Students join faculty to protest universities financial problems

Will Taylor
MUSTANG DAILY

“What 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 made in the past have not been sufficient to meet the situation. The rally was the result of a larger effort by students and faculty to protest the reduction of the roughly eighty chairs set out for the rally were filled.

“If we want to change this we have to ban together and let our voices be heard in Sacramento,” said 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

Dairy cows staying a bit longer

Cal Poly administrators announced yesterday in a press release that the planned reduction to the university’s dairy herd would be put on hold.

The announcement comes after members of the dairy science department opposed the reduction over the weekend. The protest took place on Friday and Saturday at the Embassy Suites as well as at Cal Poly.

The reduction was planned because of budget restrictions. 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 Wehner 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 a 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 plan 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.
Protest

continued from page 1

layoffs come June." The state and Cal Poly have not been seeing things from the same point of view recently. For instance, CSU Chancellor Charles Reed denied Cal Poly's increase in CBF, which students voted in favor of last spring. Cal Poly's Associated Student Inc. (ASI) President Kelly Griggs

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. "And that helps not to protect the status of our education at Cal Poly".

Keeping Cal Poly at its currently esteemed status (vote No. 1 by US News and World Report as best public masters university for the seventy second year in a row) was a main focus. Speakers noted that Cal Poly is in better shape than the majority of the other CSU schools but will begin to hurt as 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 and gas producers in the state have some version of, would bring $1 billion to the school system California. Tentatively, $600 million would be allotted to the CSU system and would replace the subsidy Cal Poly received from the state. The speakers urged students to sign cards supporting AB 656.

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 to 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 layoffs, this reaction 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. "We have faith," Academic Senate chair and professor of philosophy, said. "What we're trying to do is preserve the integrity of the curriculum," she said. FertUTIL 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 lot of scapegoating," Annette Oda, an environmental engineering senior, said. "I didn't really hear any real solutions," he said. From their solutions to the problem were not tangible but just to think of further solutions, Oda said. "I don't have any good ideas either," he said.

Students, faculty and staff can get involved by logging on to csualliance.com and signing petitions for AB 656.

WOW

continued from page 1

and abuse.

This September saw the first Fall Launch, a program hosted by University Housing Saturday to Monday to establish a community dynamic, educate students about Cal Poly's Learning Objectives and on-campus resources and connect students and faculty.

Ninety-eight percent of the freshmen (3,815 students) participated in Fall Launch Class of 2013. Of those, 1,263 took a survey after the program concluded. The results were positive. Associate Director of Housing Carol Schaffer said. The survey said that an overwhelming majority of participants were more familiar with the campus and felt connected to Cal Poly (95 percent) and met people they felt comfortable hanging with (97 percent).

This September saw the first Fall Launch, a program hosted by University Housing Saturday to Monday to establish a community dynamic, educate students about Cal Poly's Learning Objectives and on-campus resources and connect students and faculty.

The program was successful in helping students learn community standards and offering drug-free activities that set the standard for the year. Also helped establish a support structure, Schaffer said. "The ability to meet with students and talk about alcohol, drugs and other things for those first days to build community roommates, 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 letting only certain students like orientation leaders, athletes, student volunteers and employees move in that early next year.

WOW already addresses alcohol abuse and consequences, but Andrew Kays-Lenting, assistant 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.

"WOW is resolving what it can ... You will see significant changes, but it won't be full-proof," she said.

Psychology sophomore Genesis 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 "WoWies are welcome " attitude. The
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 women 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 late, 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-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 jungle to Charlie Company 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.

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see Healthcare, page 5

March 1970

Hanoi

LAOS

NORTH VIETNAM

THAILAND

S. China Sea

CAMBODIA

Saigon

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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pany’s aid, closest to the enemy. He recalled a rocket-propelled grenade flying just over his head, like a flam-

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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 $20 billion shift of tax increment funds from local redevelopment agencies over a two-year period.

California’s adopted budget for 2009-10 seeks $17 billion in funds from the state’s redevelopment agencies to help finance schools and calls for shifting another $850 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 free fares may entice travelers 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, the Los Angeles city agency that owns and operates Ontario and Los Angeles International airports — has proposed linking Ontario to Disney land both physically and through promotions with the theme park.

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 Abdul- lah 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 east their votes.”

PARIS (MCT) — The Sudanese presidential administration has agreed to a runoff vote Nov. 7 with the second-place finisher, former Foreign Minister Abdullah.

“Do you think it’s an invasion of privacy for the school to notify parents of 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 freshman

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

-Julianne Jochums,
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 Onsi,
agricultural business senior

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

-Amanda Hendrickson,
agricultural education senior

WORD ON THE STREET

Briefs

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 upended his 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.

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Back-seat driver: New laws change California’s rules of the road

Tony Bizjak

Here’s your road rules question of the day: Is it legal to ride a seatless bicycle 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 lawmaker wrote it to clear the way for companies now building seatless 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 won’t start.

The breathalyzer’s required time period increases for multiple offenders.

That law doesn’t go into effect until July 1, giving officials time to prep, and to get out a warning.

The governor signed several other transportation laws of special interest to Sacramentans.

— Sen. Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks, authored a law making it clear that the Anonymous Battle. When one man ended his tour and was asked about any major battles he’d been in, the soldier who was processing the paperwork shook his head. There’d been no battles that day.

The veterans — and now every one of them — know differently.

Tuesday morning, President Barack Obama gave about 100 veterans of Alpha Troop the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest award for valor that a military unit can earn.

Nearly 40 years after the battle, men with greying mustaches, growing paunches and weakening eyes were honored for that day of hell in March 1970.

Old soldiers in dark suits or dress uniforms — some wearing old medals pinned to their chests, some lean and rugged straight, others leaning on canes — lined up in the White House Rose Garden as birds chirped under a bright sky and the commander in chief praised their valor.

"Some may wonder: After all these years, why honor this heroism now?" Obama said in his remarks in the soldiers Tuesday. "The answer is simple. Because we must. Because we have a sacred obligation.

Fords have said it’s OK to shoot. The state said no, not certain birds, and threatened arrest. The Ford 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 the clash that became known as the Anonymous Battle.

A few miles off, they could hear someone else, said Miller.

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

"It was all scary. It was all scary," Euge recalled this week, his voice breaking as he spoke. "Even the drive back was scary. I didn’t get un-scary until you got back.

However, the Army overlooked the clash that became known as the Anonymous Battle. When one man ended his tour and was asked about any major battles he’d been in, the soldier who was processing the paperwork shook his head. There’d been no battles that day.

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"Some may wonder: After all these years, why honor this heroism now?" Obama said in his remarks during a recognition ceremony to honor Troop A, First Squadron, 11th Armored Combat Regiment of the U.S. Army, recipients of the Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Vietnam at the White House October 26.

Supporters of lower ratios argue that the health care overhaul legislation requires most people to buy coverage and would provide other, notably government subsides, to encourage consumers to buy policies.

The new laws should expand the risk pools, and as those pools expand, particularly with younger, healthier people, rates should stabilize for everyone.

Last year, according to Census Bureau data, 30 percent of people 19 to 24 were uninsured, compared with 12.5 percent in the 55- to 64-year-old age group. Most people over 65 rely on Medicare for coverage.
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 waiting in line for a ration card 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 there 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, that doesn’t remain safe either. In the midst of all of this, she finds love. But, like everything else in her life, that does not remain safe either. Rand 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.

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 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 portrays many of us who have had to choose between your well-being, love, 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 the man she loves and saving him by 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.

Of 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 many of us who have gone through hard times and are searching for meaning. She shows us what it means to have to choose between your well-being, love, family, because everyone has changed so much.

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.

**********

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Horror goes to the next level in "Paranormal Activity"

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' 2008 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 a state of shock, 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 cringing and slow-paced指望ing some sort of action or pop up. Believe me, they got one.

I am in no way ashamed to admit that I joined in the screaming with every other girl AND guy in the theatre. Don't expect to walk into this movie and not be at least disturbed if not genuinely frightened. This film is a perfect example of ingenious directing and instinctual acting, both of which are aspects that add to the natural feel of the story. The only real problem I had with the project as a whole was the Hollywood-style letdown of an ending. However, I did recently learn that a couple of alternate and more risqué endings may be sampled now that the film has been released in all major theatres nationwide, after one million fans demanded on the film's Web site that it be shared with the general population. If that doesn't intrigue you, just watch the trailer and witness the audience's reactions... it's hard not to be interested.

Alex Peterson is a biological sciences sophomore and Mustang Daily movie columnist.

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More than 200 attend Wellness Fair on Dexter Lawn

Nikol Schiller

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, Kaillus 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 Kimm Wooy and McCormick were selling “Be You (iful), 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.”

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We’ve got plenty to distract you from those textbooks.
Government welfare spending brings U.S. closer to socialism

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 $14 trillion, and total federal spending was $3.4 trillion. This means that in 1930, federal government spending accounted for 1.2 percent of the 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 did in 1930.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the average American in 2006 was $30,059.724. 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 $1,118.44. Which would you prefer: more government spending or $1,118.44 grand in your paycheck?

The increase in government spending over the past several decades hints at a movement toward socialism. Socialism can be viewed as government regulation on the means of production and income. The U.S. remains a capitalist country in the sense that we maintain free market mechanisms to determine income and goods. However, these market mechanisms have been slowly assuming control of once private market responsibilities. Incomes are no longer determined by the market forces of supply and demand, but now a common and widely accepted legislative practice. The respect employers have for their pay once was the duty of an individual employer or company. In 1933, the federal government assumed to take 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, the 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 have the skills. Individuals with the same skills are not all of equal skill level. Therefore, employers are not paying equal value 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. Are they 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 her/his 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. Instead, 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 to 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 we are supposed 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. Citizens have given themselves away. They will be equipped with the need and desire to assist fellow citizens as they see fit. It is then, and only then that the focus of government will be on its people. Neapolet is to shrinking of government could begin. Although I would not be any happier in a world where the government would not render my $11,184.44 to this form of government, I can only hope that my friends, family, and neighbors would not ask for it.

Nathan Tsoi is a computer science senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

PABLO MOLINA NEWSART

First Things First

Nathan Tsoi

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 to 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 we are supposed 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.

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Nathan Tsoi is a computer science senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.
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Tom Sawyer becomes a bit more politically correct.

The New York Times Crossword
HALF-CENTURY PUZZLEMAKERS WEEK
Here, at the only crossword blog, every Monday through Saturday, by the puzzlemakers who have been contributing to The Times for more than 50 years. Maura Jacobson of Hartsdale, N.Y., published her first crossword in the New York Times in 1978.

Across
1 Defaced
2 Designer Oscar
3 End in the Bible
4 False
5 Feud
6 Long, long time
7 Movie
8 Pittsburgh
9 Mystery
10 Place for three
times
11 Where Springsteen was
12 Counting
13 Flirt
14 Fugitive
15 Head
16 Haven
17 Event
18 Situation #1
19 Situation #2
20 Where
21 Wrong no.
22 When
23 Right you're
24 Nose
25 Where
26 Where
27 Where
28 Where
29 Where
30 Who
31 X
32 Z

Down
1 "Stop and Look. Listen!
2 "Why don't you
3 "No, no
4 "Yes, Yes
5 "These are
6 "He
7 "This
8 \"Not
9 "The
10 "No
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Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0916
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But for Stoutwell, it's not any specific play tackled or sacked made by one of his teammates that he remembers the most. In fact, for him, the most memorable aspect of that game is what happened after they won.

"I remember just at the end of the game celebrating with the team and singing our fight song in front of the fans," he said. "It was definitely an awesome experience. That is one of my fondest memories from college, no doubt."

Cal Poly vs. Wisconsin Nov. 22, 2009 was an outstanding display of college football.

For placekicker Andrew Gardner, history seemed doomed to repeat itself. Just two and a half months after his devastating missed kick against Montana, having already missed two of the Mustang's first on the road loss of the season with the Badgers winning 36-35. Gardner received extreme scrutiny after the loss, and Dally said Gardner put a lot of that harsh criticism on himself.

"No matter what, he's going to be his biggest critic. From the team's environment, it was unfair how people were coming down on him. It's kind of sad that he let that get to him and stopped playing collegiate football," Dally said. "We didn't conspire him in a team, which kind of broke his spirit but at the time we had to kind of move on. We had to show him through our work ethic that it was time to step up and do our job. You're kind of more concerned for him as a person than a player."

Battling a physically bigger team 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 demolished.

"In actuality, we were the better team that day. We were playing harder, we controlled the game and the media was exactly what the team had set out to prove. "We wanted to prove to the fans, to the media, that a prestigious Big Ten team isn't as big as they think it is. That's the end of the season when you can play as a team, the level of competition isn't as big as they perceive it," he said. "We felt like we should have won that game, and to prove some people wrong in the process was exactly what we wanted to prove."

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 P.J. 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 20, and gained 95 yards thanks to passing out of the spread.

Despite the 32-degree weather and 10-mph winds, the Mustangs still managed to pull out a well-played game against a team that many expected to trample them. A FBS team, the Badgers never led in the game until they finally won in overtime.

In the weeks preceding the game, the Madison newspaper The Capital Times ran numerous articles bashing the Mustangs, mocking Cal Poly's reputation as a high-ranking engineering school. What makes this game so significant in Mustang history is not Gardner's missed field goal (except for some who can't seem to let it go), but rather that it showed the nation what our football team is capable of.

"We're labeled as a FCS football team that day. We were playing as a team, the level of competition isn't as big as they perceive it," he said. "We felt like we should have won that game, and to prove some people wrong in the process was exactly what we wanted to prove."

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WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Top five Mustang football games remembered:

The good, the bad and the heartwrenching

Leticia Rodriguez
MUSTANG DAILY

Since its first game in 1913, the Cal Poly Mustang football team has had its ups and downs. The team has suffered challenges at home, been victorious in last-second plays and been doubted, mocked and then praised. These are our picks of the top five 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 51-28 is certainly something to boast about, the reason this game has become so memorable is because not only did they win the annual Golden Horshoe 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 Fullerton 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 against 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 Showell each earned a sack. In the final score of the game, Fullerton intercepted a throw-away pass for a 38-yard touchdown by the Davis quarterback who was tackled to elude a sack. The interception was his fourth of the season.

"It was a real defensive play. I was in the right spot at the right time," Fullerton said.

What makes the game so memorable for Fullerton, 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 a memorable win." Not only did the Mustangs win that day, but it was also the year they clinched the championship title.

4. The Heartbreaker

Cal Poly vs. Montana, Sept. 6, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium

Leading the team in tackles, linebacker Fred Hives 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 top 2007 season due to an injury) also recorded a sack and a fumble recovery.

2. The Comeback Kids

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

Still reeling from a 36-27 loss 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 longsnapper and 2006 Buck Buchanan award winner Kyle Shotswell (now a defensive assistant coach for the Mustangs) 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 were up at the end." Defensively, the Mustangs put up a fight. Recording seven sacks as a unit, 2005 Buck Buchanan award winner Chris Gosong 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 in the game (423-261). Running back James Noble also had a great game with 41 carries for 188 yards and four touchdowns. Shortwell 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."