Author and activist talks to Poly students

Speaker addresses problems in all levels of education system

Will Taylor

Nationally-renowned education activist, author and teacher Jonathan Kozol spoke to a crowd in the Performing Arts Center Tuesday morning as part of Cal Poly's Provocative Perspectives series. Kozol, best known for his books, "Savage Inequality: Children in America's Schools" and more recently "The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America," spoke for over an hour about the need for reform, awareness and governmental help specifically for Latino and black inner-city public schools and his life battling for equality in education.

"I'm 73 years old and I'm too old to bite my tongue," he said. "No matter what they long-term price I may be forced to pay, I intend to keep on fighting in this struggle to my dying day."

Kozol spoke in a slow cadence, his deep baritone often pausing for emotion and dramatic effect. His tone shifted from humorous to serious and back again and the audience followed him, laughing, sighing and applauding. He spoke in essay form, going from an example to a point and then moving on to the next, often building to an emotional crescendo. Twice Kozol choked up, paused and moved on.

The Provocative Perspectives series has been at Cal Poly for seven years and brings experts to speak on controversial topics, said Cornell Morton, Cal Poly vice president for academic affairs.

"The purpose of the series is to bring people to campus to talk about diversity, who talk about student success and what we call intellectual freedom," Morton said.

The topic of educational inequality is important nationwide, but especially in California where education, budget and racial diversity are massive topics, Morton said. The talk coincided with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees' strike at Cal Poly's Web site.

Patricia Ponce, who works in Cal Poly's Development Office, was to lead the PREFACE program, said that strong voices are what we need at this time in the American education system.

"He's very bold in saying what he sees. We need those voices," Ponce said. "He's very powerful in conveying those messages because he is a white person. I think many pay raises when buying a home or a car or starting a family.

The 10 percent reduction in pay has resulted in faculty members signing an agreement that they would essentially work 10 percent less. Besnyo said he still grades papers and does work on his furlough days to keep up.

The furlough program ends June 30, but Szente thinks that furloughs will probably be implemented again next year unless a new program is created to help decrease the deficit. Besnyo, on the other hand, said that he would be surprised if furloughs passed again because of the problems furloughs have caused. He said it seems like no one is sure of what to expect for next year regarding furloughs.

"I think we're in for a roller-coaster summer," he said.

Another program begun this year is cutting student enrollment numbers to save the CSU system money. Over the next two years the CSUs will be letting in 40,000 fewer students than previous years, Reeds said.

High school seniors and transfer students are applying for early admission to the CSUs to close their application acceptance period after Nov. 30. Already this year

see Furlough, page 2

Program needs volunteers

Amber Diller

Five weeks before Alternative Breaks sets out to New Orleans and the United Arab Emirates for its next missions, there are several volunteer spaces that have not been filled.

Although the original deadline to turn in applications was Nov. 9, program coordinator Jody Weseeman decided to extend it.

"It's really important to have enough volunteers on each trip, because the costs can be overwhelming. Since we don't have enough volunteers yet, the deadline for applications is now Nov. 20," Weseeman said.

Alternative Breaks is a group that started on campus a few years ago, and sets out to allow students to volunteer both domestically and internationally between quarters.

All trips provide students with the opportunity to address humanitarian issues such as "tutoring disadvantaged children, animal rescues, homeless shelters, food bank support, disaster relief, and habitat restoration," according to the program brochure.

"We are always looking for volunteers: anyone interested in graphic arts to help with logos and T-shirts, students willing to help us with fundraising and advertising, and volunteers wishing to become site leaders," Weseeman said.

Any student at Cal Poly or Cuesta College is eligible to participate in Alternative Breaks. With the deadline for applications pushed back, Weseeman hopes that more students will have the opportunity to broaden their horizons.

There will be more chances to volunteer with the group between winter and spring quarter in New York City and again before the fall 2010 quarter begins in Oaxaca, Mexico.

More information can be found at www.studentlife.calpoly.edu/communitycenter/alt-breaks.asp or with Jody Weseeman at cjwseeman@calpoly.edu and by phone (805) 756-5388.

I'm 73 years old and I'm too old to bite my tongue.

—Jonathan Kozol
Author and activist

see Kozol, page 2
Kozol continued from page 1

"Justifying students admission and access to the CSUs is one of the worst things that can be done during the recession when students want to go to school but we cannot educate the same amount of students with half a billion dollars less," Kozol said, in a telephone call with a CSU newspaper.

The goal for the CSU this year was to decrease enrollment by a total of 10,000 students. Already this fall, 4,800 fewer students were admitted to the CSU system and an anticipated 6,000 fewer students will be admitted in the spring.

Hoffman said that the reduction in the number of students to be admitted is disappointing.

"It's heartbreaking in the short run, but it's heartbreaking in the long run for California," Hoffman said.

Journalism sophomore Kelly Whelan thinks the reduction is beneficial to students already at Cal Poly but unfair to students who want to attend college. She said that Cal Poly should focus on the students already enrolled and key class sizes down. It is unfortunate that students are being denied admission when they are eligible for the university, she added.

"It seems really unfair for students who want to go to college. Especially during these economic times," Whelan said.

The uncertainty of the furlough program is keeping Lensky and all admitted students on the cusp of privilege, although she is hopeful that the university will still be able to accommodate all who want to attend Cal Poly.

"It seems unfair for students already enrolled and who want to attend college." Hoffman said.

Kozol's controversial stances on programs like No Child Left Behind and standardized testing have left him as a target for criticism. He said that he is not opposed to testing and accountability but is opposed to "authoritative techniques that rob the children of the poor of the absolutely crucial ability to interrogate reality, to ask perceptive questions and to develop critical capacities."

Some of the criticism stings and causes him personal pain, he said. He mentioned television talk show hosts who "wield words like knives with surgical precision" and friends he has lost because of his position.

"It hurts a lot and I'm not a tough guy and I didn't grow up to be prepared for this," Kozol said.

He said his efforts do not go without appreciation though, and that is his payoff: Many students, teachers, politicians and parents have shown their gratitude in various ways; late Senator Ted Kennedy came to his assistance when Kozol was fired from the Boston school district for teaching a Langston Hughes poem to his fourth grade class. A church sent one of his early students to college in Rhode Island, along with her family. He also was asked and accepted to walk alongside Martin Luther King Jr. at a rally in the Boston Commons.

His impact has reached students, staff and faculty at Cal Poly.

"I got my single subject teaching credential in the seventies," said Bonnie Konopak, professor and dean of the College of Education, while introducing Kozol.

"I can't remember all the textbooks I had at that time, I can tell you I remember Death at an Early Age (Kozol's book). It made such an impact on me."

Konopak said the book helped guide her through a tough time teaching in inner-city Los Angeles.

Students attending the speech got a strong sense of Kozol's experience. He's seen it all first hand and knows a lot more than the average person," said Colton戈e, agricultural business senior. "He's trying to bring the issue to the public eye so that's a great thing. It's something that needs to be discussed."
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SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (MCT) — Cuesta College President Donald Mullen said Monday he will leave at the end of December. His tenure, which began March 3, 2008, will be the shortest of any of the five presidents in the college’s 45-year history.

Mullen has taken a job directing a college in Abu Dhabi, a city in the United Arab Emirates along the Persian Gulf, officials confirmed Monday. Mullen did not reveal the name of the college.

Before Mullen leaves, an interim person will likely be appointed to fill the post, Mullen said.

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — California Attorney General Jerry Brown has sent a letter to six major retailers, warning them that a number of children’s products on their store shelves contain “dangerous levels of lead” and to pull the products immediately.

“Private testing uncovered a number of products designed for children that contain dangerous and illegal levels of lead,” Brown said. “These products must be removed from store shelves at once to protect our kids from toxic lead exposure.”

Brown’s letter was sent out last week.

According to California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforced Act of 1986, any children’s product that contains more than 10 parts per million (ppm) of lead is considered a hazardous substance and illegal to sell in the state.

Briefs

National

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Democrat John Edwards tried to cut a secret deal with Barack Obama and perhaps Hillary Clinton during last year’s presidential primaries, offering his endorsement in exchange for the vice presidential nomination, according to a new book by Obama’s campaign manager.

Edwards’ camp made the offer shortly before the South Carolina primary, when Obama and Clinton had split early contests and Edwards apparently believed he had “maximum leverage” to help deliver South Carolina votes to whoever would give him the No. 2 spot on the ticket, according to David Plouffe in his book, “The Audacity to Win.”

Plouffe said that Obama ruled out any deals. Obama went on to win the South Carolina primary anyway and got Edwards’ endorsement in May 2008.

SEATTLE (MCT) — Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen was diagnosed earlier this month with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a form of cancer similar to the one that led to his early retirement from the software company in 1983.

“This is tough news for Paul and the family,” his sister, Jody Allen, said in an e-mail Monday. "We disclosed the illness to employees of Vulcan, Allen’s holding company. But for those who know Paul’s story, you know he beat Hodgkin’s lymphoma a little more than 25 years ago, and he is optimistic he can beat this.”

The son of a University of Washington librarian became one of the richest people in the world after he and childhood pal Bill Gates started Microsoft in 1975.

International

SAN’A, Yemen (MCT) — A Japanese technician and his Yemeni counterpart were abducted Sunday by a tribal group in Yemen, according to the Japanese Embassy in Yemen.

The two were abducted in Al Jala, a city close to the nation’s capital, Sana. They are said to be in good physical condition and the Yemeni government has begun negotiations with the group for their release, the embassy said.

According to a Japanese government source, the 65-year-old technician works for an architectural design office in Tokyo.

The man and the driver were abducted Sunday afternoon while on their way to a school construction site located northeast of the capital.

Later in the day, the embassy received a phone call from the man saying he had been abducted. The embassy is able to contact the man via cell phone, the embassy said.

There has been no ransom demand. However, according to Agence France Presse, local sources told the news agency the tribal group is demanding that the Yemeni government release a member of its community who was detained for four years without trial.

KABUL (MCT) — On the eve of Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s wearing-in for a second term, speculation mounted Monday that he could be forced to step aside before he finishes his next five years in office.

The challenges before him are monumental: Regain the trust of voters disenfranchised by the fraudulent election that returned him to power; assure frustrated world leaders that the billions of dollars spent to stabilize Afghanistan haven’t been wasted or stolen; and, with the help of U.S. and NATO forces, recover control of large parts of the country from Taliban fighters.

Obama wins no concessions from China on key issues

Margaret Talev

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — President Barack Obama on Wednesday wraps up his three-day visit to China that left him keenly aware of the limits of his administration’s leverage over the economic powerhouse on issues from currency exchange rates to human rights.

Obama has little leverage over China, in part because the U.S. depends on the Chinese to finance the U.S. government’s growing debt, and because of the perception in China, for which years was an economic nonentity, that the U.S. is troubled and China is ascendant.

Administration officials said Thursday that the China stop, part of a four-nation Asia tour that will conclude in South Korea, was a success because it laid the groundwork for a more focused U.S.-China alliance to tackle everything from global warming to nuclear weapons proliferation.

Obama gave no evident ground on the points at issue, however.

“The meetings and the focus from a substance standpoint have really been aimed at coordinating like never before on the key issues that together are headline issues for the United States,” said Jon Huntsman, the U.S. ambassador to China.

“White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said: “I did not expect, and I can speak authoritatively for the president on this, that we characterizing everything from the wars and everywhere would change.”

Obama summed it up this way in a joint appearance Tuesday with President Hu Jintao: “The relationship between our two nations goes far beyond any single issue.”

Hu and Obama announced potentially significant new agreements on advancing clean energy and scientific research. Both committed to work toward global “warning initiatives and reiterated a mutual desire to contain the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran.”

In two areas in which the United States wants to shift China’s position — revaluation of the Chinese currency and the Chinese government’s censorship practices and human rights advocacy — advances were announced, however.

The U.S. is the world’s largest economy; China is the world’s most populous nation, with the third largest gross domestic product. China has helped keep the American economy afloat through the recession. Its huge trade surplus with the United States — and the $800 billion worth of American government debt that it holds — is economically unsustainable and leaves the U.S. dependent on Beijing’s financial favor, however.

Obama has called for China to stop undervaluing its currency and adopt a more market-based standard, but economic fundamentals would make an essential contribution to the global rebalancing effort,” Obama said.

Hu didn’t mention currency policy in public statements. Instead, he jabbed the U.S. for trade policies that he said held China back.

“I stressed to President Obama that under the current circumstances, our two countries need to oppose and reject protectionism in all its manifestations in an even stronger stand,” Obama also said he had reiterated in private to Hu that there are certain “universal" human rights that should be available to all people, including a nation’s ethnic and religious minorities.

Standing side by side with Hu, Obama mentioned Tibet, saying that while the U.S. recognizes it as part of China, the Chinese government should resume talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the government in exile.

Hu remained expressionless throughout Obama’s remarks.

See China, page 5
WORD ON THE STREET

“What issues would you like the Mustang Daily to cover?”

“I think they should advertise more about cultural and art events because I feel like a lot of people don’t really know about them.”
-Brooke Hamilton, earth sciences senior

“On campus I would like to know more about how crowded it is and how hard it is to get classes. Nationwide I would like to see more awareness about other states, not just California.”
-Bridget Loper, English senior

“I would like to see a look at the budget and see a breakdown of all money and where it is going. Fees are going up but they are crying they don’t have enough money.”
-Justin Hansen, social sciences senior

“I would be interested in advising tips and knowing what to register for especially as a freshman.”
-Cassie Becking, liberal studies junior

“I’d like to see a club spotlight in terms of any type of club. (An article on) how to start a club.”
-David Van Muyden, civil engineering junior

“It would be nice to actually see where money goes to. We know our tuition is going somewhere. It would nice to know exactly where.”
-Johnny Conner, kinesiology junior

China

continued from page 4

Other aspects of Obama’s visit also were sobering. Even as he arrived Sunday night, human rights organizations reported that the Chinese government was rounding up and arresting dissidents to ensure that they couldn’t reach out to the US.

The following day, Hu allowed China’s town-hall meeting, the first such event for a Western leader in China, to air on local television in Shanghai — but not nationally. Hu didn’t agree to any news conferences at which reporters could ask questions. Chinese authorities even detained a Beijing-based reporter for CNN for displaying an “Oba-Mao” T-shirt that depicted Obama dressed as the late communist founder of the People’s Republic of China.
Memoir tells of author's unorthodox childhood

Do you find yourself complaining about midterms? Don't want to write those final papers? Try putting yourself in someone else's shoes. Imagine life outside of your college education. Many people would be happy to complain about taking finals, yet we take them for granted. Now I'm sure that this isn't the case for all of us, but sometimes we need to add a little perspective to make us appreciate exactly what we do have.

One person whose story certainly adds some perspective to my life is author Jeannette Walls. She grew up without many of the comforts most of us take for granted every day. Although she was able to get herself out of a hard and heart-rending life, she had to go through a lot to do so. Instead of complaining about what she didn't have or what she had to do, she found a way to transform her circumstances and inspire others along the way.

The opening scene of her memoir, "The Glass Castle," depicts Walls riding in a taxi in downtown New York City, on her way to a party when she sees a homeless woman digging through a trash can on the side of the street — her mother. How did she end up digging through a trash can? And why doesn't her daughter say to anything about it? The answers to these questions aren't the ones you may expect, but through a deeply moving narrative, Jeannette Walls explains how her family came to exist in this split-up state, and why it continues to be this way.

Rex and Rose Mary Walls, Jeannette's parents, were very eccentric people, which had much to do with influencing this scene of events. Though they loved their children greatly, they were often distracted by their outlook on life from providing what was best for them. Despite the many hardships Walls overcame, many caused by her parents, she does not sound at all like she is simpering about her situation and how they hurt her; rather, she speaks of them with great affection and respect. Walls was raised, along with her three siblings, in a very nomadic fashion. Her parents moved the family from place to place quite frequently. While this may not sound overly strange, the odd thing about it is that her parents didn't always have an actual place for them to move to; they often lived in a hotel or out of their car.

Often distracted by a high-flying fantasy world, Rex Walls frequently brought his children into a world of make-believe to escape real life problems like rent or proper meals. Rose Mary Walls was often more concerned with creating a piece of art than a meal for her family, which often led to the children feeding for themselves rather than being taken care of.

Although these attitudes may seem like neglect, Walls does not condemn her parents for making poor choices while raising her and her siblings. Rather, she speaks about her parents with great respect and love for the good things that they were able to pass on while raising them. She reinterprets their behavior in much more positive ways. Rather than seeing her father escaping reality, she praises him for giving her a sense of imagination and hope that there might be magic in the world. Instead of blaming her mother for not providing food for her and her siblings, she appreciates the importance of the art that her mother put so much into creating.

Through an incredible series of events, Walls tells her life stories and explains how she overcame extraordinary circumstances to be where she is today: a successful author who has used her talents with words to come to understand her difficult childhood.

Melinda Truelsen is an English graduate student and Mustang Daily book columnist.
Art students submit designs for hospital symbols contest

Katie Bruce

Seventeen Cal Poly students are currently waiting to see if the designs they created in conjunction with Hablamos Juntos last quarter will grace the hallways and directories of hospitals nationwide.

Hablamos Juntos, Spanish for “We Speak Together,” is a program sponsored by Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research at the University of California, San Francisco dedicated to bridging the language gap steadily growing in the United States, especially in health care.

The organization believes that hospital-affiliated symbols should be free of any sort of language dependency, which is why no foreign language fluency was needed to design the symbols or to interpret their meaning.

“Symbols are visual images that represent a reference, a word or a real world object, place or concept,” according to the program’s Web site.

The purpose of the project is to design a set of symbols that can be universally recognized and speak to speakers of all languages. Hablamos Juntos designed 28 original symbols in 2006 — illustrating common places around hospitals such as the chapel, surgery wing and waiting room, and are looking for another 15 symbols from college design students.

This is where Cal Poly art and design assistant professor Katherine McCormick entered the scene. She and a previous design class helped Hablamos Juntos with the design of the original 28 symbols, and she believed her students were ready to take on more. She sent a detailed application to the program, fighting to become one of three universities chosen to design more symbols based on the originals.

Graduate student program from the University of Cincinnati and Iowa State were chosen, along with the undergraduate program from Cal Poly.

McCormick’s students spent the past spring quarter dedicated to the project to create symbols that meshed with what Hablamos Juntos had already created.

“The new symbols had to fit into the old design language,” McCormick said.

By meshing both design languages and actual languages, the students collaborated on 12 new symbols, including designs for ophthalmology, nutrition and respiratory services. Each student was given individual assignments that were then assessed by the class, who, as a whole, decided what worked.

Multiple designs, some for the same symbol, were sent to Hablamos Juntos last month. Testing for each of the 15 categories, including the 12 that Cal see Contest, page 8

movie column

Clooney is just ridiculous enough in “Goats”

The Men Who Stare At Goats [2009]

Director: Grant Heslov

Starring: George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Root, Stephen Lang

"Good Night, and Good Luck" director and Academy Award-winning actor George Clooney teams up once again with screenwriter Grant Heslov for Heslov’s feature film directing debut, “The Men Who Stare At Goats.” A comedic spoof on a U.S. Army research program dealing with a psychic phenomenon in which soldiers are trained to kill goats simply by staring at them, this film succeeds not only in making the viewer laugh, but also makes you question your own gullibility.

Is it really based on a true story? Well, according to the opening credits, “More of (it) is true than you would believe.”

The movie begins with an introduction from Ann Arbor to newspaper columnist Bob Wilton, portrayed by Ewan McGregor ("Star Wars" Episodes I-III). Viewers follow Wilton as he interviews an oddball who informs him that he was a member of the NSA, or New Earth Army, a top-secret team of psychics who were being trained to use their minds as weapons.

While skeptical, Wilton is curious to see where his new story might take him and begins searching for answers. He eventually finds his way to Kuwait, hoping to begin

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Contest
continued from page 7

Poly students submitted, is now in progress. Testing will rely on surveys of both health care workers and designers to get feedback before making a decision about which symbols are chosen. Results should be known soon after testing wraps up in December.

Now that the symbols are in the process of being tested, are the students simply holding their breath, waiting for response? No way.

While the other two universities have dedicated their fall quarters to "research method" classes concerning the symbols, Cal Poly has been working on a project that would allow a hospital visitor to become familiar with the designs.

One student created a series of postcards that explain each symbol, while another made flash cards that could be placed in the waiting room and another designed a directory that would feature each design in multiple languages.

Art and design senior Sarah Hamling starred laughter from the group when, during her presentation of her children's book illustrating the symbols, she related her yellow shirt perfectly matched the cover.

"Watch out," McCormick said. "When you're working on a project you will subconsciously start to dress in the color palette." This sense of immersion seems to affect every student in the class; the dedication came forth first in the designs and now in the application.

"I wanted to show the symbols in a very simplistic way. That way, the reader can learn about them but have it be interactive as well," art and design senior Adam Winkler said of his project.

While Hablamos did not petition the class to create these projects, McCormick came up with the idea as another way to present the symbols to the program while simultaneously allowing students to create another professional piece of work to add to their portfolios.

"I think it's good for Hablamos to see their options. From what I know of dealing with them before, they will be really excited to see these," she said.

McCormick and her students are now partnering with the local French Hospital to work both the symbols and the application projects into their facilities, which would be step one in Hablamos' mission.

The unique design team at Cal Poly has not only taken on the influential project, but also finished it. They have also begun to implement it locally.

"Eventually, every hospital and health facility in the nation will adopt these symbols," McCormick said. "So great to be part of the solution of something in such a large context."

Goats
continued from page 7

Sure into hostile regions. To both his and the audience's delight, he runs into Lyn Cassady, played hilariously by Clooney. Cassady was referred to Wilton as a "legend" by his first son and is said to be the best of the New Earth trainees.

After a few questions, Wilton learns about a doped-out Vietnam vet named Bill Django played by seasoned actor Jeff Bridges ("Iron Man," "The Big Lebowski"), who delivers one of the film's most enjoyable performances. Django has convinced the military that his idea of "psychic soldiers" would prove to be effective in the long run. Fans of the Coen brothers' cult hit "The Big Lebowski" will probably find his portrayal the most pleasing, since Bridges plays Django in almost the same way he played the Dude.

The movie moves back and forth inside a 20-year window, during the beginning of which we see Cassady's entertaining training under Django to become, as he explains, a Jed Warrior. One of the plot's most satisfying points is realized when Cassady and Wilton foolishly journey into an Iraq war zone, where Cassady attempts to deal with the hostility they encounter by using his paranormal training.

Clooney is in top form as Cassady, and his performance surprisingly isn't over the top or excessively silly, a trap which would have been easy to fall into. Kevin Spacey, who has recently been missing from the big screen as a result of obligations to the British theater scene, returns in a good role as the skeptical Larry Hooper, who later everything the NEA is about. The film is also complimented by a skilled ensemble cast that includes Stephen Root ("Office Space") and veteran Stephen Lang ("Public Enemies," "Avatar").

The movie is based on the 2004 novel by Jon Ronson of the "Guardian," who labels the NEA as an antithetical program that has unfortunately not been exposed to the American public. In my opinion, it doesn't matter if the book is factual or not, because the film is funny enough either way.

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

George Clooney plays Lyn Cassady, one of the members of a controversial division of the Army whose soldiers were trained to kill goats by staring at them. The movie was released Nov. 6.

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The cycle of liberty always comes back around eventually

President Obama’s deep bow to Japanese Emperor Akihito this week was a small act but it’s a sign of an equal relationship between America and Japan that would be more than a simple sign of respect. The near-90 degree tilt taken by our chief of state symbolizes an increased American-Japanese relationship. Though I would not go so far as to call this treasonous, as some bloggers have, I would say it shows the importance of an equal relationship between America and Japan that would be more than a simple sign of respect.

When I heard a lot of moaning and groans from the Village apartment Thursday, that’s when I realized that, according to a 2-cent television I didn’t have to hear anymore, my open window. My next-door neighbor was probably going to be pretty serious. I had to deal with bad neighbors or roommates I wasn’t used to being around without creating tension. It appears from recent events in China and the general climate of American politics, including the current social policies of the left, that we exist between the stages of complacency and dependence. By the nature of our government, individuals who make different incomes are not treated equally. Individuals in higher tax brackets, and subsequently under greater government control, tend to believe we are further along in the cycle. These individuals say we are drifting into the realm of tyranny. Whether we are in a stage of dependence or nearing tyranny, this nation is far away from the stage of liberty.

I’m not advocating a revolt and I oppose tyranny. I’m a progressive in the most literal sense. I believe that I have the right to live in peace and tranquility. This key to successful government in the tyranny-liberty cycle is to move quickly through the painful stages and prolong the good stages. Since we have moved beyond the stage of liberty, it is crucial that we move quickly through the remaining stages to bring about a true state of liberty. At this point, I am a progressive in the most literal sense. Let tyranny come to the masses. Let liberty rule. The U.S. is ready for bed in my Poly Canyon Village apartment. I went to bed in my Poly Canyon Village apartment.

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are relevant and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.

Bad neighbors do more than just make noise

A few weeks ago, I began to get ready for bed in my Poly Village Room 258. That’s when I heard a lot of moaning and groaning from outside my open window. My next-door neighbor was having particularly loud sex. It took even less time to close my window and turn up my television so I didn’t have to hear it, but her bed was still banging against our shared wall. I spent an hour with my iPod turned up just to make sure I wouldn’t have to hear any more loud sucking.

Now, there’s nothing wrong with enjoying yourself in your own home, whether it be with sex, playing loud music or binge drinking. But it’s clearly a problem when San Luis Obispo authorities continue to increase fines and penalties for loud noise violations, and I still hear stories about bad roommates or neighbors. The San Luis Obispo Police Department already thinks we have a “lack of neighborly responsibility” according to a recent Mustang Daily article. They call delays decision on party policies. Whatever the community is going to do about the large number of noise violations committed by Cal Poly students needs to be addressed.

To solve the problem of the amorous lovers next to me, I wrote a letter to the resident of the room. I said that I hoped the sex was good, but that if they continued to leave loud sex with the window open, my boyfriend and I would get creative and make them just as uncomfortable. I haven’t had any other problems with them since.

Nothing makes me feel more helpless than knowing that if something were to ever turn violent, that I will be unable to protect myself and the people I love because some bureaucratic thought it would be a good idea.

In response to “Right to hear own can provide protection”

Seriously, President Baker how greedy can you be? All students are barely getting enough classes and constantly getting courses cut, all while you sit on a hefty annual income. Excellent professors are being laid off and courses are diminishing while tuition is increasing exponentially. Why don’t you grow a conscience and help out your community instead of continue to oppress those who are suffering from this budget crisis?

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In his adult years, Linus became a fan of the Snuggie.
Cal Poly men's baseball finished 37-21 overall and received a bid to compete in the NCAA Tempe regional last year. They were knocked out after two games.}

High School in Mountain View. As a junior, Hoo hit .315 and as a sophomore earned honorable mention All-West Catholic Athletic League honors. He has been three varsity letters in baseball and was the team's Kyle Spraker Golden Glove Award winner last spring. Hoo has played on both the San Francisco Giants and Atlanta Braves scout teams as well as the North-South and All-Star Scout teams. St. Francis was 26-9 a year ago and finished in a three-way tie for first place in the West Catholic Athletic League.

Chase Johnson, Right-Handed Pitcher, Fallbrook High School

Despite missing several games due to injury, Johnson posted a 5-2 record and 2.94 ERA as a junior. He struck out 80 batters in 82 1/3 innings. In his sophomore season (2008), Johnson threw a no-hitter against El Camino and earned second-team All-West Catholic League honors. He earned his team's Cy Young Award, was named San Diego Union Tribune Player of the Week and placed on the Area Code Grey Team. Johnson also played in the Tommy Lasorda Dodger Elite Games and is a scholar-athlete award winner.

"Cal Poly has an excellent combination of athletics and academics while the location is great," Johnson said.

Don Medlinger, Right-Handed Pitcher, San Jose, CA (Pioneer High School/San Jose CC)

In his freshman season at San Jose City College last spring, Medlinger posted an 8-1 record and 2.37 ERA with 62 strikeouts in 32 2/3 innings. Opponents hit .244 off the right-hander, who started 11 games, appeared in relief in three others and earned one complete game. Medlinger was a first-team All-Coast Conference Golden Gate Division selection as a pitcher. Medlinger was 8-5 with a 1.97 ERA as a senior in 2008 with five complete games and seven strikeouts in 74 2/3 innings. He threw a three-hit shutout with 14 strikeouts against Piedmont Hills. Medlinger also was a shortstop in high school.

Tim Wise, Outfielder (R/R), Westlake High School

Despite injuries, Wise hit .380 with four home runs, 14 RBI and 15 stolen bases as a junior at Westlake High School last spring. He earned first-team All-Marmonte League and second-team All-Ventura County honors.
For the love of the game: Men's club soccer

Nikel Schiller

After a difficult season last year playing in the upper division of the West Coast Soccer Association, Cal Poly's men's soccer club advanced to the 16th National Campus Championship Series.

Finishing second in league this season behind the University of California, Santa Barbara is an improvement for the team after taking last place out of eight teams last fall. Last season was the first time the team played in an upper division league; aerospace engineering senior and keeper David Babka said the team wasn't used to the level of competition last year. This season the team came out knowing what to expect, he said, ultimately gaining themselves a second-place finish.

"The team's clicking well. The team chemistry is really great as it has been this season. Finishing second in league this season was the most successful year so far because of the number of club members. We have made a lot of sacrifices," coach Larry Lee said. "We will also need a number of these players to give us an immediate impact with our program due to graduation and professional signings in 2010. Babka attributed the team's success to the fact that most of them have played together since the club was founded in 2007. Eleven of the first division players have played together for three years. Industrial engineering senior and midfielder Spencer Martinez thinks this is the most successful year so far because of the team chemistry.

"The team's clicking well. The level of commitment is really high," he said.

Coach Johnny Costa said that after the team "did horrible last year," economics junior and club president Matt Joaoua rallied the team to improve this year.

"Matt really gave us focus and gave us a purpose. If it wasn't for him we really wouldn't be going to nationals this year," Costa said.

Joaoua and industrial technology senior Alex Streli founded the club knowing the team would generate a large following but not expecting the turnout to be as great as it has been this season.

The level of dedication is high among the players. They're expected to train during Week of Welcome, pulling double days of practice. For the past seven weeks the team has trained three to four times a week and has played more than 10 games.

"All the guys involved have put in so much time and effort to get to this point. It's an exciting time for us. This is what we build the club to do. We want to always be a national competitor, a legacy. We hope will continue for years to come at Poly," Joaoua said.

He thinks the team has an advantage over other teams at nationals because of the number of club players. With nearly three players for every position on the field, the team is prepared to play possibly six games in three days.

Since the club team is not a varsity team recognized by the Cal Poly athletics department, it has to run and fund their own team. Costa and Joaoua estimate the trip will cost around $10,000. The team's hotel rooms were paid for by an anonymous alumni donation and the players held a movie night fundraiser to pay for tournament fees and travel expenses.

Martinez believes the amount of time players commit to keeping up the business and athletic parts of the program pays off in the end.

"We have made a lot of sacrifices for the team, but it's worth it. The climax is here and it's definitely worth it," he said.

Men's club soccer team (5-1-2) travels to complete in the National Campus Championship Series Wednesday.