique talent for placing you in the setting—her description and language make you feel as though you were sitting in the freezing cold or that you too could smell the rotten potatoes being turned into a revolting dinner that you will eat purely because thea is nothing else. It is often depressing, but her subject matter isn't exactly light-hearted material. She is writing about a very serious moment in history and does hold back any of the gory details.

We follow the main character, Kira, as her family is forced to move out of their home and leave their business behind to live in a dilapidated tenement in the city. Her old life is stable, happy and centered on family values and heritage. Her new life, though, under the rule of communist Russia, is ruled by constant change, deteriorating family conditions and battling moral beliefs. Kira is swept up in a life that no longer makes any sense, where she doesn't know who to trust, or even who to call family, because everyone has changed so much.

In the midst of all of this, she finds love. But, like everything else in her life, that does not remain safe either. She is soon forced to choose between being with a communist soldier. It is a very complicated plot, but I can guarantee that it is one that you will be drawn into for the entirety of the novel. Rand takes you on a descriptive journey through the twists and turns of Kira's life and ends in a completely unexpected and heart-wrenching fashion.

One of my favorite aspects about this novel is the ideas it presents. Although the novel is set in communist Russia and the political statements and problems are centered in that time, there are elements of society we can see even today. There are moral dilemmas of being torn between the one you love and your family of having to choose between your well-being and that of the ones you care about, of having to change your very definitions about life and humanity. Kira represents so many of us who have gone through hard times and are searching for meaning. She shows us what it means to have to make a hard choice and how to live with those consequences.

There aren't many novels that I whole-heartedly recommend, but this is definitely one of them. Every so often, you are lucky enough to find a book that honestly makes you think about life, about yourself and who you want to be. This is one of those books. After reading it I can honestly say that it changed my life—it made me think about things differently and to appreciate life more fully. I can't guarantee that it will do the same for you, but I hope that it at least makes you think a bit more about things you may not have paid attention to before.

Melinda Truelsen is a literature graduate student and Mustang Daily book columnist.
Every once in a while, an independent filmmaker develops a horror movie so controversial and so effective in its scare tactics that it is sure to be talked about for decades to come. Writer/director Oren Peli's "Paranormal Activity" is such a smart and innovative horror film that it has recently taken the industry by storm. Not since Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez's 1999 cult classic "The Blair Witch Project" has a horror film truly been authentic enough to be labeled as realistic.

All of the footage is presented through a familiar hand-held camera technique. This method has proven to be a capable and suspenseful addition to a storyline both in the past with Myrick and Sanchez's aforementioned hit, as well as recently with J.J. Abrams' 2007 blockbuster "Cloverfield." While there are a few shots with the camera here and there that were obviously handled by more than just one pair of hands, they are not substantial enough to take away from the movie's authenticity.

The camera is handled by Micah, a day trader who lives with his graduate student girlfriend Katie in San Diego. The camera is clearly an annoying habit of Micah's, who films Katie non-stop throughout the day, following her from room to room. The plot's dilemma is realized when the couple reveals that they (mainly Katie) have recently experienced disturbing activity throughout the house, which Katie believes may be some sort of ghost or demon that has haunted her since childhood. Micah, initially in self and prove his girlfriend wrong, decides to start leaving the camera running on a tripod with night vision cameras to shoot many of the film's most disturbing scenes.

These events eventually develop into extremely eerie, well-shot and nearly soundless scenes that forced one couple sitting next to us out of the theatre, power-walking to their car. While these sections of the movie encompass occurrences like the movement of the bedroom door or the sound of faint footsteps in the empty corridors of the house, the audience at first sees only little things, including the slight movement of the bedroom door or the sound of faint footsteps in the empty corridors of the house... it's hard not to be interested.

Alex Petrosian is a biology student and Mustang Daily movie columnist.
More than 200 attend Wellness Fair on Dexter Lawn

Nikol Schiller
MU桑AN DAILY

Lining the pathway next to Dexter lawn, six booths were set up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate the Wellness Fair, hosted by Cal Poly’s Women’s Programs and Services. The booths featured different aspects of women’s health, including sexual, mental and physical well-being. More than 200 students showed up at the booths, said Christina Kaviani, program assistant for Women’s Programs and Services.

Sandwich boards with magazine cutouts of “real” versus “fake” bodies greeted students at one end of the fair. Further down, next to the Women’s Programs and Services booth, three large black and white canvas prints of women’s bodies sat on easels. The first canvas featured a topless woman facing away from the camera, showing off her neck all the way to the bottom of her bare back. Another canvas highlighted a woman’s long, braided hair. The third showed a naked woman lying on her stomach, a black cloth draped along her body. Several other small prints emphasizing women’s different body parts lined the booth’s table. These artistic, professional photos of members of Women’s Programs and Services were taken at McClure Pictures studio.

Kaviani thought it’d be a unique fundraiser to take these photos not only to raise money for the women’s shelter, but also to show that every woman’s body is beautiful in its natural form. None of the photos were photoshopped or altered in any way.

“We chose our favorite body parts” to be photographed, Kaitlin McCormick said, whose bare back was featured on one of the large canvases.

At the same booth, psychology senior and Women’s Programs and Services intern Kenny Woo and McCormick were selling “Be You (ful), Love Your Body” T-shirts, prints of the black and white photos taken of the women’s center volunteers, and pastries.

Kinesiology senior Darshana Patel checked out the poster that showed what someone could spend money on if they gave up superficial habits. One year’s worth of Slim Fast was worth plane tickets to Europe. Patel enjoyed the spectrum of health the Wellness Fair offered, she said.

“Mental health is not stressed enough,” Patel said.

Promoting a healthy body image, communications senior Jamie Engelhardt passed out sparkly, homemade “I heart my body” stickers at the Coalition for Health, Wellness and Body Appreciation booth. Engelhardt began this club last year after suffering from an eating disorder her freshman year at Cal Poly. She took a year off to recover from her illness, came back for her junior year and began an eating disorder prevention and awareness club. She hoped that her club would help women celebrate their bodies just the way that they are, she said.

Emily Sullivan from Equilibrium Fitness for Women, a health and fitness club exclusively for women, also promoted a positive body image by asking onlookers to write down a negative thought about themselves and throw it away in exchange for a flower pin.

The Equilibrium booth as well as the nutrition club booth wanted to spread awareness about maintaining a physically healthy lifestyle. The nutrition club had Tupperware with homemade healthy oatmeal cookie bars to hand out to students walking by.

The Center and PULSE encouraged onlookers to make healthy decisions in their sexual lives. Both booths passed out condoms and information packets on how to keep students’ sexual lives safe and healthy.

Kaviani said that she wanted the Wellness Fair to be a “positive and uplifting experience for everyone.”

You deserve a break.

We’ve got plenty to distract you from those textbooks.
American government spending has grown exponentially over the past fifty years. In 1930, the Gross Domestic Product of the United States was $91.2 billion, and total federal spending was $11.9 billion. Last year, the GDP was $13 trillion, and total federal spending was $3.4 trillion. This means that in 1930, federal government spending accounted for 12 percent of GDP. Today’s government spending accounts for 36 percent of the GDP. That 24 percent difference equates to today’s government controlling $3.4 trillion more of our money than it would if government spending was at its 1930 level.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the United States in 2009 was 304.059.724. This means that if government were the same size as it was in 1930, and the excess government controlled funds of $3.4 trillion were evenly distributed among the current U.S. population, each person would receive $11,184. Which would you prefer: more government spending or $11,184 grand in your paycheck?

The increase in government spending over the past several decades limits us in a movement towards socialism. Socialism can be viewed as government regulation on the means of production and goods. The U.S. remains a capitalist country in the sense that we maintain free market policies and goods. The U.S. government however, has been slowly assuming control of once private market responsibilities. Take, for example the minimum wage law, now a common and widely accepted legislative practice. The response, employers are not about to pay once the duty of an individual employer or company. In 1933, the Federal government attempted to assume this responsibility, but the Supreme Court deemed this portion of the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional in Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States. Five years later, the federal government attempted to set a minimum wage. Again, at the same time, the Fair Labor Standards Act successfully set the minimum wage at $0.25 an hour.

Fair labor standards appear to be a great thing, but in reality, they are impossible to achieve. Simply put, individuals do not all have the same skills. Individuals with the same skills are not all of equal skill level. Therefore, employers are not offering an equal wage to an employer. Employers base employee compensation based on skill and the ability to use that skill. Skilled workers should be paid more than unskilled workers. They are of more value to the company. These same employers have operating budgets they must adhere to and are limited in selecting either the skill or quantity of employees. Minimum wage sets a minimum value on employees and requires companies to hire workers of a given skill level. Employers are no longer allowed to make the choice between employee skill and quantity.

The low-skilled jobs that minimum wage legislation intended to protect have been abolished or become unpaid instead. Consider how uncommon it is for a teenager to have the opportunity to work for a company in his/her field of interest. Some would argue this is because teenagers lack the skill and experience necessary to work in a skilled environment, but consider if there were no minimum wage. These teens could work for a few dollars an hour while gaining extremely valuable experience. In stead the minimum wage bars unskilled and low-skill workers such as teenagers from the labor market entirely. Minimum wage legislation shows that federal regulation on the means of production (i.e. socialist policy) is well intended, but ultimately harmful.

The economist Milton Friedman explains the foundations for capitalism and why socialist policy fails in intended goals. His argument rests on the idea that man is naturally greedy, inclined toward the collection of goods, materials, and money to better his own condition. He asserts that government must account for this greed instead of ignoring it. The only form of government that does this is capitalism. Capitalism succeeds because individuals spend money in the most wise and prudent manner when they spend their own money on themselves. Conversely, poor monetary decisions are made in social policy, because the decision makers are spending someone else’s money on someone else. This form of spending has the least amount of personal impact on the decision maker. If the money is spent poorly it is only the person who provided the money and the person receiving the goods who will suffer, not the decision maker. When the people in government decide how to spend our money on us, it is poorly spent. Our money would be spent much more efficiently and in lower amounts if we were allowed to spend it on ourselves.

Lifestyle politicians compound the problem of government over regulation in our democratic republic. In our over-regulated society, the average citizen is made to feel that he is powerless and that there is nothing he can do to fix the problems. This results in inactivity and a more apathetic citizenry.

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The New York Times Crossword

HALF-CENTURY PUZZLEMAKERS WEEK.

Note: all the clues referring to big, average, by Saturday, by key puzzlemakers who have been contributing to The Times for more than 50 years. Mary Evans of Harmans, N.Y., published her first crossword in 1958. MacNeil in the 1960s; like other weekly series of puzzles to New York magazine began in 1973.

Across
1 Dismounted (12)
5 Designer Oscar (9)
9 Last word in the Bible (7)
12 Zipop (7)
14 Aftermath (7)
16 Big bag (big) (7)
25 First things (8)
29 Place for three men of verse (7)
31 Where Springsteen was born (9)
32 Oscar winning singer, 1969 (9)
34 Night you... (7)
36 Give... (7)
39 Last of Eday’s descendants (5)
40 As per schedule (9)
44 Me... (9)
48 Penny (4)
49 To _ miss (5)
53 Go... on (5)
55 Of _ Blue Eyes’ family (9)
56 How diaries are written (9)
62 1962 Robert (8)
65 MacNeil’s last name (9)
69 “... than...” (5)
70 Important ad word (11)
71 Wild hog (5)

Down
1 Voting no (3)
2 Croquet locale (3)
3 Mental flash (3)
4 Ondine’s spouse (4)
5 How diaries are written (9)
6 Self-image (7)
7 Anderson of “... of” (5)
8 “... of” (5)
9 You can’t get a rise out of it (5)
10 French 121 verb (5)
11 There’s nothing like (9)
12 Number ad word (7)
13 Not hog (5)

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0916

Puzzle by Morrie R. Jackson

31 Hit of a sort (4)
32 How you might respond to an offensive remark (6)
35 Styx (4)
36 Aided in snow-and-ice (5)
37 Emblem of a bear (5)
38 Less than average (5)
39 The correct answer (5)
40 Which of the two towers (5)
41 “... of” (7)
42 Gives over for (4)
43 “... of” (5)
44 “... of” (5)
45 “... of” (5)
46 “... of” (5)
47 “... of” (5)
50 High-fashion hill (5)
51 Internet access tool (5)
52 “... of” (5)
53 Great (5)
54 “... of” (5)
55 How you might respond to an offensive remark (6)
56 How diaries are written (9)
57 Gold rush locale (5)
58 Some distance away (5)
59 Fake (4)
60 Blank, perhaps (5)

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HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!
Your coach, your team... should forever remember that game as an outstanding display of college football
—Douglas Alexander
Wisconsin resident

Cal Poly jumped onto the scoreboard in the first 21 minutes of the game with a 13-0 lead over the Badgers. The initial touchdown came from a forced fumble by Jackson, allowing the team to gain 60 yards in 11 plays. The game was a see-saw battle until Wisconsin forced the game into overtime with a last-minute 3-yard touchdown run by running back PJ Hill. In total, the Mustangs had possession of the ball for almost 40 minutes, scored 35 points against a team that generally allows no more than 26 and gained 95 yards thanks to passing and 276 yards on the ground.

Despite the 32-degree weather and 10-mph winds, the Mustangs still and were actually mocked by a Big Ten Network analyst for over-celebrating. The analyst compared their excitement to beating Ohio State in order to get into the Rose Bowl, not beating a Football Championship Subdivision team that students and the media expected to get defeated. "In actuality, we were the bet­ter team that day. We were playing harder, we controlled the game and gave ourselves every opportunity to win," Dally said. "After that game, we were so dammed that we couldn't pick ourselves up after the first round. It was so emotionally draining that yeah we played good, but it wasn't enough."

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Top five Mustang football games remembered:
The good, the bad and the heartwrenching

Leticia Rodriguez

Since its first game in 1915, the Cal Poly Mustang football team has had its ups and downs. The team has smashesed challenges at home, been victorious in last-second plays and been doubted, mocked and then praised. These are our picks of the top five football games of the past few years, both good and bad.

5. The Triple Win
Cal Poly vs. UC Davis Nov. 16, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium

While beating the Aggies 31-28 is certainly something to boast about, the reason this game has become so memorable is because not only did they win the annual Golden Horse-shoe Classic and defeat the Aggies at home for the first time in 12 years, but it was also their third Great West Conference championship title.

"It was exciting to beat UC Davis at home," senior strong safety David Fuller said. "Our goal was to win the conference title and we checked it off because we did it." Offensively, the Mustangs had 522 total yards to the Aggies’ 427, and quarterback Jonathan Dally rushed for 173 yards. Defensively, the team scored big. Cornerback Asa Jackson had seven tackles and linebacker Carlton Gillespie and defensive end Ryan Shotwell each earned a sack. In the first stage of the game, Fuller turned an interception a throw away pass for a 38-yard touchdown by the Davis quarterback, which led to a touchdown. The interception was his fourth of the season.

"It was a real defensive play. I was in the right spot at the right time," Fuller said. What makes the game so memorable for Fuller, however, was not the interception, but seeing the fans in the stands singing the fight song and winning his first conference title with the Mustangs. "We were going crazy," he said. "It felt good to hoist the trophy up. It was a team effort throughout the entire game."

4. The Heartbreaker
Cal Poly vs. Montana Sept. 15, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium

Coming off a great upset against San Diego State a week prior, the Mustangs were ready to deliver against the Grizzlies. But when placekicker Andrew Gardner missed a 27-yard last-minute field goal that could have clinched it, the Mustangs lost to Montana 30-28 in front of approximately 10,000 fans. Former quarterback Jonathan Dally didn’t think it was fair to pin the game on Gardner.

"After it happened it was ’like ’Did that just happen? Did we just lose?’ (But) we were all kind of shocked by our performance,” he said. “We knew where we messed up (but) we had to get mature about it and come back next week and start our season over.”

Even though this game is most memorable for the missed kick with seconds remaining, other members of the team struggled as well. Fuller (who had inherited punting duties that year) had his first punt blocked seconds into the first quarter at about the 34-yard line only to see it turned into a touchdown by an untouched Montana wide receiver. Dally struggled as well in the fourth quarter when he was tackled and ultimately fumbled the ball at the Cal Poly 3-yard line, resulting in a safety for Montana and a touchdown three minutes later.

But the game wasn’t all bad for the Mustangs. Dally managed to split the defense for a touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Rami Ban in the 20-yard line in the first and again for a touchdown pass in the second. He also completed 16 of 23 passes and aided Ban in breaking the Cal Poly touchdown record with 35. Defensive end Ryan Shotwell and senior Lawyer also had a great game. Shot- well had a season-high seven tackles and not only was Lawyer named the Great West Defensive Player of the Year (a rarity considering his team had just lost, but he also recorded 2.5 sacks and 11 tackles.

"Sean Lawyer is a beast," Fuller said with laughter. "He’s probably one of the best U-2 linemen we’ve ever had."

In spite of the longterming rivalry with Montana, Fuller can still acknowledge a good team when he sees one and didn’t see the 2008 loss affect the rest of the season.

"To be where you want to be in AA football, you gotta go through Montana," he said.

3. The Aztec Upset

As the opening game of the 2008 season, the Mustangs beat the San Diego Aztecs with a last-second 21-yard field goal by Gardner to end the game 29-27. The game was a surprising upset since the football bowl subdivision Aztecs were heavily favored. Dally said winning the game at Qualcomm Stadium with a last-second field goal seemed straight out of a movie.

"You look up and you’re surrounded by blachers and whether they’re filled or not, it’s kind of overwhelming," he said. "It brings that energy like ’Alright, we gonna show the world we can play on this stage.’ It was definitely where we felt like we wanted to be.”

Capitalizing on four turnovers by the Aztecs in the first half alone, the Mustangs were able to take an early 16-7 lead by accumulating 101 yards on the ground. With a forced fumble caused by defensive lineman James Chen, linebacker Carlton Gillespie was able to recover, and Cal Poly scored again four plays later when Ryan Mole ran the ball in for the touchdown. In fact, it wasn’t until the second quarter that the Aztecs even made it onto the scoreboard and they never led until 6:51 left in the game when they scored a five-yard rushing touchdown. They failed to gain the extra point with a two-point conversion, leaving there with a mere one-point lead. The Mustangs were able to set up the field goal by a 35-yard drive to the Aztec 4-yard line with completion passes to Ban in.

"It was a really exciting game."

2. The Comeback Kids
Cal Poly vs. Montana Nov. 26, 2005 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula, MT

While beating the Grizzlies 36-27 to lose to the Grizzlies in the regular season, the Mustangs faced Montana again in the first round of playoffs and beat them for the first time in 11 years in a 35-21 upset. Former linebacker and 2006 Buck Buchanan award winner Kyle Shotwell (now a defensive assistant coach for the Mus­ tangs) said the team knew they were the underdogs going into the game.

"(The game) was a big deal because it was the playoffs and we hadn’t beaten Montana before. It was a cold-weather game and a lot of people didn’t think we could win because we were California kids and we went out there and put it to them," he said. "We came in really strong and we definitely wanted it."

Defensively, the Mustangs put up a fight. Recording seven sacks as a unit, 2005 Buck Buchanan award winner Chris Goong put up three, and safety Kenny Chicoine made one pick. Offensively, the team did just as well by leading the Grizzlies in possession 38:44 to 21:16 and by almost doubling the Mustangs’ total yards to the game (423-261). Running back James Noble also had a great game with 41 carries for 188 yards and four touchdowns. Shotwell said that going into the game, the team was prepared partly because they had already faced them.

"We had them figured out. We knew who they were and how they were going to attack us," he said, "and we were able to play really well."

Leading the team in tackles, linebacker Fred Hires II had 10 with fellow linebacker Merry Mohamed trailing closely behind with eight. In addition to his forced fumble, Chen (who was one of the 2007 season due to an injury) also recorded a sack and a fumble recovery.

1. The Triple Win
Cal Poly vs. Montana Nov. 26, 2005 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula, MT

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